



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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KanCare meetings open to the public

State officials have scheduled five meetings to gather public comment on KanCare in advance of renewing contracts to administer the state's privatized Medicaid program. Please plan to attend and ask about adult dental services!

The times for each session are 1:00-3:00 or 5:30-7:30.

- May 24 at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center in downtown Topeka
- May 25 at the Marriott Wichita and the Jack Reardon Civic Center and Hilton Garden Inn in Kansas City, Kansas
- May 26 at the Rose Garden in

"Feeling Good about Your Smile" workshops now begin

Kathy Hunt, RDH ECPII, Dental Program Manager at Oral Health Kansas, provided the first of 6 workshops to persons served by [SLI, Inc.](#) (formerly Sheltered Living) located in Topeka. The objective of this fun and interactive workshop, "The workshop, "Feeling Good about Your Smile" is to gain knowledge and confidence regarding healthy behaviors that will improve oral health. In this hour long workshop, participants found out what causes cavities and participated in a variety of activities such as:

- Simulating an acid attack that happens to teeth

Hays and Pittsburg State
University



2016 Civic Health Index

The [Kansas Civic Health Index](#), a new report developed in partnership between Kansas Health Foundation and the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), has been released. This analysis examines civic health in Kansas with a specific focus on civic engagement of Kansans with different levels of income, education and racial/ethnic backgrounds.

The report indicates that among Kansans, Latinos clearly have the greatest challenges with regard to access to health care. Nearly half (45.5%) of Kansas Latinos have no health care coverage of any kind. Nearly half (44.8%) do not have a person they consider their personal doctor or health care provider. One-in-five (21.9%) Kansas African Americans have no health care coverage of any kind, and one-in-four (24.9%) do not have a person they consider their personal doctor or health care provider.

- Practicing making good snack choices
- Discovering where plaque and food hide in their mouths
- Putting the correct amount of toothpaste on a toothbrush
- Practicing effective methods of brushing

The 10 participants of this first workshop were lively and engaged. We look forward to offering the workshop again next month. Funding for this project is being provided to SLI through Delta Dental of Kansas.



Kathy is seen here answering questions



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!



This weekend... Community Baby Shower!

There will be a Community Baby Shower on Sunday, May 22 from 1-3pm at the YWCA, 225 SW 12th Street in Topeka.

You will get information for:

- Free health care



Participants are listening to instructions

Studies show dental health is worse in communities of color

In a [study](#) by the Pew Charitable Trusts found that communities of color have much higher rates of tooth decay and tooth loss and fewer dental visits and preventive treatments than white populations. Children of color see dentists and receive preventive services, such as fluoride treatments or sealants, less often than their white peers do. For example, only 10 percent of Hispanic and black children received any preventive service in

- resource materials
- Health Education for you and your baby
- Car seat education
- Refreshments

For more information you can view the [flyer!](#)



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.



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

2009, compared with 17 percent of white children.

Lower rates of dental visits and preventive care may contribute to the higher rates of untreated tooth decay among Hispanic and black children and adults.

According to data collected in 2011 and 2012, Hispanic and black 2- to 8-year-olds were about twice as likely as whites to have untreated decay. During the same period, black working-age adults were nearly twice as likely to have untreated decay as white working-age adults, 42 percent compared with 22 percent.



OHK staff educate Health and Wellness Fair participants

Water Access Manager, Kelly Rippel, and Operations and Communications Manager, Sonia Olmos, attended the Health and Wellness Fair today on the Statehouse grounds. The event

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

Reserve your sugary drink display for the fall! We have displays already on reserve so you don't want to miss getting one! The display provides up to 10 popular drinks and shows how much sugar is in each. Curious? Sign up now!

Shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot!



was sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. An estimate of about 50 vendors lined the south side of the Statehouse.

Kelly and Sonia showed attendees the [Sugary Drink Display](#) which amazed everyone who saw it. The comment most heard was "I need to show my kids this" or "I can't believe how much sugar is in that! I drink that every day". Staff reminded them if they are to drink sugary beverages, drink in moderation and drink fluoridated water with it. Staff demonstrated an acid attack experiment to show them how many times an acid attack occurs when drinking sugary drinks or eating sugary foods. They were baffled to see each sip of a sugary drink, is a [20-minute acid attack](#). Among the crowd, were a group of students visiting the fair. When the students saw how much sugar was in the drinks, their response was clear: "That's gross".



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If you would like to reserve the sugary drink display for your event, [email us!](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) We'd be happy to check the schedule.

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