



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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The Dental Champions class met at the State Capitol last week. Class members had the opportunity to learn about community water fluoridation campaigns from the American Dental Association's Manager of Fluoridation and Prevention Health Activities Jane McGinley, RDH, MBA. Jane spent two days with the class and even joined them on an historical tour of the Capitol!

Class members also learned about fluoridation resources available through the KDHE

## Medicaid expansion fails Battle continues

On Monday, April 3, the Kansas House of Representatives voted on a motion to override Governor Brownback's March 30 veto of HB 2044, which is the bill that would expand the Medicaid program to over 150,000 low-income working Kansas adults. Over 100 organizations, including Oral Health Kansas, provided testimony in favor of expanding Medicaid, and a recent poll showed that 82% of Kansans support Medicaid expansion.

Despite overwhelming support from legislators, health care providers, advocates, and Kansans, the House was unable to secure enough votes to override the veto. The final vote was 81-44, which is three votes shy of the number necessary to override a Gubernatorial veto. The Topeka Capitol-Journal published the [list of House members](#) who voted to override the veto (Yes on HB 2044) and who voted to sustain the veto (No on HB 2044).

Bureau of Oral Health and Campaign for Dental Health. Thank you to Pam Smith (Class VII) and Lauren Barone from the American Academy of Pediatrics for sharing their insight! And, thanks for Dr. Jim Trotter (Class VIII) for sharing insight about the science of water fluoridation and how it helps tooth enamel. We all learned so much!



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## What We Are Reading

The Kansas Health Institute just published an issue brief called "[Repealing and Replacing the Affordable Care Act.](#)" The issue brief is filled with analysis of the federal proposals to repeal and replace the ACA, including how a replacement may change the Medicaid program and how people access private insurance through the Marketplaces.



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## Give Kids A Smile Day April 8

The Dental Hygiene Department and Dental Hygiene Students at

The fight to expand Medicaid is not over. It is important that legislators who support expansion know you appreciate your vote and that legislators who did not support expansion know you still want to see it happen in Kansas.

**If your State Representative voted to override the Governor's Medicaid expansion veto**, please thank him or her for standing up for the more than 150,000 low-income working adults who would have gained health insurance.

**If your State Representative did not vote to override the veto**, please let him or her know you still want the Legislature to act to offer coverage to Kansans who make up the working poor. The battle to enact Medicaid expansion in Kansas is not over.

Find your legislator's contact information here: <https://openstates.org/ks/legislators/>. Read more about the House's action from the [Kansas News Service](#).



Manhattan Area Technical College are hosting a [Give Kids A Smile Day](#) on Saturday, April 8. This event is for kids ages 3-14.

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

**INCLUDE:**

Dental Cleanings  
Sealants \*\*Per DDS Treatment plan  
Dental Exams  
Fluoride Treatment

**TIME:**

9 AM-1 PM  
(first come, first serve)

**WHERE:**

3136 Dickens Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66503



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**Reserve a sugary  
drink display**

Do you have an event coming up? Do you want to teach families about sugary beverages? Reserve a sugary drink display even if its just for a one day event! Reserving yours ahead of time is crucial.

[Sign up now!](#)

Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. The display is free to use, up to a month and we reimburse postage.

**First focus group meets for  
Thirsty for Health project**

Kelly Rippel, along with Thirsty for Health advisory panel member and school nurse, Chris Tuck, facilitated the first focus group at Seaman High School. The student council group was asked six questions, and they engaged in lively brainstorming. The captured information will be used to help in messaging for educational materials and the project's social media campaign.



For questions about Thirsty for Health project, [contact Kelly Rippel.](#)

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## Alcohol Awareness Month

Most patients with oral cancer on the tongue and throat drink alcohol. One study found rates as high as 94% in men and 82% in women. All three forms of alcohol (beer, hard liquor, and wine) have been associated with oral cancer, although hard liquor and beer have a higher associated risk. It is reasonable to assume that any form of alcohol taken in excess may promote oral cancer.

However, the risk of oral and pharyngeal cancers tends to increase with the amount of alcohol consumed and binge drinking - more than 5 standard drinks in one session - seriously increases the harmful effects of alcohol. [Oral Cancer Foundation](#) is an excellent resource for accurate and detailed information.



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