



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 25, 2018

Volume 9, Issue 31



Oral Health America Publishes New Medicare Dental Report

Medicare plays a key role in providing health and financial security to 59 million older people and people with disabilities but doesn't include access to oral health. Families USA and various groups of consumer and industry leaders worked to produce this white paper, [An Oral Health Benefit in Medicare Part B: It's Time to Include Oral Health in Health Care](#). Older Americans who forgo dental care may have issues not eating properly, along with medical

conditions that worsen because of complications in their mouth. This could lead to more health problems and add to their financial burdens.

CDC Seeks Guidance on Water Fluoridation Levels

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is seeking guidance on the operational control range around optimal fluoride concentrations. The purpose of the operational control range is to provide consistency that is, on average, as close to the recommended target level of 0.7 mg/L as possible. The proposed operational control range is 0.6 mg/L to 1.0 mg/L. From 1962 to 2015 the recommended range was 0.7 to 1.2 mg/L, when in 2015 it was changed to just 0.7 mg/L. The extended range will allow water operators to reach the optimal target of 0.7 mg/L without concerns of going over. This will ensure that more community water systems are being optimally fluoridated at safe levels. For more information on fluoride levels in Kansas, visit Fluoride in Kansas. Fluoride levels have been rounded to the closest whole number on the site. On July 13, 2018, CDC opened a comment period of the proposed range. Written comments must be received on or before October 11, 2018. You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2018-0064 by the following methods:



- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Division of Oral Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway, MS S107-8, Atlanta, Georgia, 30341. Attn: Docket Number: CDC-2018-0064.

Oral Health Kansas will be submitting comments and will share when they are available. All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number. All relevant comments received will be posted without change to <http://regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. For further information contact: Valerie Robison, DDS, MPH, PHD, Dental Officer, Division of Oral Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4770 Buford Highway, MS S107-8, Atlanta, GA 30341. E-mail: OPTOL2018@cdc.gov.



Amerigroup Files Lawsuit

On July 20th, Amerigroup Kansas filed a lawsuit against state administration regarding their award of contracts for the new round of KanCare set to begin on January 1, 2019. Amerigroup is one of three managed care organizations (MCOs) in the state that has managed the delivery of KanCare for the past five years.

Nearly a month ago, state administration awarded contracts for the next three years of KanCare by renewing contracts with United and Sunflower, while replacing Amerigroup with Aetna. Amerigroup's lawsuit alleges that state officials ignored orders from the Legislature requiring them to make changes in the request for proposals used in the contracting process.

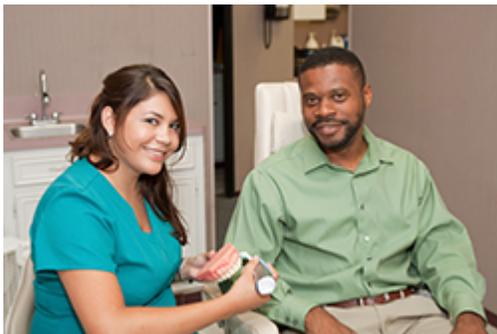
Oral Health Kansas will continue to inform you as the lawsuit advances. Kansas News Service recently spoke with Amerigroup and additional information on the case can be found [here](#).

Celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act

On July 26, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will celebrate its 28th anniversary. In 1990, the landmark civil rights law was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush. Because of the ADA, people with disabilities across the country and in Kansas have better access to businesses, buildings, employment, state and local government programs and services, and opportunities for equal and full participation in civic and community life. Oral Health Kansas has been committed to improving the oral health of Kansans with disabilities for many years. Through partnerships with organizations like the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities and KU Disability and Health Program, as well as many local disabilities support organizations, we have developed videos and toolkits to help individuals, families, and professionals understand how to take care of their oral health. [Visit our Population Groups website](#) to find our materials, as well as links to many other resources for children and adults with disabilities and people on the autism spectrum.



Celebrate the ADA



Register for a Two-Day Health Policy Academy Training

This two-day in-person training is designed to introduce public health, population health, and health care professionals to the policy design and implementation process. The training will be in Omaha, Nebraska on August 1-2. Registration is \$80 and covers the instruction materials, refreshment breaks, and lunch. Space is limited to the first 60 people. Walk ins will not be accepted. Click here to [register](#).

This month, Dr. Mark Schuyler DDS and his wife Erin Schuyler received the Kansas School Nurse Organizations Recognition Award. This is the first time the Kansas School Nurse Organization has given an award to a dentist. The two have volunteered their time to provide dental screenings to students in the Maize School District #266. Dr. Schuyler goes into special needs classrooms to evaluate the children in their own environment. He also teaches the nursing staff by showing



examples of decay and abnormalities in case there is a question from a parent. He also identifies dental emergencies so the school nurse can reach out to the family and help them find dental care. Dr. and Mrs. Schuyler truly understand that a healthy child makes a better learner.

Congratulations to the both of them!



Reserve a Sugary Drink Display Today!

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. You will get reimbursed for return shipping costs. Our drink displays are constantly on the move so it's important to reserve one as soon as possible. If your requested date is not open, we can work with you to see what day works best! Click [here](#) to fill out the reservation form.

Office Closed August 2

The Oral Health Kansas office will be closed Thursday, August 2 for staff to be able to participate in their staff retreat. We will return on Friday, August 3.



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