



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 grant. Read more about this in [our press release](#).

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Dental Champions Corner

Dental Champions Class VII members spent two days in Topeka last week learning more about community water fluoridation. Guest speakers from the League of Municipalities, CDC, ADA and Rural Water Association shared insight with the class members.

Goodbyes and Hellos

This was a bittersweet week for the staff at Oral Health Kansas as we bid farewell to Megan Foreman and welcome a new Policy Director, Rachel Alexander. Megan began work as our Policy Director in the summer of 2013. She came to Oral Health Kansas to manage our DentaQuest Oral Health 2014 project and lead our legislative advocacy work.

Throughout her time at Oral Health Kansas, Megan was led many advocacy efforts, including the defeat of an anti-water fluoridation bill in the Kansas Legislature and assisting with the efforts to retain water fluoridation in Salina last fall. She produced a video featuring many of the key voices in the Kansas oral health community that perfectly describes the current opportunities and challenges in our state. She also led a team of stakeholders to develop a major multi-partner project for DentaQuest's Oral Health 2020 initiative. (See related story this week.) Megan made significant contributions not just to Oral Health Kansas, but to the oral health community. Her body of work long will reflect the skills and dedication she brought. She will assume a new post this month at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment leading a chronic disease prevention program. We wish her the best!

We are excited to welcome Rachel Alexander this week as our new Policy Director. She comes to us from the Kansas Health



Partner Spotlight: Public Health Presentation

Last week leaders from three statewide organizations shared insights about the Kansas oral health community at the Governor's Public Health Conference. KDHE Bureau of Oral Health Director Cathleen Taylor-Osborne, DDS, MA, Oral Health Kansas Dental Program Director Kathy Hunt, RDH, and Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved Executive Director Denise Cyzman partnered on a presentation to a large group at the conference.

The three talked about the current programs in the state to increase dental services for underserved Kansans. The partners provided a vision of what oral health looks like across the state—from urban to rural to frontier designated counties, from private practice to public health practice, from private funders to professional associations and their role in policy making and governance. They shared a broad view of the landscape of oral health in our state, along with what makes it unique and challenging.

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

Consumer Coalition, and she brings a wealth of experience in working with stakeholders on major advocacy efforts, including Medicaid expansion and an effort to increase state revenues in order to fill the budget deficit. Rachel has a great deal of energy to bring to our stakeholder and advocacy work on improving oral health for all Kansans, and we are excited to introduce her to you. You can contact Rachel at ralexander@oralhealthkansas.org.

Oral Health Kansas adds Dental Program Director

The award of our new DentaQuest Foundation Oral Health 2020 grant allowed Oral Health Kansas to welcome our first Dental Program Director to the staff. Kathy Hunt, RDH, has been a part of our organization almost since the beginning. She was in our first Dental Champions class, is a former board member, and has been a close partner through her work at the Kansas Head Start Association. Kathy developed and led the Kansas Cavity-Free Kids program and originated such innovative programs as the All Aboard for Oral Health event for families of young children. She also co-authored educational curricula for home visitors and pregnant women with Oral Health Kansas' Community Development Specialist Marcia Manter.

As a member of Oral Health Kansas' staff, Kathy will continue her work with early childhood oral health initiatives. She also will lead our work regarding Extended Care Permits for dental hygienists. She will encourage the integration of oral health care into KanCare's Health Homes Initiative as well. Kathy's years of clinical experience, along with her expertise in developing educational programs for underserved populations will be tremendous assets to our organization. Kathy can be reached at khunt@oralhealthkansas.org.

Advocates rally for

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!**](#)



Traveling Sugary Drink Display

Reserve our traveling sugary drink display for your event! Our display shows how much sugar is in a variety of your favorite drinks, emphasizing which drinks are good and bad for you.

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!



tobacco tax increase

Oral Health Kansas and other health advocates gathered Monday to urge passage of a tobacco tax increase bill. Legislators will look this week at options for raising \$400 million to \$500 million to close a budget gap and end the 2015 session.

Dr. Roy Jensen, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, believes that this tax increase above any other initiative this legislative session will show that we are working together to improve the health of Kansans. Jodi Radke, director of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Region, also spoke of the health benefits of this tax increase in reducing youth tobacco use rates.

To learn more about the rally and this proposed tax increase, [**visit the KHI News Service website.**](#)



Join in: National Drinking Water Week

For more than 35 years the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week - a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

Drinking water from the tap saves you money and also contains fluoride that strengthens

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your tooth enamel. Check out the **Fluoride in Kansas** website to learn more.

Find out more about the history of this week and ways to celebrate **here at the American Water Works Association website.**

Drinking Water Week
MAY 3-9, 2015
What do you know about **H₂O?**

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