

# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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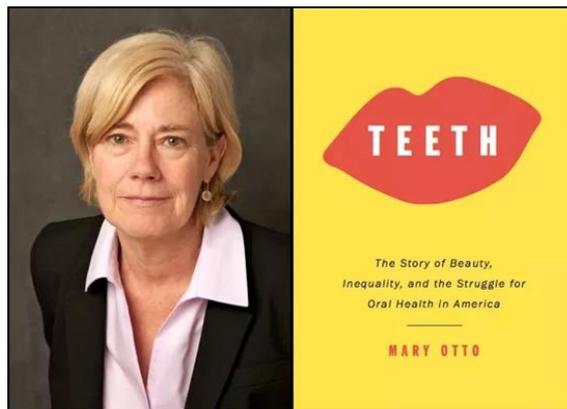
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Heather Samuel (Dental Champions Class II) was elected to the REACH Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors. Heather is a Professor of Dental Hygiene at Johnson County Community College and is an innovator on community-based dental hygiene services. She received the Excellence in Oral Health Award for Outstanding Dental Hygienist in 2011.

## Teeth: A Conversation About Oral Health In America

We are excited to announce Mary Otto, the author of *Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America* will be in Topeka on Friday, April 27. Kansas News Service's Jim McLean will interview Ms. Otto followed by Kansas panelists who will talk about how the vital issues identified in Ms. Otto's book affect the health and well-being of Kansans.



**Date:** Friday, April 27, 2018 | Noon-1:30



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## Successful Dental Screening Clinic

On April 3, USD 501 Parents as Teachers hosted a dental health fair in conjunction with the Brush Book Bed project. About 40 families attended the event. The event was sponsored by Oral Health Kansas, United Way of Greater Topeka and snacks were provided by Marian Dental Clinic.



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## Sugary Drink Display

One more month of school! But that doesn't mean the education stops. If you would like to reserve a drink display for a summer camp, event or office, let us know! Want to reserve one for the upcoming school year? [Sign up!](#)

What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We

p.m.

**Location:** Kansas Health Institute  
212 SW 8th Avenue, first floor - Directly across from the Kansas Statehouse

Lunch will be provided.

**Details for registration information coming soon!**

*Presented as a partnership of Kansas Health Institute, Oral Health Kansas and Kansas Oral Health Connections*



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## Staff Attends National Dental Therapist Meeting

Last week Oral Health Kansas Policy Director Christi Nance joined other advocates in attending a national meeting in Albuquerque about dental therapists. She had the chance to meet people who are trained as dental therapists, as well as some of the organizations that employ them. The meeting offered participants the chance to learn about the work being done in their states to establish dental therapy programs. In Kansas, SB 312 passed the Senate unanimously in February. SB 312 is a compromise bill that would establish dental therapists in our state. The future of the bill is uncertain at this writing, but it remains under consideration by the Kansas Legislature.

also include some of our [Tips and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The **display is free** to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage! Need it for just a one day event? That's ok too! We have people reserve the drink display for health fairs and even parent teacher conferences.



Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Fill out this form](#) and we'll get back with you!



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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## Advocates Continue To Take Action

This week, advocates gathered at the Topeka Statehouse to talk to legislators about raising the tax of tobacco products and expanding KanCare.

Dollars and Sense 4 Kansas, the statewide coalition advocating for increased tobacco taxes, held their Advocacy Day on April 3rd. The group supports legislation that raises the tax of cigarettes by \$1.50 and other tobacco products from 10% to 65% of wholesale price. Research has proven that increased tobacco taxes help to lower smoking rates and prevent kids from ever picking up the habit. [The Surgeon General's report on Smoking and Health](#) shows smoking causes cancer in the oral cavity and smokeless tobacco, such as chewing tobacco, remains the most common cause of oral cancer. Oral Health Kansas [provided testimony](#) in support of SB 376 and HB 2231 in March.

The [Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#) gathered at the Statehouse with about

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200 supporters for a rally to increase awareness of the need to expand KanCare. Advocates from the legislature, disability community, and those personally impacted by expansion spoke at the rally in support of Medicaid Expansion. The Alliance has previously held forums around the state listening to consumer concerns and stories and encourage them to contact their legislators.



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