

From: [Oral Health Kansas](#)

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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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"Like" the
ECP

ACA Pediatric Dental Benefit to Begin in 6 months

The Children's Dental Health Project released a new report for advocates on the pediatric dental benefit that will be offered under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA will go into effect on January 1, 2014. By including oral health services as part of the pediatric essential health benefits (EHB), Congress recognized that oral health is a critical piece of overall health. Despite pediatric dental benefits being part of the EHB, the separate treatment of dental and medical benefits in the law and subsequent federal regulations poses a number of challenges to ensuring that all children have access to affordable, high quality dental coverage. However, state-level advocates can play an important role in addressing these challenges as we approach full implementation of the law.

[This brief](#), developed in partnership with Community Catalyst, outlines the current issues facing the pediatric dental benefit as a part of the essential health benefits package and presents advocates with action steps for ensuring that states implement the law in the best interest of families with regard to: 1) affordability; 2) access to dental care; 3) consumer protections that apply to pediatric dental care; 4) robustness of benefits; and 5) how the benefit will be sold inside the Exchange versus state insurance markets.

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 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.

Dental Champions Corner:

Congratulations to Blanche Parks (Class 4), who completed her term as President of the Downtown Topeka Rotary Club.

And, Congratulations to Marlou Wegener (Class 1), who has begun her term as President of the Topeka South Rotary Club.



New Poll about the ACA

The [Kansas Health Consumer Coalition](#) published a story about a new poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation about how young adults value health insurance. According to the poll, 71% of adults 30 or younger say that health insurance is important. Two-thirds of those polled said that insurance is worth the cost. Covering young adults will be crucial to help keep costs down in the new health insurance marketplaces. So this poll makes many supporters of the law optimistic that beginning in 2014, young adults will decide that the benefits and peace of mind of having health insurance outweigh the costs. [You can click here to read the poll.](#)

The health insurance marketplaces will be operational in 2014, with early enrollment opening in October 2013. The federal government will award \$600,000 to navigator entities in Kansas to help consumers use the health insurance marketplace and purchase a plan. Applications to become a navigator and compete for a portion of those funds were due in early June. The federal government is expected to make an announcement about those funds later this summer.



Photo by [Mike Shields](#)

Regional HHS Administrator Stephene Moore.



Rotarians and Dental
Champions have one
thing in common...
Service Above Self.



a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

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



Celebrating a Decade of Advancing
Oral Health in Kansas

Johnson County

Kansas Advocates Meet with Regional HHS Director

Last month Kansas consumer advocates met with the regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Advocates gathered at the Oral Health Kansas office to discuss the upcoming implementation of the ACA with Stephen Moore. Moore offered insight about plans to help Kansans enroll in the federal Exchange beginning in October of this year. Read more about the meeting in this article from the [Kansas Health Institute](#).

Happy 4th of July!



The Oral Health Kansas office will be closed on July 3, 4 and 5.

We will resume normal business hours on July 8.

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

Community College
November 7-8

Did You Know?

Colgate introduced aromatic toothpaste in a jar in 1873.



Colgate dental cream was packaged in collapsible tubes in 1896.

[StarSmilez](#)

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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 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.

Johnson County, July 10
Pittsburg, July 15
Wyandotte County, July 16
Hutchinson, July 19
Dodge City, July 23
Garden City, July 24
Lawrence, July 26
Holton, July 29

Traveling Sugary Beverage Display

Currently the Oral Health Kansas traveling sugary drink displays are on display at the [GraceMed](#), Manhattan Area Technical College, and the United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries' Garden City Dental Clinic.

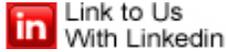


If you are interested in having the drink display on display

in your area, send an email to [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.



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