

**From:** Oral Health Kansas <jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org>  
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**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
*Weekly Wednesday Update*

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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**Award  
Nominations**

**Comprehensive Dental Reform Act  
Introduced in Congress**

On June 7, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.) introduced the [Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012](#). The twin bills, touted as the most comprehensive dental legislation in U.S. history, were introduced in the Senate and the House to address the current dental crisis affecting millions of Americans.

This legislation, if passed, would build upon the numerous oral health provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and aims to further improve access to and quality of oral health care for all Americans.

The bill seeks to expand dental coverage to America's most vulnerable families by including comprehensive dental benefits in Medicare and Medicaid as well as the health benefits offered to VA beneficiaries, enhance access by providing funding to safety net clinics and programs, and address provider shortages by improving dental workforce and training efforts.

In addition, the legislation asks for money to be appropriated to educate medical and other non-oral health providers, such as social workers and nutritionists, with the "goal of integrating oral health care into overall health care."

[Track the status](#) of this bill online. Read statements from [Sen. Sanders](#) and [Rep. Cummings](#).

are open!

Oral Health Kansas is accepting nominations for our annual awards. Nominations in the following category are encouraged:

Organization  
Dental Hygienist  
Dentist  
Community Leader  
Policy Maker  
Volunteer  
Dental Champion

Nominations will be accepted from June 1st through July 30th.

Review a list of past award winners on the [OHK website](#).

## Community-Based Dental Program Grants

The Bureau of Oral Health is soliciting proposals from dental professionals and other entities interested in receiving funding grants to provide preventive oral health services in Kansas community based settings using dental hygienists that have Extended Care Permits.

These grants are funded through the Bureau's DHHS Health Resources and Services Administration Grant to the States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities (CFDA No.

[Watch Sen. Sanders](#) talk about this legislation and America's dental crisis.

## Dental Champions Corner



a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

**Congratulations to Dental Champions who received Community Dental Health Grants from the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation this week!**

- Dave Sanford, Class 1, GraceMed
- Robert Stiles, Class 4, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
- Kathy Hunt, Class 1, Community Health Ministry and Kansas Head Start Association
- Julie Branstrom, Class 5, Douglas County Dental Clinic
- Jason Wesco, Class 1, Health Partnership of Johnson County
- Krista Hahn, Class 5, Manhattan Area Technical College
- Greg Hill, Class 2, Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation

And, thanks to Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation Executive Director Karen Finstad, Class 4, for a terrific ceremony honoring the grantees.

## Next Motivational Interviewing Skill Building Workshop is on June 29

Oral Health Kansas and the Kansas Head Start Association held a Motivational Interviewing workshop on June 9 in Salina. The next free workshop will be again in Salina on June 29. It will focus on a proven communication strategy - Motivational Interviewing - to encourage and support families of children birth to five to keep them cavity free.

93.236). The maximum amount for any one award is \$10,000, and applications for smaller amounts will be welcomed. Funding will be awarded through a competitive grant application process administered through the Dental Workforce Cabinet, a work group of Oral Health Kansas and the Bureau of Oral Health.

For more information, please contact Dr. Kathy Weno at 785-296-5116 or [kweno@kdheks.gov](mailto:kweno@kdheks.gov). Grant applications are due June 29.

## Celebrating Give Kids a Smile Day

Last week we did not take the opportunity to recognize GraceMed Health Clinic served as the host for the Give Kids a Smile day. GraceMed generously opens their doors to volunteers and patients each year for this noteworthy event.

## Did You Know???

**Getting enough fluoride in childhood will determine the strength of our teeth over our entire lifetime.**

[www.wichitansforhealthyteeth.org](http://www.wichitansforhealthyteeth.org)

The session will not be an introduction to Motivational Interviewing.

The entire workshop will be devoted to skill-building - demonstrations and coaching from the trainers, as well as practice sessions by participants.

Space is Limited. [Register online today.](#)

## Bureau of Oral Health Seeks Epidemiologist

This position will work as an extension of a team of epidemiologists in the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics to provide the Bureau of Oral Health with surveillance and evaluation capabilities. The job description is available [here](#).

Questions can be directed to the Bureau of Oral Health at 785-296-5116 or [BOH@kdheks.gov](mailto:BOH@kdheks.gov).

## SAVE THE DATE


Make plans to attend the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Annual Conference September 13-14, 2012 at the [Hotel at Old Town](#) in Wichita, KS.


The Conference will feature a special reception with the new Big Mouth exhibit at [Exploration Place](#) sponsored by [Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation](#).



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