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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

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

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NEW Oral

Legislative Advocate Has Been Lost

Rep. Bob Bethell, R-Alden, has been a great friend to Oral Health Kansas. He has been a strong proponent of oral health issues, understood them well, and worked hard to educate his fellow lawmakers. This year he agreed to serve as our first Oral Health Caucus chair and conceived of the idea to take Caucus events across the state this summer and fall.

On Sunday night Rep. Bethell was driving home after the Legislature adjourned for the year and was killed in a car accident in Wabaunsee County. Since 1999, Bethell had represented the 113th district in central Kansas. He was chair of the House of Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, vice chair of the Home and Community Based Services Oversight Committee, and a member of the transportation and health committees. He also was a former chair of the House Social Services Budget Committee.

Rep. Bethell's last action was carrying the legislation on the floor of the House that would have created a KanCare Legislative Oversight Committee. He believed in positive change in the Kansas Medicaid program and wanted to see legislative oversight of the change. The bill did not pass, but not because he didn't do his best.

Losing Rep. Bethell represents a major loss for the state, for oral health, and for us. Consumer advocacy groups across the state claim him has one of their fiercest friends, because he was a tireless advocate for all Kansans who do not have a voice. Oral Health Kansas joins the chorus of voices who are thanking their

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.

The entire workshop will be devoted to skill-building - demonstrations and coaching from the

friend this week and mourning his loss. The impact he made on public policy and in our hearts will be felt for a long time to come.

In 2008 Oral Health Kansas honored Rep. Bethell as with our Outstanding Policy Maker Award.



Legislature Adjourns after 99 Days

The Kansas Legislature convenes each January for a 90-day session. On Sunday, May 20, they adjourned after a record 99 days. Many high profile issues marked this session, including the annual budget, a massive tax cut package, school finance, and legislative redistricting. At the conclusion of the session, the budget and tax plan passed, school finance was unchanged, and legislative redistricting was left undone.

In this challenging year, there was a bright spot in the passage of HB 2631, which creates a new Extended Care Permit III level for dental hygienists and strengthens the Kids Oral Health Improvement provision in the current law. The Governor signed this bill into law on May 8. Another bright spot was the failure of a handful of bills which would have altered the current Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act. Oral Health Kansas joined with tobacco-free advocates to urge lawmakers to keep the current law in place.

One other issue that was left untouched at the end of the session was KanCare legislative oversight. KanCare is the proposal to move the entire Kansas Medicaid program into managed care, and it is scheduled to go into effect in January 2013. Two bills, which would have created a legislative oversight committee for the historic KanCare transition were considered, but neither passed.

Details about all these issues can be found [HERE](#).

trainers, as well as practice sessions by participants.

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

Did You Know???

For most cities, every \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs.

([The American Dental Association](#))

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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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