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Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update

1 message

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Dental Champions Corner

Missouri Adds Adult Dental Benefits to Medicaid

This month, the Missouri Legislature appropriated funds to restore adult dental benefits to the Medicaid program, which were lost to budget cuts in 2005. The legislature passed the 2015 budget on May 8, which included a \$48 million appropriation of new state and federal funds for a limited package of dental services. Medicaid beneficiaries will have coverage for emergency and preventive treatments, oral surgery, periodontal disease therapy, and restorative services. The benefits do not include prosthetics (e.g., crowns, bridges, etc.).

Provider rates will be increased to 60 percent UCR (usual and customary rates). This important policy change will increase access to dental care and reduce the use of emergency rooms to address the pain of untreated dental conditions.

Kansas' Medicaid program, known as KanCare, does not include comprehensive dental benefits for adults. KanCare beneficiaries can access emergency and preventive dental services, but comprehensive care, including restorative benefits, are not covered. It is typical for adults on Medicaid to have gone without dental care for many years due to cost; without access to restorative benefits, it is unlikely they will achieve good overall oral health.



Congratulations to Cathy Harding (Class IV) on being named the new CEO of the Wyandotte Health Foundation. Cathy has been the Executive Director of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) since 2007. Oral Health Kansas and the Dental Champions wish her the best in her new position. To read more about Cathy and her new adventure, [read the KHI story here](#).



**See you
May 30!**

The Oral Health Planning Summit will take place at the Kansas Museum of History on May 30 from 9:00am - 3:00pm. If you haven't RSVPd yet, please e-mail us [here](#).

Save the

The budget is awaiting the governor's signature.

[Learn more about the new Medicaid dental benefits](#) in Missouri from the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health.

Learn more about the need for Medicaid dental services in Kansas by [reviewing budget testimony on the Oral Health Kansas website](#).

Greater KC Oral Health System Assessment Report Released

The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City released an oral health systems assessment which covered the five counties the Foundation focuses on: Johnson and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas, and Jackson, Cass, and Lafayette Counties in Missouri. The assessment broadly explored oral health from a variety of perspectives and offers recommendations within the following areas:



- Education and Convening
- Workforce Enhancement
- Improving Care and Integration
- Financing

Though the report only summarizes conditions in two of Kansas' 105 counties, many of the issues identified are present across the state. It is further illustrative to compare the environments on either side of the state line in the Kansas City area. [We encourage you read the report!](#)

CDHP Fluoridation One-Pager



The Children's Dental Health Project has created a one-pager about water fluoridation that can be shared with stakeholder organizations in your states or communities. This one-pager displays concise excerpts from pro-fluoridation policy statements and/or

web content from five high-profile organizations or agencies. These excerpts reflect insights gained from research on effective messaging. CDHP's one-pager can be [accessed here](#).

Date...

The 2014 Oral Health
Kansas Conference
will be November 6-8
at Wichita State
University. Please plan
to attend. Details
coming soon!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Traveling Sugary Drink Display

Reserve our traveling Sugary Drink Display for your business or event! Displays are available from June onward and reservations are made for one month at a time. Return postage is covered by Oral Health Kansas. [E-mail Caroline here](#) if you would like to make a reservation.



If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org.

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