



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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## A new opportunity for oral health partners

Have you heard the news? Oral Health Kansas and six other organizations have received a DentaQuest Foundation grant. Read more about this in [our press release](#).

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## Support KMOM-Topeka on June 2

Oral Health Kansas encourages Topeka-area residents/employees to support the 2016 Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) in Topeka by attending the annual Topeka Gives event. Topeka Gives is a one-day event sponsored by the Topeka Community Foundation (TCF) celebrating charitable giving. The Tuesday, June 2 event at the Fairlawn Plaza Mall (21st & SW Fairlawn), will provide \$60,000.00 in "match" money for contributions

## Kansas clinics awarded federal grants

The US Department of Health and Human Services has announced new grants to Kansas safety-net clinics through the Affordable Care Act. Five clinics were awarded a total of \$3.1 million this month. Clinics in Cowley and Sheridan Counties will use the grant funds to transition to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).



Three FQHCs will expand their services by opening new clinics: Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas will open a medical, dental and mental health clinic in Parsons. Health Partnership Clinic will open a new medical, dental and behavioral health clinic will open in Ottawa. Finally, GraceMed will open a new medical, dental and behavioral health clinic in south Wichita.

Read more about the new safety-net services from the [Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved](#).

made to support 130+ different nonprofit organizations in Topeka.

Matching contributions can only be made to KMOM-Topeka by supporters who attend the Topeka Gives event in person between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Contributions can be made via cash, check or credit card through the Topeka Community Foundation.

The Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) is a charitable dental clinic conducted annually by the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KDCF). As a 501 (c)(3) charitable not-for-profit foundation, KDCF has held 14 KMOM dental projects across Kansas since 2003, providing approximately 25,000 Kansans with \$14 million in free dental care. KMOM-Topeka is scheduled for January 29-30, 2016 at the Kansas Expocentre.



January 29-30, 2016

## Dental Champions Corner

Megan Foreman (Class 7) was one of a small group of advocates who attended a [Kansas Health Foundation-funded training program](#) about grassroots advocacy presented by the Midwest Academy.

## Support Senate passage of the Older Americans Act

Oral Health America is urging advocates across the country to contact their members of Congress to ask for passage of the Older Americans Act.

The Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015 was introduced by U.S. Senate Health Committee leaders and passed by the Senate HELP Committee in late January. This reauthorization would allow for free oral health screenings under the Older Americans Act for the first time. It's time for S. 192 to move to the Senate floor for passage to ensure older Americans are able to age where they feel most comfortable-in their own homes.

HEALTHY MOUTHS, HEALTHY BODIES  
BOTH ARE NEEDED TO AGE IN PLACE

**THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015** promotes aging in place by connecting millions of older adults to much needed community social services such as...

Nearly **98 percent** of older adults want to stay in their own homes as they age, often referred to as "Aging in Place."<sup>1</sup>

**FOR THE FIRST TIME** a small provision allows the aging network to use funds they receive for disease prevention and health promotion activities to conduct oral health screenings at no added cost.

**ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS!**

elder abuse protection, caregivers, transportation, meals

Learn more about [Oral Health America's](#) work to improve the oral health of older adults.

Contact Kansas Senators to urge their support for this legislation:

Senator Pat Roberts  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510  
202-224-4774  
[Email form](#)

Senator Jerry Moran  
Russell Senate Office Building Room 361A



## Kansas Health Foundation

The training was an opportunity for advocates to learn how to strategically and effectively employ grassroots advocacy. Kansas Health Foundation program officer Elina Alterman said, "Strong civic engagement and a culture of dedicated advocacy can have a substantial long-term impact on this state."



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### Join In: WSU Dental Day June 26th

Wichita State University Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program is hosting a Dental Day for students interested in a career in dentistry. Dental Day is a great opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in the field of dentistry and dental hygiene. This camp is geared toward high school students interested in the field of dentistry, including dental hygiene and dental assisting.

This program will be held Friday, June 26, and registration closes June 1st or until all spots are filled. Find out more about this opportunity at the [Dental Day website!](#)

Washington DC, 20510  
202-224-6521  
[Email form](#)

## Legislative Session Continues... Tobacco Taxes on the table

The Kansas Legislature has passed the 90-day session limit and will hit 100 days later this week. Legislators continue to wrestle with a \$400 million budget deficit. A variety of tax options are being considered by both chambers, but at this writing, no package has passed either the House or the Senate.

The tax bills being considered by both chambers this week contain an increase on cigarette and other tobacco products, which was proposed by the Governor in January of this year. Oral Health Kansas supports the tobacco tax increases as a way to prevent Kansans from taking up the smoking habit and maybe help others stop using tobacco. [Read our testimony](#) on the issue from earlier this session.

## Sugary Drink Display available this summer!

The Oral Health Kansas sugary drink display has been traveling around the state, making stops this month in six communities, including the Neosho County Health Fair and the State Capitol.

Reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! This display is completely free, and return shipping costs are reimbursed by Oral Health Kansas. Learn more [on our website](#) and [email Sarah](#) if you are interested in hosting the display!



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