



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



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Congratulations to our Water Access Manager, Kelly Rippel who has joined the [Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors \(ASTDD\)](#) Fluorides Committee.

Kelly will use his expertise in fluoridation to assist the committee in assuring that ASTDD positions and policies are presented in all appropriate

## Kansans Discuss Solutions For Oral Health

Kansas Health Institute hosted Mary Otto, author of [Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America](#) on Friday afternoon. The event, in partnership with Oral Health Kansas and Kansas Oral Health Connections, led a discussion about critical oral health issues affecting the well-being of Kansans. With a full room of health advocates and legislators, Kansas News Service's Jim McLean interviewed Otto on the story of Deamonte Driver and the impact his death made on the nation. Read about Mary Otto's initial story breaking the news of Deamonte's death [here](#).

Mary Otto was joined later in the afternoon for a panel discussion on oral health issues in Kansas. Panelists included: Tanya Dorf Brunner - Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas; Denise Cyzman, MS, RD - Executive Director of Kansas Association for the Medically

venues and to oversee all activities that the association may be involved in regarding fluorides, including the fluoride awards at the annual meeting. Thank you Kelly for your continued dedication to ensuring all Kansans have access to fluoridated water!



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## Families As A Whole Need Access To Care

[Children's Dental Health Project \(CDHP\) announced a new initiative](#) to explore policy solutions that address oral health within the context of the family and the many barriers to family well-being.

[Watch a short video](#) of executive director Meg Booth explaining their new initiative.



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## Sugary Drink Display

Underserved; and Cathleen Taylor-Osborne - State Dental Director at Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The discussion was focused on solutions for Kansas such as increased Medicaid reimbursement rates, changes in workforce, and the need for comprehensive adult dental benefits for KanCare recipients. You can watch the video live on our [Facebook](#).



Mary Otto and Tanya Dorf Brunner. Photo courtesy of Kansas Health Institute.



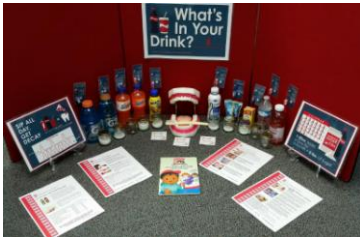
Cathy Taylor Osborne and Denise Cyzman. Photo courtesy of Kansas Health Institute.

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## 2018 Legislative Session Coming To An End

If you would like to reserve a drink display for a summer camp, event or office, let us know! Want to reserve one for the upcoming school year? [Sign up!](#)

What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also include some of our [Tips and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The **display is free** to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage!



Child drink display

Send your reservation request ahead of time to ensure you will have one on hold! [Fill out this form](#) and we'll get back with you!



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The legislature returned from spring break last Thursday for a very brief wrap up session. The last week of work has mainly focused on school finance and budget negotiations, along with a few wins for healthcare in the state. Both the Senate and the House have approved a telehealth bill, HB 2028, which will require insurance companies to reimburse for telemedicine services similar to how they currently pay for in-person appointments. The bill does not establish a rate of pay though. Dental services were not included in the bill, but we hope to be able to address this next year.


The legislature plans to adjourn on Friday, May 4th.



## Celebrating Older Americans Month

May is [Older American's month](#) and this year's theme, Engage at Every Age, emphasizes that you are never too old (or young) to take part in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Taking care of your oral health is just as important for your overall health!

If you are a caregiver to an older adult, it's important to remind them of their daily activities and routines. Keeping up with oral health may be harder for some

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seniors. This could lead to pain in their mouths and struggling to eat as well as pain when they talk. But there are ways for you to help!

[Here are some steps](#) to follow when brushing another person's teeth.



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