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In This Issue

[Dental Champions Corner
Save the Date](#)
[2016 Kansas Conference on
Poverty](#)
[Health and Wellness Fair](#)
[We want to hear from you!](#)
[Sugary Drink Display](#)

Dental Champions Corner

OHK would like to take this time to bid farewell to Shannon Cotsoradis (Class 1) who has served as Kansas Action for Children's (KAC) President and CEO since 2010. Shannon's last day with KAC is May 31. She will be taking a leadership role with Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative, LLC. Shannon has been a strong child advocate who helped save the Kansas Children's Cabinet this year.

Congratulations to Shannon on this exciting move!

282,000 Missouri adults to receive dental coverage

This week, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) approved the Missouri Department of Social Services' plan to expand Medicaid coverage of dental services for approximately 282,000 adult participants. Services covered include preventive services, restorative services periodontal treatment, oral surgery, extractions, radiographs, pain evaluation and relief, infection control, and general anesthesia.

Currently, coverage of dental services for adults in Missouri is limited to trauma of the mouth, jaw, or teeth as a result of injury or medical condition.



Save the Date!

OHK's annual conference will be held **November 3-5, 2016** at the Double Tree Hotel in Overland Park. Make plans to join us along with other advocates and organizations! Stay tuned for more updates!



2016 Kansas Conference on Poverty

How do we work together - across organizations, racial, ethnic and gender differences and geographies - to create opportunities for all? These are some of the questions to explore during the 2016 Kansas Conference on Poverty. The conference is July 20-22.

For more information and to register, visit the [website](#).

Dental care providers who have provided services to eligible Medicaid participants will be paid for those services administered since January 1, 2016. The money for the expansion in 2016 is being paid for from the collection of delinquent taxes under House Bill 384.

"Healthy communities are strong communities, so I'm pleased that the dollars are available to fund these services, while keeping the budget in balance," Governor Nixon said. "Moving forward, these kinds of services are simply too critical to be put at risk by funding them with one-time sources of revenue. That's why it's important that we continue to keep our fiscal discipline for the remainder of this fiscal year, so that next year's budget can include ongoing and sustainable funding for developmental disability providers - and others who care for our most vulnerable citizens."



Health and Wellness Fair at the Capitol next week

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will be hosting a Health and Wellness fair May 18 on the statehouse grounds in Topeka. The event is from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Lots of information and prizes!

Open the flyer for more information! If you are in Topeka, stop by Oral Health Kansas' booth!



Share your story!

Do you have an oral health story you would like to share with us? Or do you know someone who has had an experience worth sharing? Let us know! Fill out this [short form](#) with the information.



Advocates gather to push KanCare expansion

This week at the Statehouse, in room 582-N, standing room only, advocates, consumers and community organizations gathered to show their support for the expansion of Medicaid. In Kansas, the Medicaid program is known as "KanCare". Kansas has refused to expand KanCare, therefore forfeiting over \$1 billion dollars in federal funds.



We want to hear from you!

Is there a topic of interest you have? Is there something we can do to improve our newsletter? [Email us](#) with your thoughts! We are always interested in hearing what works, what you would like to see more of or if there's something you would like us to share.



Sugary Drink Display

With summer break comes sports, camps and outside fun time. But what are you giving your kids to keep them hydrated? Our drink display shows how much sugar is in popular drinks. Reserve one for your daycare, work or event. Its **free** to use!



Picture courtesy of Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved

According to the [The Wichita Eagle](#), [Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#) hosted the event along with its members. Speakers at the event included faith leaders, business leaders and medical professionals. They called on lawmakers to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act to enable 150,000 uninsured Kansans to gain health coverage.

"We came here to kick-off our campaign" said David Jordan, executive director of Alliance for a Healthy Kansas. "We will be active in every single legislative district during this interim session since the legislature failed to expand KanCare this year. We need to make sure they know how important it is to every Kansan in the state." Alliance for a Healthy Kansas said they have a coalition

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of 100 community leaders and organizations that are joining their efforts.

Representative Jim Ward D-Wichita, who has supported expanding KanCare, said that unless the make-up of the Legislature significantly changes with the upcoming election, it's unlikely efforts to expand Medicaid will gain more traction next legislative session.

The event was also picked up by [WIBW news](#) in Topeka and the [Kansas Health Institute](#).

Oral Health Kansas is a member of the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, which will continue to campaign until election day.



Tobacco 21|KC policy continues to spread

We are continuously updating you on the campaign [Tobacco 21|KC](#), changing the smoking age limit from 18 to 21. At this writing, seven

communities in Kansas have adopted a Tobacco 21 ordinance.

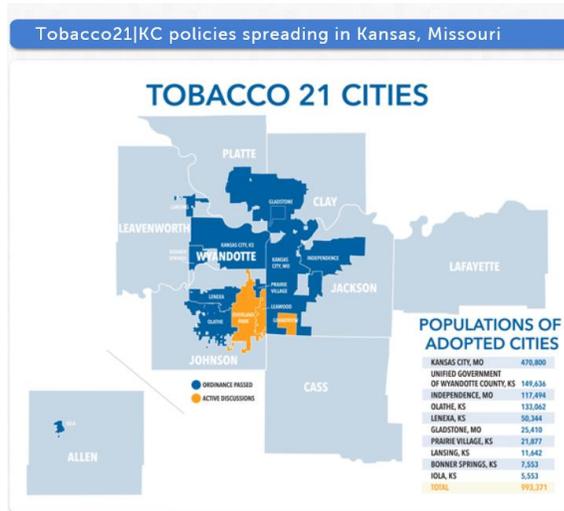
Studies have shown that raising the age limit will lead to fewer long-term smokers and reduce overall smoking rates by 12 percent. Nearly 9 out of 10 cigarette smokers first tried smoking by age 18, and 99% first tried smoking by age 26. Each day in the United States, more than 3,200 youth aged 18 years or younger smoke their first cigarette, and an additional 2,100 youth and young adults become daily cigarette smokers (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

According to a blog from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (HCF), states that the University of Kansas estimates that over the next 10 years, these Tobacco21 policies will:

- Prevent 12,330 youth in the HCF services area from becoming addicted to tobacco and nicotine products.
- Result in 4,100 fewer smoking-related deaths in the HCF services.
- Save area businesses \$7.2 million in costs (total annual excess cost of a smoker to a

private employers is \$5,816).

Below is a map, provided by HCF, with cities that have adopted the ordinances and cities still discussing propositions.



Editor's note: The image above is dynamic; we will continue to update this map as communities continue to approve Tobacco21|KC policies. So, while the content of this blog post will remain unchanged, the map will be current and available for download. Updated April 25, 2016.

Click on [this link](#) to see this map in a larger view.

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