



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Volume 8, Issue 32

August 9, 2017

In This Issue

[Faces of OHK](#)

[Open slots for exhibitors](#)

[Gum disease and cancer in women.](#)

[Sugary Drink Display](#)

[The fight for CHIP is approaching](#)

[Learn how to sustain a coalition](#)



Thanks to this team of Olathe area dentists and hygienists who devoted last Saturday morning to doing oral health screenings for children who were participating in Olathe Back to School Fair!

The fight for CHIP is approaching

Last Saturday, August 5th, the [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#) celebrated its 20th anniversary. CHIP has been an essential program for many children as it provides comprehensive health coverage, including dental, for children from families who do not qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance for their children. In 2016, 1 in 8 children in the US were covered by CHIP. For Kansas, the CHIP program called KanCare, represents nearly 80,000 children that were provided health coverage through this essential program. As of 2014, 89% of children benefitted from dental coverage, double the rates seen in 2000. This success is in large part due to Medicaid and CHIP, which covered over 40% of American children in 2015.

Although there is a lot to celebrate about CHIP, the future of state CHIP programs is at risk. Federal funding for CHIP



L-R: Vicki Anderson, RDH, Anthony Callison, DDS, RDH, Becky Jackson, RDH, Molly Blackwell, RDH, Michael Klein, DDS

Open slots still available for exhibitors

OHK still has open slots for exhibitors for our annual conference in November. This year the conference will be held November 2-3 at the KState Olathe Campus in Olathe. Your exhibitor registration will provide the following benefits:

- An 8 foot table with tablecloth and skirting
- Two chairs
- Electricity, upon request
- Complimentary internet access
- Complimentary access to all conference meal functions and speakers

If you have any questions, email us at info@oralhealthkansas.org

To fill out an exhibitor form, click [here](#).

MEETING the
CHALLENGE
of **CHANGE**

expires on September 30th and we need your help to put this issue front and center on the minds and agendas of our elected officials.

States such as Kansas that operate CHIP programs that are legally distinct from Medicaid would face a difficult decision if Congress were not to reauthorize the program and its federal matching funds that currently pay the majority of CHIP costs. In 2017, the federal match is 92.35%. Without federal match funds, states such as Kansas may start freezing programs or disenrolling children just a few months after that September date. This would leave children unsupported and, in many cases, uninsured. We cannot allow this program to lapse or expire at this critical time.

We encourage you to join the conversation and reach out to your members of [Congress](#) and [state legislators](#). Tell them to support extending federal funding for CHIP and continue the progress our nation has made in the area of children's coverage. For more information on how CHIP would impact the dental health of Kansas's children, visit [Children's Dental Health Project](#).



Gum disease and cancer in women. Is there a correlation?

A study conducted with postmenopausal women, whose whose dental history included periodontal disease were 14 percent more likely to have developed cancer than were women who had not had gum disease, regardless of whether the women had ever smoked ([Health and Science, August 7](#)).

Why? The researchers wrote that the "precise mechanisms through which periodontal disease may promote cancer remain to be determined."



Sugary Drink Display

Use the drink display at schools, for classroom education, health fairs or even at your office! Our August schedule is booked! Sign up before the months fill up!

Our sugary drink display has 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also include some of our [Tips and Tricks](#) fact sheets and brush your teeth mirror clings! The display is free to use for up to a month, and we reimburse postage!

Reserving yours ahead of time ensures you can get the date(s) you need. [Email us](#) and let us

How to build and sustain a coalition

The Midwest Collaborative Initiative, a partnership between Oral Health Kansas, Michigan Oral Health Coalition and Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition, partnered with Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) to provide free webinars on how to build coalitions and sustain a coalition. The webinars were not focused on oral health coalitions, but coalitions and groups from various areas.

These webinars are available to view along with handouts and workbooks for your use on the [OHK website](#).

If you are interested in how you can improve oral health in your community contact Doug Bowman 785-235-6039 or dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org.



Your zip code reveals more than just your home

What does your zip code say about you? To some of us, our zip code reveals

know when you would like to reserve a drink display.



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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access to transportation, food and quality health care and to others it means the lack of having those options. Now some health organizations are revamping their patient questionnaires to get more of an idea if a person needs help with food or paying bills or need help with transportation, which are just some of the questions asked. Here steps in a Patient navigator to assist. Patient navigators play an important role in improving health outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities, as well as other underserved population. Patient navigators will then help patients get connected with resources, help coordinate care and help understand the healthcare system.

Here is an example of one patient. A pregnant homeless woman received assistance from a patient navigator who connected her with a local nonprofit to help with her rent and find essentials for the baby. This situation demonstrated ways to lowering costs and increasing accessibility to health care which reduces medical care spending. Read the full story on [Kansas Public Radio](#).



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