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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Awards Nomination Deadline Is September 6

The Excellence in Oral Health Awards nomination deadline is Friday, September 6. People in the oral health field often don't believe their contributions are important or as glamorous as others are perceived. Educating people on the importance of oral health not only helps improve one's oral health but their overall health. This is the time to
honor individuals who are oral health heroes and raise awareness about oral health! The award winners will be recognized at the Conference on Oral Health on **Friday, November 8**.

**The categories for the Excellence in Oral Health Awards are:**

- **Outstanding Organization Award** - An organization that is distinguished from others in excellence in promoting oral health awareness in Kansas.
- **Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award** - A dental hygienist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.
- **Outstanding Dentist Award** - A dentist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.
- **Outstanding Community Leader Award** - A community leader that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call of duty and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.
- **Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker Award** - An outstanding policy maker that is distinguished from others in excellence, who shows support for the oral health of all Kansans.
- **Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award** - An outstanding non-dental volunteer who demonstrates a positive difference in an organization - someone who saw a problem and got involved to find a solution
- **Ron Alexander Outstanding Dental Champion Award** - This award is designed to recognize the outstanding work a Dental Champion has done as a direct result of participating in the Dental Champions Leadership Program. The award winner will be recognized **Thursday, November 7 in the evening**.

Click [here](#) to download the applications.

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**First Reimbursement Rate Increase In 18 Years**

For the first time in over 18 years, dentists enrolled in KanCare (Medicaid) will see an increase in reimbursement rates. In the 2019 legislative session, legislators approved a $3 million increase in reimbursement rates for FY2020 budget to help build the dental provider network in Kansas. The Division of Health Care Finance worked alongside the Kansas Dental Association and Oral Health Kansas to ensure the increase was implemented in the most effective way possible. The group worked together to identify codes ranging from preventive codes, such as cleanings, to restorative work, such as fillings. All codes selected saw a 6% increase that went into effect August 1, 2019. An official bulletin has not been released by Kansas
Department of Health and Environment with the specific codes, but Oral Health Kansas will share when it is made available.

Oral Health Kansas provided public testimony on the rate increase on Monday at the August KanCare Oversight Committee Hearing. Our organization will continue to track the impact it has on the dental provider network and utilization rates.

Oral Health Kansas Attends Will To Succeed Event

On Saturday, August 24, Oral Health Kansas attended the Will to Succeed Foundation health fair event in Topeka. The event promoted eating healthy foods, exercise routines and Will's Hill, a bouncy house slide named after Will Shields, former Chiefs player and Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2015. Sippy also attended the event and enjoyed getting some exercise by joining the Zumba session. Will Shields stopped by the Oral Health Kansas table and was impressed with our Sugary Drink Display. He shared his goal is to teach kids the importance of what is in our beverages and foods. He said the Sugary Drink Display was a good visual and was delighted to hear health departments, schools, dental clinics and many more, borrow our displays!

Local Topeka news stations visited the event. Check out the coverage on KSNT and WIBW. Also, the Topeka Capital Journal did a nice job capturing the importance of the health fair.

Oral Health Kansas and Sippy will also attend the next Will to Succeed health fair on October 19 in Kansas City.

Be A Part Of The KanCare Consumer Corps

The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas is hosting a workshop on Thursday, August 29 for individuals.
interested in joining their KanCare Consumer Corps. The workshop is for people from all across Kansas who are uninsured or who have struggled to find or pay for health insurance. Your experiences could help thousands of Kansans get access to affordable health care.

This is a great opportunity! At this workshop, you’ll learn how to speak with legislators and the media as a health care consumer and the best way to share your experiences and health challenges. Learn more here!

Congratulations to OHK board member Lissa Staley for winning the Topeka Community Foundation’s National Nonprofit Day celebration giveaway. Lissa is the Community Connections Librarian at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. She is teaching us all how to engage our communities to make them healthier and happier!

Our Fall Reservations Are Coming In!

We are nearing the end of summer and our requests for the Sugary Drink Display keep coming in! Reserve yours now for the upcoming school year and events!

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.

We will do our best to fulfill requests of less than 30 days but there is no guarantee.
There is no charge to use the Sugary Drink Display; postage is reimbursed if you send in your receipt. All we ask is for you to fill out our survey included in the display materials and provide us with feedback about the display. Click here to make a reservation!

Interested in purchasing a Sugary Drink Display? Click here to download our brochure.