

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

May 8, 2019

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Medicaid Expansion Fails; Reimbursement Rate Prevails

Early Sunday morning, the 2019 legislative session adjourned following a short battle to get Medicaid Expansion to the Senate floor for a vote. The House of Representatives spent Friday and Saturday rejecting budget bills in an effort to force the Senate to vote on Medicaid Expansion. Unfortunately, the maneuver didn't receive a response from the Senate, and the House ultimately decided to pass the budget bill leading

to an end of session without the passage of Medicaid Expansion. The next step for Medicaid Expansion is a summer study as promised by the Senate leaders.

Although we did not see success for Medicaid Expansion, the Legislature did approve a \$3 million increase in reimbursement rates for KanCare services. Oral Health Kansas worked hard alongside the Kansas Dental Association (KDA) during the session to make the case for the need for increased reimbursement rates to help recruit and build our dental provider network in Kansas. The next step is to work with the KDHE Division of Health Care Finance on the implementation of this increase. We will share additional information as we learn how this increase will be implemented.

Legislators will return on May 29th for Sine Die to consider any vetoes made by Governor Kelly. This day will mark the formal end of the 2019 legislative session.

A final Friday Noon Call for the year will be held on Friday, May 17th from 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM. We will share additional information on Medicaid Expansion and dental reimbursement rates. Sign up [here!](#)



Helping People With Disabilities Access Dental Care

Parents of children with disabilities know it can be tough to find dental care. Adults with disabilities know it doesn't get any easier as they get older. Last week the [*New York Times* ran a story](#) about New York University's College of Dentistry's unique approach to not only meeting the dental needs of people with disabilities, but also preparing dental students to treat them after they graduate. Too often, people with disabilities face either having teeth extracted because it is hard to save them or not receiving dental services at all. The landmark work being done in New York can be a model to other states.

Kansas stakeholders also are working on a project through the American Dental Association's Dental Quality Alliance to improve access to dental service for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Within a year, we should be able to share some best practices to help families of children with disabilities find a dental home.



Register For The Substance Use Disorder Training Conference On May 15

Thank you to [Community Care Network of Kansas](#) for hosting the Substance Use Disorder Training Conference on May 15. The conference will feature engaging presentations and discussions regarding treatment strategies and best practices. The event will be May 15, from 8:00 - 4:30 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 410 S 3rd St., Manhattan, Kansas. Continuing Education credits will be available.

The registration has been extended to **this Friday, May 10**. [Sign up now!](#)



Senior Spring Fling Attracts Large Group Of Participants

Oral Health Kansas staff exhibited at the Senior Spring Fling in El Dorado on May 1. This annual event attracts over 800 seniors. A large variety of vendors/resources aimed at older adults exhibited in three different

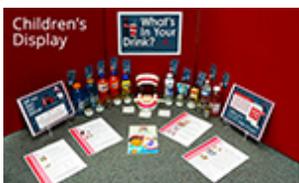
buildings across El Dorado. OHK provided information about availability of dental services. We also shared information on a variety of oral health issues of interest to seniors including denture care, dry mouth, and burning mouth syndrome.



Congratulations to Junetta Everett, Dental Champions Class 2 for receiving the Civic Leadership Award. The award was given to Junetta by the [Heartland Black Chamber](#) based in Kansas City, Kansas.



The Kansas Black Chamber (KBCC) is committed to developing and strengthening black businesses in the State of Kansas. Junetta is the Vice President of Professional Relations for Delta Dental of Kansas.



Reserve A Sugary Drink Display

Our Sugary Drink Display has been traveling all over Kansas and even Tennessee! Don't wait to make your reservations!

What is a Sugary Drink Display? It's our drink display that has 10 popular

beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display for a month.

Spots fill up quickly! We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee.

There is no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display; postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt. All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us with feedback about the display. Click [here](#) to make a reservation!

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? Great, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org and we'll send you more info!



Save The Date!

The Conference on Oral Health is scheduled for Friday, November 8 at the KState Olathe Campus, 22201 W Innovation Dr, Olathe, KS 66061.

Follow Us



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