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## ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

Volume 4, Issue 16

April 24, 2013

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## Surgeon General Endorses Water Fluoridation

At the National Oral Health Conference in Huntsville, Alabama, this week, U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin endorsed water fluoridation as a way to improve oral health. Previous Surgeons General had endorsed water fluoridation, and advocates across the country, including Oral Health Kansas, had been urging General Benjamin to do the same.

In her message to conference attendees, General Benjamin said, "Where water fluoridation is a community-wide intervention, the benefits are not limited by a person's income level or their ability to receive routine dental care. It also is a very cost-effective intervention. A lifetime of cavity prevention can be obtained for less than the cost of one dental filling. Fluoridation's effectiveness in preventing tooth decay is not limited to children, but extends throughout life, resulting in fewer and less severe cavities. In fact, each generation born since the implementation of water fluoridation has enjoyed better dental health than the generation that preceded it."

Oral Health Kansas joins our fellow advocates across the country in thanking the Surgeon General for her endorsement of the health benefits of water fluoridation. 2013 marks the 68th anniversary of community water fluoridation in our country.

## Govenor Signs KanCare



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## New ECP Facebook Page

A new Facebook page about the Extended Care Permit (ECP) for dental hygienists is available. The page was created by ECP hygienist and Dental Champion Patty Martinette in order to connect ECP Hygienists in Kansas and Missouri. The goal of the new page is to share information about how the permits are being used, as well as to establish community contacts to expand the use of the permits.

Join the [Facebook page](#) and spread the word about this valuable forum to promote the ECP model.

## Dental Champions Corner

Kathy Hunt, **Class I** and Marcia Manter, **Class III**, presented a session called ***Incorporating Oral Health into Home Visiting Services: The Kansas Story*** at

## Legislative Oversight Bill

On April 16, Governor Brownback signed [HB 2025](#) into law. The bill establishes a legislative oversight committee for the KanCare (Medicaid managed care) program. Oral Health Kansas and our fellow consumer advocates had been urging passage of the bill since 2012. This year both the House and Senate passed the bill unanimously.

The bill includes several provisions to encourage legislators to review key data regarding the KanCare program. Oral Health Kansas had proposed adding a provision for the oversight committee to review Medicaid provider network data, and that provision was included in the final version of the bill.

In honor of Rep. Bob Bethell, who championed the bill last year, the House named the oversight committee after him. Rep. Bethell was killed in a car accident shortly after the Legislative Session concluded in 2012. Oral Health Kansas' legislative advocacy award is named in his memory as well.

## National Network Meeting

During the National Oral Health Conference in Huntsville this week, Oral Health Kansas staff helped convene the third annual meeting of the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC). ANOHC is a national network of state oral health coalitions that is designed to provide support and advocacy on behalf of state coalitions.

Coalition leaders gathered in Huntsville this week to discuss the Affordable Care Act, a new national coalition database, and a variety of best practices in state coalition activities. ANOHC also hosted a round table to share details about how oral health coalitions can be key resources in state oral health advocacy.

Pictured are ANOHC Vice Chair Sarah Holland of Virginia and ANOHC Secretary Karlene Ketola of Michigan along with the ANOHC exhibit in the exhibit hall.

the National Oral Health Conference this week. Their session provided participants a detailed description of the strategies and materials that make up Kansas' comprehensive oral health home visiting initiative.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in November to celebrate Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary at the:

**2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference**  
Johnson County Community College  
November 7-8, 2013

## Did You Know???

100 years ago 50% of adults in North America were toothless

[StarSmilez](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



## Oral Health Kansas Bids Farewell

With a sad heart, this week Oral Health Kansas bids farewell to our Office and Communications Manager Julie Parnell. Julie started working with us in the fall of 2008. She has managed our daily operations, organized our annual conference, created our Weekly Wednesday Update, maintained our website, founded our tooth brushing is fun contest for elementary schools, and developed and promoted our library drink display. In short, she has been invaluable to Oral Health Kansas for many years.

Julie is moving on to a new opportunity, and we are confident she will be successful and will leave an equally indelible mark on her next workplace. We celebrate her accomplishments and wish her well. Oral Health Kansas certainly is a better organization because of her.

Thank you, Julie!

## Traveling Drink Display

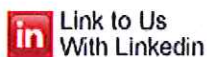
Currently the Oral Health Kansas traveling library drink displays are on display at the [Ottawa Library](#), [The Chisholm Trail Elementary School](#) and [GraceMed](#).





If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to [Julie](#).

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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