

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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Looking for your feedback

We will announce the members of Class VIII soon! The chance to kick off a new class gives us the opportunity to reflect a little, and we would like to get some feedback from Dental Champions. If you are a Dental Champion and have not yet taken our short survey, please take just five minutes to respond today. Click on the [link](#).

 **DENTAL CHAMPIONS**
Leadership Program
a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

OHK staff educates children at summer program on healthy habits

We were delighted when Parents as Teachers USD 501 asked us to come do an educational session with the Deer Creek Community Center summer drop in program children. Marcia and Doug excitedly spoke to a group of 30 school-aged (5-14) children about healthy eating and drinking habits. Children were then to walk through each activity center: one on sugary beverages, one on good choices in food, one to draw a poster on the topic of dental health, and a tooth brushing center. The children were surprised to learn how much sugar was in beverages AND foods. They practiced counting each teaspoon of sugar in a drink and how to read labels. They learned which foods are every day foods and which ones are special foods, for special occasions, such as cake and candy as well as the importance of drinking fluoridated water. The children were also shown how to properly brush

Be an exhibitor at our conference

Exhibitor early bird registration ends **September 12**. Sign up!

OHK's [annual conference](#) is November 3-5 in Overland Park. This year's theme is "Igniting Collective Impact: Inspiring Communities. The conference this year will engage oral health advocates and practitioners in conversations about the collective approaches we all can take to inspire communities to make big differences in improving the oral health of their residents.

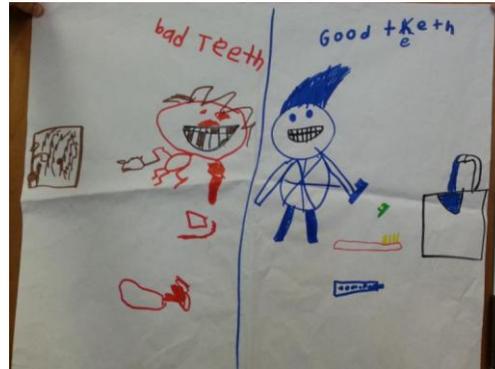
Exhibitors will participate on November 4 as well as have an opportunity to attend the day's sessions! If interested email [Sonia](#).



Learn about our Thirsty for Health project

Are you familiar with OHK's Thirsty for Health project? It is a three-year project proposed by Oral Health Kansas under the "Improving Public Health Through Access To And Consumption Of Water" initiative through the Kansas Health Foundation. OHK's goal is to implement a comprehensive plan to improve school policies that will increase access to and student demand for drinking water throughout the school day.

their teeth, using a mouth model.



Bad teeth and good teeth.
Note: the tap/fluoridated water.
Someone was listening!



Marcia is showing the children
good choice foods

Now that school is soon starting, this is a project educators and administrators will want to know more about and be involved!

Go to our [website](#) to learn more!



Introduction to Power Analysis webinar

The oral health coalitions are participating in a webinar and you should too! Everyone is welcome!

Introduction to Power Analysis is a webinar designed to help oral health coalition members identify and work with key people in their communities who can help meet the goals of improving oral health.

By participating in this webinar, you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn how to use and benefit from the visual and interactive power analysis tool
- Critically explore the meaning of power used by individuals and organizations in communities
- Practice how to engage individuals and groups with power for the purpose of making positive change that supports justice and equity for all



Doug is teaching the children how to read labels

Medicaid rate cuts hamper dental services

One of the state budget balancing strategies this year was to cut KanCare (Kansas' Medicaid program) rates by four percent. The cut, which went into effect last month, is hampering an already-stressed Medicaid dental provider network in Kansas, and Kansas dentists are speaking out about it. This week, the [KHI News Service](#), along with [Kansas Public Radio](#), published stories about the effect the KanCare rate cut is having on dental services.

Sign up [here](#) to register!

Presenter: Gloria Medina, Training Director at SCOPE, an organization that successfully builds grassroots power to create social and economic justice.



Share KanCare feedback with CMS

At last week's KanCare stakeholder meeting, federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) representatives encouraged comments about KanCare be sent to an email address specifically set up for Kansas. CMS officials are interested in hearing from Kansas about issues with KanCare. To share comments, reflections, ideas or suggestions, please send a message to:

KanCarecomments@cms.hhs.gov



Sugary Drink Display

School will be back in session soon! Get your drink display reserved before we run out of spots!

Our drink display has 10 beverages that will show you



Dr. John Fasbinder

Photo by Andy Marso/KHI News Service

Dr. John Fasbinder is an oral surgeon in Prairie Village who is a KanCare dental service provider. In the stories published this week, Fasbinder talked about how difficult it is for dentists to be KanCare providers because the rates are about 40% of the private insurance rates. He said, "To take money away from a system that's already compensating so little is not the answer." Thousands of Kansans who are covered by KanCare already have difficulty finding a dentist that accepts Medicaid, and that situation will be exacerbated by the new rate cut.

Dr. John Fales, an Oral Health Kansas Board member and Medicaid dental provider, shared a similar sentiment when he provided testimony to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) earlier this month. He said, "A 4 percent decrease in reimbursement will likely be the death knell for KanCare's ability to provide local access to dental care for these patients without an adequate number of dental providers."

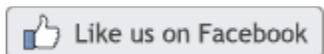
how much sugar is in each! The drink display is free, and shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot!



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Read and listen to the stories from KHI News Service and Kansas Public Radio, and then share your story with us. If you know of someone who has had difficulty getting Medicaid dental services or if you have had difficulty, please contact our office.

Kansas Oral Health Connections begins a new grant year

The organizations that are members of the group known as "Kansas Oral Health Connections" kicked off a new grant year this month when the DentaQuest Foundation approved another year of funding for this collective impact project. Together, six organizations, along with countless other partners will work on a series of projects and interventions to improve oral health for young children, school-age children, and adults. The group also will conduct research to collect oral health data and develop tools to improve public awareness about the value of oral health to overall health.



The Kansas Oral Health Connections partners include:

- Oral Health Kansas
- Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
- Kansas Bureau of Oral Health
- Kansas Head Start Association
- Kansas Dental Association

- Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Among the project the partners will take on over the next year are establishing a work group to address perinatal, infant and toddler oral health; preparing to launch a third grade Basic School Survey, publishing an updated County Oral Health Snapshot; advocating for adult dental services in KanCare; and develop educational curricula for child care providers and Navigators. To learn more about the project, please contact [Rachel Alexander](#) at Oral Health Kansas.



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