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Legislative Session is Winding Down

On May 8 Governor Brownback signed HB 2631 into law. This bill contains the Kids Oral Health Improvement provision we proposed this year. It will improve access to dental hygiene services for kids in Kansas schools. The bill also contains the ECP III proposal, which creates a new type of Extended Care Permit for dental hygienists. Hygienists who obtain the new ECP III permit will be allowed to perform certain services including, removing decay using hand instruments, placing temporary fillings, and adjusting dentures. The bill contains a few other dental practice act changes as well.

This week the Kansas Legislature went into overtime, as they have now been in session past their 90 day limit. We continue to watch to see if a bill will pass that will create a legislative oversight process for the new KanCare (managed care for all Medicaid beneficiaries) program. It is doubtful such a bill will pass this late in the session, however. The last major transformation of the Kansas Medicaid program, transferring the program from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to the newly created Kansas Health Policy Authority, was overseen by a legislative committee. There is speculation that existing legislative committees could be used to oversee the transition to full managed care for the entire Medicaid program, but specific legislative authority to do so may not be granted before the session concludes. The KanCare program is planned to go into effect January 1, 2013.

CMS opens KanCare Waiver Comment

NEW Oral Health Kansas Webpages!

Oral Health Kansas has been working hard on developing our website pages for kids, educational videos and autism.

To view the NEW pages click the following links:

[Autism Page](#)

[Educational Videos Page](#)

[Just for Kids Page](#)

Motivational Interviewing Skill Building Workshop

This FREE workshop will focus on a proven communication strategy - Motivational Interviewing - to encourage and support families of children birth to five to keep them cavity free.

The session will not be an introduction to Motivational Interviewing.

Period

On April 26, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) submitted an 1115 waiver application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The waiver is necessary for the transition to the Kansas Medicaid program to managed care through KanCare. CMS now has posted the application online, and a 30-day comment period has begun. The comments will be accepted through the CMS website. After comments are submitted, they will be available for public viewing on the website, and readers will be able to vote on comments they like, much as people can "like" a status update on Facebook.

Oral Health Kansas is preparing comments on the waiver application. If you have any comments or concerns, or if you would like to prepare comments of your own and would like assistance, please contact Tanya Dorf Brunner, tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org or 785-235-6039.

Six Kansas Organizations Win Oral Health Grants

Yesterday, May 15, 2012 Delta Dental of Kansas and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation announced grant recipients in the state-wide online mini-grant contest, The Champions Project.

The six Kansas organizations that received the most votes over the 3-week contest include:

- Douglas County Dental Clinic will purchase fluoride varnish for 3,000 school children in six Kansas counties during the 2012-2013 school year.
- Wichita Area Technical College will fund two, \$1,250 scholarships for students enrolled in the college's dental assisting program.
- Johnson County Community College Dental Hygiene Program will purchase three new ultrasonic scalers for the clinic and mobile clinic, replacing current equipment that is suffering from wear and tear.
- E.C. Tyree Dental Clinic will purchase a portable dental hygiene unit and additional equipment to serve 2,000 school children in Sedgwick County.
- Sedgwick County Health Department - Children's Dental Clinic will purchase supplies such as fluoride varnish, sealant supplies and electric toothbrushes, to better serve the 550 children they treat annually.
- Dress for Success will fund the "Smiles for Success"

The entire workshop will be devoted to skill-building - demonstrations and coaching from the trainers, as well as practice sessions by participants.

Space is Limited, to register [CLICK HERE](#)

Did You Know???

A routine oral health exam can uncover signs and symptoms of osteoporosis and low bone mass, conditions that affect 44 million Americans aged 50 and over.

([The American Dental Hygienists' Association](#))

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

program which will provide oral health education and electric toothbrushes for 50 low-income women and their families.



For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

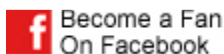
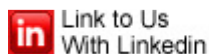
SAVE THE DATE

Make plans to attend the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Annual Conference September 13-14, 2012 at the [Hotel at Old Town](#) in Wichita, KS.

The Conference will feature a special reception with the new Big Mouth exhibit at [Exploration Place](#) sponsored by [Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation](#).



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



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