



# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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[Score 1 for Health](#) and Alex Martinez-Munoz, ([Dental Champions, Class 8](#)), has been featured in [Reach Healthcare Foundation's 2016 annual report](#).

Alex works as a Community Health Worker to improve access to oral health care primarily for Latino children and families through its Score 1 for Health® program. The program works in 43 elementary schools in the Greater Kansas City area to provide health, dental, vision

## Act now to protect Medicaid

The U.S. Senate may vote as early as next week on a bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare. Senate leaders have been working on revisions to the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA), but the bill has not been debated in a committee, nor has the text of it been shared with Senators or the public. As the AHCA bill was written, it would cut funding to Medicaid by \$800 billion, eliminate Medicaid expansion, and allow states to stop offering the EPSDT services for children which have guaranteed all children covered by Medicaid receive dental services. According to the [Commonwealth Fund](#), if the AHCA passes, Kansas will face the loss of 5,300 jobs and \$500 million in gross state products, and the number of uninsured Kansans will rise again.

While advocates for the AHCA describe it as offering states more flexibility with their Medicaid programs, in reality, the bill will offer less flexibility. The current

and other screenings and follow-up referrals and health care navigation for preventive care, dental services and other health needs.

Great job to Alex and the Score 1 for Health program! This is a vital program needed to reach families and connect them to services.



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## Forum on the impacts of the AHCA

The [Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#) will be hosting a Community Health Care Access Forum to learn about the impact of the AHCA (American Health Care Act) on members of our community and across Kansas.

**When:** Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 10am-11:30am

**Where:** Topeka and Shawnee Council Public Library (Marvin Auditorium), 1515 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66604

To RSVP, or to find out more information, click [here](#).



Medicaid program guarantees the federal government will pay a portion of all services offered by state Medicaid programs. This means states are able to provide new services, such as an adult dental benefit, or open eligibility to new low-income populations, and have federal funding for the new services or populations. The block grant proposed in the AHCA will limit the amount of money states have to fund Medicaid services, and as the need for services grows over time, the flexibility states have to meet it will be limited.

This week and next, Kansas Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran need to hear from constituents. They need to hear that Kansans want to maintain the safety net that Medicaid provides, including the dental services guaranteed to children. Ask them to protect the health care Kansans count on.

Contact both Senator Roberts and Moran now. Call their Capitol offices at 866-426-2631. You also can send emails to [Senator Roberts](#) and [Senator Moran](#) through their websites.

- Learn more about how the AHCA would impact children's dental health from the [Children's Dental Health Project](#).
- [Families USA](#) offers several tips for advocating with Senators about the AHCA.



## Give your feedback at a KanCare forum

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is continuing their [series](#) of public meetings for the discussion of the state's proposed renewal of the KanCare program and to provide input and ideas for changes.

Attend as a provider and give input on what consumers say works for them, what they would like to see change or suggest improvements.

Consumers...your voice is important! Attend these meetings and share your story. What would you like state officials to hear about KanCare?

While at these meetings, share why Kansas needs a Medicaid dental benefit for adults. A list of talking points to use at the forums and when talking to state officials is available [here](#).



## Use this summer to talk about healthy beverage options

It's summer and along comes the summer heat! Reserve a sugary drink display for an event, health fair, day care or summer camp to show everyone healthy beverage options they can be choosing!

Our sugary drink display has 10 popular beverages and shows

## Oral health and Alzheimers

[The Alzheimer's Association -- Heart of America Chapter](#) invited Oral Health Kansas to participate in its innovative Training Room. This was a day-long program for professionals and families caring for people with dementia.

Participants selected which of the 18 "table topics" they wished to attend for 15-minute "workshops." Staff member, Marcia Manter, made 24, 15-minute presentations between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. She demonstrated tips for better toothbrushing, flossing, and dry mouth conditions, to a total of about 50 people throughout the day. Caregivers also learned about other serious health risks when oral disease is left untreated.



Marcia is seen here with participants at her table

For resources on oral health care for older adults, visit our [website](#).

how much sugar is in each. We also include some of our [Tips and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The display is free to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage!

Reserving yours ahead of time ensures you can get the date(s) you need. [Sign up now!](#)



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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## Join us tomorrow for a community forum on oral health

Tomorrow, we'll be in Pittsburg, Kansas to meet with community residents and stakeholders to share concerns on what oral health issues are in the area. Or what has been working really well!

Please RSVP to Doug at 785-235-6039 or [dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org).



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### Community Forum in Southeast Kansas

We would like to hear about the oral health challenges and opportunities you face. You also will hear about the current oral health policy activity at the state level.

Oral Health Kansas will feature several resources we have to offer, including education and advocacy tools, as well as the work of local oral health coalitions in several communities.

Please join the conversation about the importance of oral health for all Kansans!

**When:** June 22, 2017

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Where:** Pittsburg State University, 1701 South Broadway Street, Pittsburg, KS  
Overman Student Center in the Governor's Room

For more information and to RSVP, contact Doug Bowman at 785-235-6039 or [dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org)  
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