



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

May 1, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 18

Interested In Keeping Kansas Kids' Cavity Free? Let Your Voice Be Heard!

The Kansas State Department of Education and their partners are conducting Community Engagement Sessions in 37 communities across Kansas over the next 3 months.

The purpose of these sessions is to bring together key voices from each community to talk about what they need and want from their early care and education system. The sessions last one hour and include small table discussions around what is happening in the community to support parents/caregivers, babies, toddlers, young children, and families.



Each session will also provide the opportunity to document individual stories of families through the [Our Tomorrows](#) project.

This is a perfect opportunity to share your ideas, successes and challenges around oral health and early childhood in your community. Please attend your local event and help us raise awareness of the importance of good oral health. Here are a few ideas to consider sharing:

- Good oral health is essential to overall health
- Children with unhealthy mouths struggle in school
- Early identification of disease and education on caries prevention is paramount.
- Best practice is for a child to have regular dental visits starting at age one, and yet It is very difficult to find general dentists who will provide care for children under the age of 3
- There are very few dentists who will provide care for children on Medicaid
- Share stories about families you know who are not able to find dental care.



Families USA Staff Meets With Medicaid Expansion Kansas Advocates

Last week, Patrick Willard, senior director of strategic partnerships for Families USA, visited with Kansas and met with Medicaid expansion advocates. [A new analysis](#) from Families USA, a D.C.-based group that lobbies in support of the Affordable Care Act, predicts Kansas could provide coverage to low-income families through Medicaid expansion without compromising the state budget. Families USA looked at three Kansas-based studies and the rollout of Medicaid expansion in other states, concluding the burden on the Kansas budget would range from less than \$1 million to a surplus of \$7 million next year. Read the story in the Topeka Capital Journal [here](#).

While in Topeka, Patrick Willard stopped by the Oral Health Kansas office for a visit.

Celebrate Children's Book Week

[Celebrate Children's Book Week](#) this Spring, April 29 - May 5, 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of Children's Book Week. The 100th Anniversary theme - Read Now Read



Forever - looks to the past, present, and most important, the future of children's books. This is a great opportunity to incorporate the Brush, Book, Bed message.

Brush, Book, Bed was originated by the American Academy of Pediatrics for use in the Doctor's office. Oral Health Kansas was the first to adapt it for use in community settings. We emphasize oral health habits, while encouraging the

establishment of bedtime routines and early literacy. The Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition started with several Parents-As-Teachers programs and have since added home visitation programs for at-risk mothers within the health department. In addition, Leavenworth County was eager to involve all the early childhood programs that do home visitation in the county. Discussions are underway in our newest oral health coalition in Northwest Kansas to follow their lead.



Kansas Public Health Association Accepting Abstracts For Annual Conference

The Kansas Public Health Association is now accepting abstracts for the 76th annual KPHA

conference. This year's conference theme is "Be the Bridge: Connecting the Healthiest System. For Equity. For Action. For Health."

The KPHA conference will be held at the Ramada Downtown Topeka, September 24-25, 2019.

Prepare your abstract submission, and submit it online no later than 5 p.m., May 30, 2019. Click [here](#) for more information.



Get The Facts On Fluoride

Health advocates and clinicians understand that fluoride is a safe, effective, and inexpensive way to prevent dental disease. Despite proven research, anti-fluoride activists use out-of-context findings or debunked reports to scare communities about fluoride's safety.

Unfortunately, the new National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data may add fuel to the fire for the anti-fluoride community. The report found increased rates of fluorosis, a condition caused by high exposure to fluoride while the tooth is developing. While the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released a [report](#) explaining that the results of the NHANES study are not reliable, because of, among other things, inconsistent examinations and subjective scoring, we anticipate that the anti-fluoride community will try to use the data to further their message. You may hear from patients or partners with questions and concerns about what these reports mean. Bottom line, **water fluoridation is a safe and effective way to prevent cavities.**

More than 70 years of [scientific research](#) has consistently shown that an optimal level of fluoride in community water is safe and effective in preventing tooth decay by at least 25% in both children and adults. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) named community water fluoridation one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. Learn the facts about fluoride by visiting the [Fluoride in Kansas website](#). If you want to learn more about how you can help keep Kansans' teeth protected by joining the Statewide Water Action Team (SWAT), please contact community water fluoridation specialist, Kelly Rippel, at krippel@oralhealthkansas.org.



On April 26 and 27, OHK staff and a group of volunteers did exit surveys with patients at the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) in Pittsburg, Kansas. KMOM volunteers saw a total of 743

patients and provided \$1,129,211 in donated dental care over two days, including 1,342 fillings and 2,446 extractions.



Thank you to the new Dental Champions Class IX members for spending time volunteering. Thank you also to Kansas Head Start Association, Aetna and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas staff for your great volunteer spirit!



Reserve A Sugary Drink Display

Our Sugary Drink Display is popular! We receive reservation

requests weekly.

What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display for a month.

Spots fill up quickly! We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee.

There is no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display; postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt. All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us with feedback about the display. Click [here](#) to make a reservation!

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? Great, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org and we'll send you more info!



Save The Date!

The Conference on Oral Health is scheduled for Friday, November 8 at the KState Olathe Campus, 22201 W Innovation Dr, Olathe, KS 66061.

Follow Us



Oral Health Kansas • 712 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 412 Topeka, KS 66603
785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax info@oralhealthkansas.org
Copyright 2019