



## 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.

To view past issues [click here](#).

Click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).

## September 11, 2019

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## Exhibitors! Early Bird Registration Ends September 27

We still have space for exhibitors at the 2019 Conference on Oral Health Friday, November 8 in Olathe, Kansas. This is an opportunity to market your products, share your message and attend the conference sessions for an opportunity to visit with participants. The early bird rate of \$350 for exhibitors

ends September 27. If you are a returning exhibitor, you also get a 10% off discount! As an exhibitor you will have the following benefits:

- A 6 foot table. A tablecloth will not be provided
- Two chairs, upon request
- Electricity, upon request
- Complimentary internet access
- Complimentary access to all conference meal functions and speakers

After September 27 exhibit space will be available for \$500. Click [here](#) to download the [exhibitor form](#).



## Fox 4 News Covers Important Topic: Accessing Dental Care For People With Disabilities

Finding dental care is a struggle for some people with disabilities. There may be physical, behavior or cognitive challenges that make sitting in a dentist chair difficult. Fox4 News in Kansas City recently became interested in this issue and wanted to learn more! They contacted Oral Health Kansas and interviewed our executive director, Tanya Dorf Brunner, about our work on improving access to dental care for people with disabilities. They did a great story on September 5 about the challenge people with disabilities have in getting dental care and on some of the dentists and resources available to help. [Check out the story!](#)

We have created resources for people with mobility challenges that may be helpful. Click [here](#) to view them!



## Dental Champions Will Change The World!

How can we improve how pregnant women and little kids access dental services in Kansas? We invite leaders from across the state to join Dental Champions Class IX and ask them to help study the issues and examine solutions!

Last week, the members of the current Dental Champions class met in Topeka to study the issues that make it challenging for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers to get dental care. They heard from Colin Reusch, Director of Policy at the Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP) in Washington, DC. He shared a model of systems accountability and discussed [CDHP's issue brief about dental care for pregnant women](#).

The American Academy of Pediatrics' Senior Manager of Pediatric Practice and Workforce Lauren Barone shared a set of tools designed to help providers and families understand how and why to take care of the oral health of infants and toddlers called "[Protect Tiny Teeth](#)."

Class members spent two days discussing the issues and learning from Lauren and Colin about the many policy, systems, financing, training, and awareness challenges in ensuring pregnant women, infants, and toddlers have good oral health. They also heard from members of Oral Health Kansas' PIT Crew (Perinatal Infant Toddler working group) about the research and work they have done on the same issues. We thank Miranda Steele, Senior Director of External Affairs and Business Development for Sunflower Health Plan, and Niki Sadler, Director of Operations at the Kansas Dental Association, for sharing their insight from the PIT Crew.

Class IX is studying some great things, and we look forward to sharing what they are learning at the [Conference on Oral Health on November 8](#). Join us there!



## Dental Hygiene Student Seeks Participants For Study

Latrica Johnson a Master of Science in Dental Hygiene candidate at the Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene of MCPHS University recently reached out to us asking for help to recruit participants for her study. She is conducting research on the diversity within the dental workforce in the United States and is looking for participants who are an underrepresented minority (URM) oral health provider. In this study, an underrepresented racial/ethnic minority has been defined as one who identifies as African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, or Native America/Alaska Native. The purpose of this study is to assess URM dental providers' perception of the limited diversity within the dental workforce in hopes to develop strategies to increase diversity in dentistry. Click [here](#) if you're interested in participating.



## CDC Stresses Concerns For Vaping

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is urging people to give up vaping and e-cigarettes. As of September 6, 2019, over [450 possible cases of lung illness](#) associated with the use of e-cigarette products have been reported to CDC. Most recently, a person in Kansas has died from the lung disease that has been linked to vaping, the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment announced on Tuesday](#), September 10. The individual's death is the first one reported in the state since the outbreak began. "It is time to stop vaping." KDHE

Secretary Lee Norman said. "If you or a loved one is vaping, please stop. The recent deaths across our country, combined with hundreds of reported lung injury cases continue to intensify."

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says, "E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as an aid to quit smoking and may expose users to some of the same toxic chemicals found in combustible cigarette smoke. There are other proven, safe, and effective methods for quitting smoking." If you need help to quit smoking, contact the [Kansas Tobacco Quitline](#). Both smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco can significantly affect a person's oral health. Oral cancer and periodontal (gum) disease are among the most serious oral health problems associated

with tobacco use. Find more information on [Tobacco with our Tips and Tricks resources](#) to share with patients or families. OHK also has a [resource section](#) on Tobacco and E-Cigarettes.



## Where Is Oral Health Kansas?

Last week we attended the [Kansas Community Health Workers](#) Strategic Planning Session! Thank you for allowing us to participate!

On Friday, September 6, we exhibited at the Community Health Fair in Kansas City, Kansas. Wow! The consumers were so interested in our resources and shared some interesting stories! We are looking forward to going back!

On Wednesday, September 11 and Thursday, September 12, we'll be at the [Community Care Network of Kansas Annual Conference](#), Hilton Garden Inn, 410 S. 3rd Street in Manhattan, Kansas. Stop by our table!



Congratulations to Oral Health Kansas Board member Dr. Melanie Simmer-Beck! She was just named Department Chair for Dental Public Health and Behavioral Science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. We know she will lead the department with the same thoughtfulness and insight she uses on our board.



## Our Fall Reservations Are Coming In!



Reservations for the Sugary Drink Display come in on a weekly basis. The October month is booked! Get your reservation in before another month gets booked!



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.

## Follow Us



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