

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.

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August 22, 2018

Volume 9, Issue 35

Oral Health Kansas testifies at KanCare Oversight Committee

The KanCare Oversight Committee, a joint House and Senate legislative committee, met Monday and Tuesday earlier this week for their quarterly meeting to hear updates and testimony regarding KanCare, the state's Medicaid program. Oral Health Kansas testified on Tuesday morning bringing light to the need for increased reimbursement rates to ensure a viable dental provider network in our state. Read OHK's testimony, along with a corresponding consumer letter [here](#).

Medicaid Director, Jon Hamdorf, echoed our concerns as he highlighted data showing a decrease in dental utilization in the last year. Data showed that from 2016 to 2017 dental utilization decreased by 6%, more than any other service. Without sufficient reimbursement rates the number of dental



providers enrolled in Medicaid decreases, resulting in an inadequate provider network to serve the Medicaid population. This results in decreased utilization of the oral healthcare and services that this population deserves. More information on the meeting can be found [here](#).

Oral Health Kansas will follow up with committee members on the importance of increasing reimbursement rates and supporting our dental provider network in Kansas. We invite you to join us in contacting the legislators and expressing your concerns around the dental provider network in your community. Committee members and their contact information found [here](#).



Secure your exhibitor space now at the 2018 Conference on Oral Health

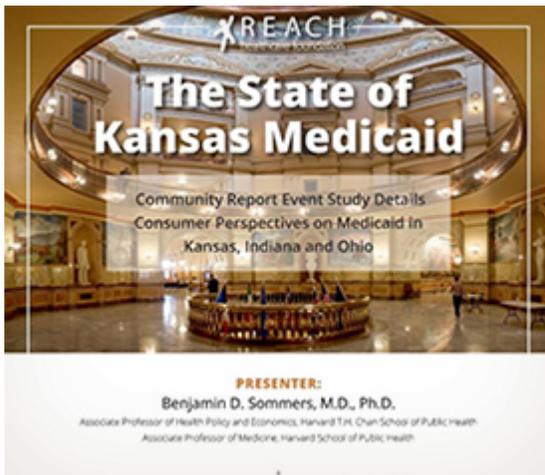
There are still spots available to exhibit at the 2018 Conference on Oral Health on November 2. The special early bird rate of \$350 expires September 28. If you have exhibited at our conference before, you get an extra 10% off. Exhibitors receive two complimentary registrations to the conference and meals! We know how important it is for participants to spend time with vendors so we have built in several

break times with exhibitors. Fill out the form [here](#) and turn it in by September 28 to receive the early bird special.

Addressing oral health disparities to improve overall health

Dr. Charles E. Moore knew he had to do something for people to have preventive services regardless of income. He teamed up with colleagues David Reznik, a dentist, and Hope Bussenius, a nurse practitioner, in the Clinical Scholars program. They began addressing barriers in the communities that hinder people from getting services. They developed a unique model called OH-I-CAN (Oral Health in Communities and Neighborhoods) aimed at increasing access to oral health services for low-income students and their families. Read more [here](#) about their inspiring work!





Attend the State of Kansas Medicaid - A Community Report Event

[The Reach Health Care Foundation](#) will host a community forum for a review of a recent study conducted by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health by researcher Dr. Benjamin D. Sommers. He will present findings from a survey of 2,700 low income adults in Kansas, Indiana and Ohio and those consumers' experience with three different approaches to Medicaid expansion. Attend the event on Monday, September 17, 1-3 p.m., at the Community Forum in Lenexa City Hall, 17101 West 87th Street Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66219. To find more information and register, click [here](#).

Learn about telehealth at the KAMU conference

Attend the [Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved \(KAMU\)](#) Pre-conference to learn about telehealth with Paul Glassman. Glassman is a Professor of Dental Practice, Director of Community Oral Health, and Director of the Pacific Center for Special Care at the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. He will focus on opportunities for health professionals to expand the reach and effectiveness of oral health improvement systems using telehealth-connected teams and Virtual Dental Homes. To learn more and register, click [here](#).



Research reaffirms importance of early dental visits

The [American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry](#) has released research, which "produced a predictive model that suggests the odds of a child having tooth decay at the first dental visit more than doubles for every year of increased age." This study demonstrates that risk factors present in a child's medical record prior to the age of 19 months may be used to predict the presence of dental disease and/or of high caries risk at the time of the child's first dental visit. Click [here](#) to read the study.



Last year the Plastic Surgery Center Cleft Lip and Palate Team in Wichita won the [Excellence in Oral Health Award for Outstanding Organization](#). Is there an organization or a dental team you think should be recognized for their

hard work? The deadline to nominate someone for the Excellence in Oral Health Awards is September September 7 by 5pm.



The person or organization will be recognized at the 2018 Conference on Oral Health on November 2. Find a list of past recipients [here](#) and fill out the nomination form! If you have any questions call 785-235-6039 or email info@oralhealthkansas.org.



Reserve a Sugary Drink Display Today!

Flint Hills Community Health Center in Emporia reserved a child and adult Sugary Drink Displays. You can reserve a child drink display or an adult drink display. Please note requests 30 days or less may not be filled. To learn more about our Sugary Drink Display click [here](#)!



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