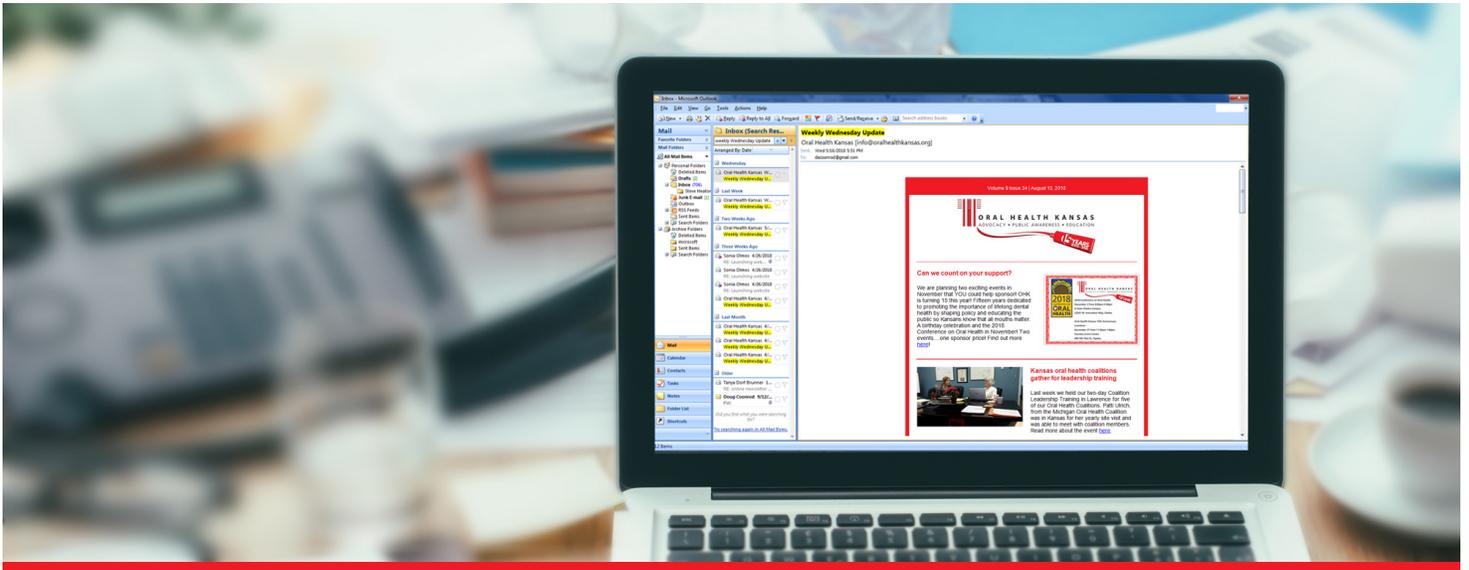




**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION



## 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](#).

### July 24, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 30



## Health Equity In Kansas

Last week, several Kansas non-profits hosted a conference about health equity in our state. The "Energize Kansas: Share, Connect, Partner, Act" conference was an opportunity for dozens of people from health care, housing, energy, social justice, environment, and other fields to connect with each other about the factors involved in making Kansas a healthy place to live, work, and play. Oral Health Kansas

participated and shared the many ways oral health impacts the health and quality of life in our state. Thanks to the Kansas Health Foundation for sponsoring the event and to Kansas Advocates for Better Care for inviting us to participate!



## Interim Health Committees Have Been Set - Share Your Story!

Kansas House and Senate have announced the special interim committees that will meet prior to the 2020 Legislative Session to discuss issues around Medicaid Expansion and the state's Medicaid program.

The Senate Select Committee on Healthcare Access will meet this summer to study the House-passed Medicaid Expansion bill. Members include Chair, Gene Suellentrop; Vice Chair, Ed Berger; Ranking Minority, Barbara Bollier; Molly Baumgardner; Rick Billinger; Jim Denning; Bud Estes; Dan Kerschen; Ty Masteron; Pat Pettey; Mary Pilcher-Cook; and Mary Jo Taylor. The committee has not set a meeting date.

The Joint Committee on Medicaid Expansion will meet to review the recommendations from the Senate Select Committee on Healthcare Access. No meeting date has been set, but members of the committee can be found [here](#).

The Robert Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight will meet on August 26 and 27th at the Topeka Capitol. An agenda has not been set but the meeting typically consists of opportunity for public testimony and updates from KDHE, KDADS and Managed Care Organizations. More information on the committee, along with committee members, can be found [here](#).

### **Do you have a story about difficulty accessing oral health care in the state of Kansas?**

If you have a story you believe can help influence and improve oral health policy in Kansas, we want to help you share it! Below are five easy steps you can take to use your story to advocate while legislators are out of session.

1. Meet with your legislators in person while they are home over the summer.
2. Write letters/postcards to your legislators.
3. Make a phone call to your legislators.
4. Post to social media.
5. Share your story during public testimony opportunities in the above committees. Both written and verbal testimony are often accepted.

If you have questions about the above committees or about sharing your story with legislators, please contact our Policy Director, Christi Nance, at [cnance@ohks.org](mailto:cnance@ohks.org).



## Oral Health Kansas Joins In Ribbon Cutting

On Friday, July 19, Oral Health Kansas along with fellow advocates joined in Sunflower Health Plan's ribbon cutting for their new location! The new location has more space than their previous location and will allow more employees to have a presence in Topeka. OHK's board member, Jonalan Smith, is the Chief Operating

Officer for Sunflower Health Plan and shared his enthusiasm in the new location, at 515 S. Kansas Avenue in Topeka.



## Another Year For the Kansas Conference on Poverty

The Kansas Conference on Poverty has been held every year since 2003. The conference brings together direct service workers, agency/department management, agency Boards of Directors, volunteers and anti-poverty advocates from Kansas non-profit organizations, faith-based agencies, and government offices. Oral Health Kansas has been exhibiting at the conference for several years and each year we make great connections with people from around the state who are interested in learning more about what we do. The Sugary Drink Display is an eye catcher each time and several people told us how much they enjoyed it when they reserved it.

## Issue Brief On Uninsured Kansans

Thank you to the Kansas Health Institute for creating an issue brief to describe in detail nonelderly Kansas adults who remain uninsured, including their employment, educational attainment and citizenship status.



Approximately 200,000 nonelderly Kansas adults were uninsured in 2017, despite existing coverage options and financial assistance. Although most (73.4 percent) were working, they might have worked for an employer that did not offer health insurance, they could not afford premiums or out-of-pocket expenses, or they worked part-time and were ineligible for coverage. Read the final issue brief [here](#).



Congratulations to Lougene Marsh, who retired this month as the Executive Director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. Lougene dedicated her career to public health and to making Kansas the healthiest state possible. Lougene served as



Photo courtesy of JCo Dept of Health and Environment

the Secretary of the Oral Health Kansas Board of Directors in 2013-14. During her time at Oral Health Kansas, she helped move our organization further in understanding how to work with local health departments across the state. Her leadership, insight, and never-ending enthusiasm was a gift to Oral Health Kansas and to everyone else who had the opportunity to work with her. We wish her well in retirement.



## Have You Reserved The Sugary Drink Display?

We are nearing the end of summer. The Sugary Drink Display has been out visiting different parts of Kansas and staying busy. Reserve yours now for the upcoming school year and events! Slots fill up quickly.



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](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) and we'll send you more info!



## Donate Supplies For Our Sugary Drink Display

We love sending out the Sugary Drink Display as an educational resource! However, due to bumps and bruises from shipping, there are times our beverages need replacing. Sometimes there are great BOGO deals

and we'd appreciate you thinking of us. If you are interested in donating a bottle or two, contact us for a list of items that may be needed at 785-235-6039 or [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).

Don't want to buy anything but still would like to make a donation? Click [here](#) to donate to the Sugary Drink Display!

- Just \$25 will ship a Sugary Drink Display
- \$1.88 will buy one 20 ounce bottle of Mountain Dew
- \$0.99 will buy one 16 ounce 2% Kroger brand milk

## Follow Us



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