

From: [Oral Health Kansas](#)

Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update

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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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### Dental Champions Corner:

This week, we indulge

## Challenges Remain in Implementing the ACA's Pediatric Dental Benefit

In three months open enrollment will begin for health insurance that will be offered under the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) health exchanges. One of the ten essential health benefits guaranteed under the ACA is a pediatric dental benefit. While this new guarantee of dental insurance for children is a huge step forward, many challenges remain in implementing the benefit. Regulations governing the way health and dental plans are offered have not followed all of the original intent of the law.

A [June 19 article](#) in the Wall Street Journal reviews the challenges. Because of the way some regulations were developed, in some cases, families will not be required to purchase dental insurance for their children. Other regulations will not include the cost of the dental insurance in the calculations for the maximum out of pocket costs to consumers. The article said, "Advocates worry the added expense put this (pediatric dental insurance) out of reach for many parents." Children's Dental Health Project policy director Meg Booth said in the article, "It's going to be a game-changer for families."

In May the Children's Dental Health Project developed a [letter](#) to the U.S. Department of the Treasury signed by dozens of organizations, including Oral Health Kansas. The letter addresses the department's plans to make premium tax credits available to support the purchase of stand-alone

in a bit of self-promotion in the Dental Champions Corner...

Congratulations to our own Marcia Manter (Class 3) for her outstanding, ongoing work to educate vulnerable populations about taking care of their oral health. She tirelessly develops and presents workshops about young children, people with disabilities, and elderly Kansans. Check out the "Teeth for Two" workshops highlighted in this newsletter.



## "Like" the ECP Facebook Page

A new Facebook page about the Extended Care Permit (ECP) for dental hygienists is available. The goal of the new page is to share information about how the permits are being used, as well as to establish community

pediatric dental plans only in very limited circumstances. The advocates urged the department to include the cost of pediatric dental plans in the total cost of health insurance coverage in order to make the benefit as affordable to families as the law intended them to be.

Oral Health Kansas will continue following this issue and keep our readers informed about future updates.

## KanCare Pilots Proposed

The Kansas Health Institute (KHI) News Service reported this week that officials at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will host two public comment sessions next week to receive feedback about further modifications to KanCare that the state is requesting the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approve.

KHI News Service reported yesterday:

"One of the pilots would provide up to \$1,500 per month to about 200 disabled persons not yet determined eligible for Social Security disability payments to help them with job training and personal care.

"A second pilot would provide similar assistance to about 400 physically or developmentally disabled people currently on the waiting list for home- or community-based services. Eligibility for the pilot also would be limited to those working at least 40 hours a month in jobs paying minimum wage rates or better.

"The third proposed pilot would create "health accounts" for about 500 people to help them transition from Medicaid by giving them a "pre-loaded" debit card worth \$2,000 that could be used to purchase health care services or help pay for health insurance premiums. Those enrolled in the pilot would lose eligibility for Medicaid benefits for one year after their participation in the pilot ends, though some exceptions would be allowed. There would be an option of participating in the pilot program for up to three years.

The first public comment session is scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday in the multipurpose room at the Wichita State University Metroplex, 5015 E. 29th St. North in Wichita.

"The second session is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Madison Ballroom at the Downtown Ramada Inn, 420 S.E. 6th Street in Topeka.

contacts to expand the use of the permits.

Join the [Facebook page](#) and spread the word about this valuable forum to promote the ECP model.

## 2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference

Join us in November as we celebrate Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary with continuing education and networking opportunities!

Brush with



Johnson County  
Community College  
November 7-8

## Did You Know?

Approximately \$2 billion a year is spent on dental products a year in the United States . (toothpaste, mouthwash,

"Teleconference access also is available for the Topeka meeting. The participant dial-in number is 866-491-3158.

"Comments also may be emailed to [KanCare@kdheks.gov](mailto:KanCare@kdheks.gov), or mailed to ATTN: Rita Haverkamp, KDHE-DHCF, 900 SW Jackson, Room 900, Topeka, 66612. Comments will be accepted until July 29."

Read the entire article on the [KHI website](#).

## Up to 9 Dental CEs to be Offered

Oral Health Kansas will offer a special continuing education session for Extended Care Permit dental hygienists and other dental professionals as a post-conference session on November 8, 2013. The Oral Health Kansas Conference on November 7-8 will present a variety of continuing education opportunities, and this year a special, in-depth session for ECP hygienists will be added to the agenda. ECP hygienists will have the chance to learn more about how to effectively serve people with disabilities during this session featuring Dr. Ray Lyons.

**Save the date and watch for more details!**

## Oral Health Kansas Partners with the Kansas Head Start Association on Oral Health and Pregnancy Workshops

A healthy pregnancy is essential for a healthy baby. When the mother has a healthy mouth, the newborn baby starts out on a path to be free of cavities. Teeth for Two workshops provide current, evidence-based information that home visitors, health care providers, social workers and others can use with confidence. [Click here](#) to see times, contact information and registration dates.

Pittsburg, July 15  
[Wyandotte County](#), July 16  
Hutchinson, July 19  
Dodge City, July 23  
Garden City, July 24  
Lawrence, July 26

floss and toothbrushes)

Holton, July 29



StarSmilez

Join Our Mailing List!

## Traveling Sugary Beverage Display


Currently the Oral Health Kansas traveling sugary drink displays are on display at the Salina YMCA and Dodge City Dental Clinic.




If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to [Tanya](mailto:Tanya).

Drink displays are available for hosting in September!

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).

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Oral Health Kansas | 800 SW Jackson | Ste. 1120 | Topeka | KS | 66612