



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Dental Champions Corner

Congratulations to [Gail Kennedy \(Class IV\)](#) on her retirement from Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas this week!

Gail is the Director of Dental Support Services, and in her 10 years at Community Health Center, she has changed the face of dental services in the region. She was a key figure in the development of school-based dental services that have proliferated over the last several years. Gail was honored as the 2012 Outstanding Dental Champion, and her legacy will leave a lasting impression in southeast Kansas and in the Dental Champions Leadership Program.

State Budget Crisis Deepens

by Tanya Dorf Brunner
Executive Director

The Legislature convened today for their traditional ceremonial last day. They opted not to take action on the school funding shortfall and adjourned as the announcement came that May revenues fell precipitously. Only 29 days remain in this fiscal year, and the budget crisis has never been more urgent.

The Kansas Supreme Court ruled last week that the state's school finance formula is unconstitutional, because poorer school districts do not receive equitable funding. Estimates show that a minimum of \$45 million is necessary to provide equitable funding to all school



Share your story!

With the KanCare public forums underway this week, brings to our attention the unheard voices from consumers, advocates and organizations. Do you have an oral health story you would like to share with us? Or do you know someone who has had an experience worth sharing? Let us know! Fill out this [short form](#) with the information.



Guys....women are checking out your.....oral health!

districts in the state. The Supreme Court has indicated schools may not be able to open in August if the funding inequities are not fixed by the end of this fiscal year - which is this month.

The state revenue collections totals were released today, revealing that the state took in \$76.5 million less than projected in the month of May. Governor Brownback cut nearly \$100 million from the state budget in May in order to balance the budget, including a \$56 million cut in the Medicaid program, which involves a rate cut to Medicaid (KanCare) providers. The new revenue shortfall makes it unlikely the state budget can be balanced without additional cuts to services.

What does all of this have to do with dental and oral health issues? This means that the currently low Medicaid rates paid to dental providers will shrink further, jeopardizing the already small network of Medicaid dental providers in the state. It also means the very real issues we need to address - Medicaid expansion and enactment of a comprehensive Medicaid dental benefit for adults - cannot be

A [Delta Dental survey](#) finds that three-quarters of the nation's women consider good oral health to be one of the sexiest qualities in a partner. Guys, this is an even better reason to make sure you keep up with your brushing and flossing!

- 74% of women consider good oral health one of the sexiest qualities vs 68% of men
- 70% of women say they won't kiss someone they believe has poor oral health vs 65% of men

27% of women would break up with someone for not brushing their teeth twice a day



Sugary Drink Display

Have you reserved a sugary drink display? Our display's have 10 popular beverages and show how much sugar is in each drink. Use these at your events, office or day care!

The drink display is free and shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot!

considered until the budget problems are fixed. The Governor and the Legislature have failed to support increased state revenue through balanced, equitable and sustainable tax policy in Kansas. Kansans in need cannot wait any longer.



Oral Health Month: Share More Time, Share More Smiles

The American Dental Association (ADA) and Colgate are teaming up in the month of June for [Oral Health Month: Share More Time, Share More Smiles](#), an annual campaign to educate Hispanic families about the importance of proper oral care. "Colgate is thrilled to be collaborating for the first time with the American Dental Association this year to improve oral health outcomes among US Hispanics", said Carla Kelly, general manager of U.S. multicultural marketing for Colgate-Palmolive. "This campaign speaks directly to Hispanic parents and



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their desire to care for their families. We want to encourage them to begin and maintain proper daily oral care routines as a family".

The campaign's theme "Lead By Example" speaks to parents, especially moms, who can influence the health and wellness and their families. The campaign will communicate that an effective way to teach children good oral care habits is for parents to practice themselves.



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