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Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 6:10 PM
To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org
Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:
To improve oral health
in Kansas through
advocacy,
public awareness
and education.*

Volume 3, Issue 18

May 2, 2012

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Veto Session Legislative Update

Kids Oral Health Improvement Provision Passes

On Monday of this week, the Kansas House passed HB 2631 unanimously. This follows a similar unanimous passage of the same bill by the Senate at the end of March. HB 2631 contains a provision to create Extended Care Permit (ECP) III level. The ECP III would allow dental hygienists with specific training to perform temporary fillings, loose baby teeth extractions, and denture adjustments.

HB 2631 also included the provision Oral Health Kansas helped develop to improve oral health for countless Kansas schoolchildren. The so-called Kids Oral Health Improvement provision will allow ECP hygienists to see students in schools who are dentally underserved. Broadening the eligibility for ECP services will ensure ECP hygienists who are seeking to serve school children are able to see the students most in need of preventive dental services. Passage of this provision marks the conclusion of Oral Health Kansas' efforts over the past two years to improve the usability of the ECP law.

The bill includes a few other provisions, including an effort to increase the number of seats at the UMKC School of Dentistry for Kansas students and the establishment of a volunteer dental license for retired dentists. The next stop for HB 2631 is the Governor's office.

Two Tobacco Bills Up for Consideration in the Kansas House

Two bills that would weaken current tobacco laws were passed out of

Legislative Alerts

Kansas Communities are Honored for Fluoridation

We'd like to congratulate the following communities in Kansas for receiving community water fluoridation awards at the National Oral Health Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this week:

Herington was recognized with the Fifty Year Award

Cheney City was honored with the Community Fluoridation Reaffirmation Award

Five Kansas Community Health Centers Awarded Grants

This week five Kansas Community Health Centers were awarded grants totaling \$17 million this week. The grants will help the health centers expand their services to low-income Kansans. At least two health centers, Konza Prairie Community Health Center and Salina Family Healthcare Center will expand their dental chairs. All the health centers will greatly expand their service offerings to Kansans. Read more about the awards from the [Kansas Health Institute](#).

the House Federal and State Affairs Committee this week.

HB 2690 would create a new exemption in the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act. The new exemption would allow smoking in any business whose employees or customers are age 21 or older. The bill is designed to permit smoking in bars, but also could apply to other types of businesses. It would dramatically change the two year old Clean Indoor Air Act by allowing smoking in thousands of businesses across the state.

HR 6026 is a resolution that would direct the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to conduct a study the effectiveness of encouraging people to quit smoking by taking up smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco). This "tobacco harm reduction" concept was introduced by tobacco manufacturer RJ Reynolds. The resolution also requires KDHE to report to the Legislature next year "whether the public would benefit from the state of Kansas actively promoting release of accurate information regarding the relative risk of death and disease from use of smokeless tobacco products versus cigarettes.

HR 6026 discusses the need to present accurate information regarding the relative risk of disease and death from the use of smokeless tobacco products. Oral Health Kansas provided testimony on HR 6026 pointing out that it is important to recognize that smokeless tobacco is dangerous and can result in high levels of addiction, as well as oral cancer. Nearly thirty years ago the U.S. Surgeon General issued a statement saying that smokeless tobacco "is not a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes. It can cause cancer."

Please contact your State Representative this week to voice your opposition to both HB 2690 and HR 6026. To find your Representative's contact information, please visit http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2011_12/chamber/house/roster/

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](#).

Did You Know???

An estimated 75% of Americans reportedly have some form of periodontal disease.

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

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\$15,000 Grant Competition launched by Delta Dental of Kansas and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation

Last week was the official launch of The Champions Project, a state-wide, mini-grant contest presented by Delta Dental of Kansas and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation. Voting will take place entirely online.

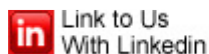
The six organizations that receive the most votes will each receive a \$2,500 mini-grant to implement an oral health program or initiative or to purchase supplies or equipment. Voting will be open through noon on Monday, May 14, 2012. Voice Your Choice at [HERE](#).

You may vote as many times as you like!

Here is a list of the participating organizations

Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas	Douglas County Dental Clinic
Dress for Success Wichita	E.C. Tyree Dental Clinic
Johnson County Community College Dental Hygiene Program	Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KMOM)
Kansas Food Bank	Kansas Head Start Association
Rawlins County Dental Clinic	Sedgwick County Health Department Children's Dental Clinic
Smart Smiles	Wichita Area Technical College

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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