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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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2011 Legislative Session Update

Oral Health Kansas provides the following re-cap of Legislative activity during the 2011 Session that wrapped up very early in the morning on May 13. A more detailed summary of the year's legislative issues can be found [here](#). Please contact [Tanya Dorf Brunner](#) if you have any questions.

Dental benefit for all Kansas Medicaid beneficiaries

Oral Health Kansas and the Kansas Dental Association advocated this year for a dental benefit for all Kansas Medicaid beneficiaries.

Oral Health Kansas succeeded in getting recommendations inserted in the FY 2012 budget reports for the Department on Aging and Kansas Health Policy Authority requesting a study on the cost effectiveness and health benefits of providing a Medicaid adult dental benefit. The study is likely to occur during interim committee meetings after the Legislature adjourns this year.

Dental Hygiene services for schoolchildren

The Kansas Dental Association's introduced a bill which addresses a number of dental issues, including a provision to ensure all Kansas school children who have not had a routine dental visit in the last year are able to see an ECP hygienist, with parental permission. The language in this

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section was developed by an OHK-convened stakeholder group as a way to expand access to dental hygiene services to all schoolchildren in the state. No action was taken on this bill, but it remains alive for consideration in 2012. OHK also is making plans to introduce this concept as a separate bill for consideration in the 2012 Session.

Midlevel practitioner bills

A group called the Kansas Dental Project introduced a bill in the House and the Senate this year to create a new dental professional called the Registered Dental Practitioner. The Registered Dental Practitioners (RDP) would be dental hygienists who receive an additional 18 months of training to provide certain dental services, such as fillings, extractions of baby teeth, and extractions of loose permanent teeth. The RDP would work under general or direct supervision of a dentist.

The Kansas Dental Association included a proposal for an Extended Care Permit (ECP) III in their bill this year. Dental hygienists who have practiced for 2000 hours and received 18 hours of specified education would be able to perform certain dental services including, removing decay using hand instruments, placing temporary fillings, and adjusting dentures. The ECP IIIs would work under general supervision of a dentist.

Each of these bills received hearings in either the Senate Public Health and Welfare or House Health and Human Services Committees. Neither the House nor the Senate Committee took action on these bills this year. Both remain alive for consideration during the 2012 Session.

Dental franchise bill

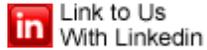
A bill that would permit the franchising of dental practices was introduced and passed this year. The bill represents a compromise between the Kansas Dental Association and a dental franchising company called Comfort Dental. The bill outlines the circumstances under which dentists in Kansas can own and operate franchise dentistry practices. The bill included a provision that would allow hospitals in communities of under 50,000 to employ dentists, which could significantly increase access to a dental provider in smaller communities.

Clean Indoor Air Act

During the 2011 Session, OHK joined clean air advocates in urging the Legislature to maintain the current provisions of the 2010 Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act. There were proposals to roll-back the law and to strengthen it. None of

the proposals passed at the end of the Session, which means the law remains fully intact.

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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