

**Julie Parnell**

**From:** Oral Health Kansas [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org]  
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August 10, 2011

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**SAVE THE  
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Working Together for Overall Health

**Medicaid Reform Forum Wrap Up on August 17**

Earlier this summer the Lt. Governor held three Medicaid Reform Forums in Topeka, Wichita and Dodge City. Oral Health advocates took part in each of the forums. During those forums, the Lt. Governor made an important point: "We're dealing with people with multiple medical problems." This is an excellent point and provides the opportunity to share the message that the mouth is connected to the body, and dental care needs to be provided to ensure the whole person stays healthy.

Participants in the forums were asked to make suggestions about improving the Medicaid program for the major population groups served: elderly people, people with disabilities, and children/families/pregnant women.

This week, KDHE Secretary Moser is hosting a series of work group-style webinars to ask advocates more in-depth questions about each of the three Medicaid population groups. There is no mention yet of dental benefits as a key in providing preventive care and in ensuring people are able to maintain their overall health.

Next Wednesday, the Lt. Governor will host a final wrap-up forum at the Overland Park Convention Center. It is one more opportunity to explain the importance of a dental benefit for all Medicaid beneficiaries. Details about the meeting, including the link to RSVP are below:

**Medicaid Public Forum Wrap-Up session**

Wednesday, August 17th, 2011  
Overland Park Convention Center  
6000 College Blvd  
Overland Park, KS 66211

Oral Health Kansas and KAMU are preparing the 2011 Annual Conference: **"Working Together for Overall Health"**. Some of the sessions that will be presented include Meaningful Use, Recruitment, Fundraising, Cultural Competency, Creating Success with Community Oral Health Coalitions, and One State's Journey to Water Fluoridation.

Make plans to join us this exciting conference, at the DoubleTree Hotel, September 14-16, 2011.

To register  
[CLICK HERE](#)

To view the brochure  
[CLICK HERE](#)

For more information or questions contact:

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## FREE WEBINAR WITH CEUs

**August 19, 2011  
Noon - 1 p.m. CDT**

**Approaches to oral care  
for children and youth  
with Down Syndrome**

### Topics Include --

- Identification of specific oral problems based on conditions associated with Down Syndrome.
- Strategies for individualizing dental

Exhibit Hall B  
1:00pm-5:00pm

To RSVP for this event please use the following link:  
<https://www.dhe.state.ks.us/Community/se.ashx?s=11B9BDC92052F4BE>

If you have any questions at all or would like some talking points to share, please contact [Tanya Dorf Brunner](#). Let's keep making sure the importance of oral health isn't lost in the Kansas Medicaid reform discussion!

## Kansas Returns Early Innovator Grant

In February the Kansas Insurance Commissioner's office was awarded an Early Innovator Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to jumpstart the state's efforts to develop a State Health Exchange. Kansas was among just six other states to be awarded such a grant. As a part of the Health Exchange, a web-based portal will be developed that Kansans can use to explore their health insurance options and select a plan. Much of the funding in the grant was to be used for technology infrastructure coordination and consultation. Yesterday Governor Brownback announced that Kansas will return the \$31.5 million grant to the federal government.

In his announcement, the Governor said, "There is much uncertainty surrounding the ability of the federal government to meet its already budgeted future spending obligations. Every state should be preparing for fewer federal resources, not more. To deal with that reality Kansas needs to maintain maximum flexibility. That requires freeing Kansas from the strings attached to the Early Innovator Grant."

At this writing Oral Health Kansas is unsure of the impact this decision will have on the State Health Exchange planning efforts. OHK staff continues to serve on a variety of Exchange planning work groups, as well as the Steering Committee. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for later this month.

interventions -  
hygiene, behavioral,  
restorative

**SPACE IS LIMITED**  
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