

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Excellence in Oral Health Awards deadline soon!

As we are getting award nominations, we want to remind you our deadline is September 26. Help us tell the stories of the amazing work that goes on across the state every day by nominating someone for one of the awards. Details and the nomination forms are available on Oral Health Kansas' website.



National conversation begins about Medicaid adult dental benefits

Oral Health Kansas was among the stakeholders gathered at the National Medicaid Adult Dental Summit in Chicago this week. The meeting was convened by the DentaQuest Foundation and was an opportunity for a national conversation about the need for and best practices in developing an extensive dental benefit for adults enrolled in Medicaid. The Oral Health 2020 vision is that an extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit will be in place in at least 30 states by the year 2020. Kansas has an emergency benefit and offers preventive services for adults.

The two-day meeting featured a discussion of the latest research into development of a standard definition of extensive, limited and emergency dental benefits. A new national rubric with these definitions is set to debut later this year. The approaches to accomplishing this vary by state, and progress in most states is incremental. Models in Virginia,

Save the date: Kansas Mission of Mercy 2017 in Manhattan

The Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) will be held January 27-28 in Manhattan at the National Guard Armory, 721 Levee Dr, Manhattan, Kansas. It is an act of charitable giving on the part of dentists, hygienists and others who volunteer their time and services to those in need.

This will be the 16th KMOM event since its inception in 2003.

As more information is provided, we'll keep you posted.



Attend a KanCare forum in your area

[The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas](#) is busy again making stops in your city. If there's a KanCare forum in your area, make sure to attend. Alliance for a Healthy Kansas wants to hear from consumers like you!

Monday, September 19, 6:30pm
Olathe
Kansas State University
22201 Innovation Drive,
Rm #145B

September 22, 6:30pm
Arkansas City

Missouri and Kansas were discussed. Virginia enacted a benefit for pregnant women, and Missouri passed a new benefit for all adults along with a rate increase. Kansas' preventive benefit offered by the KanCare managed care organizations was highlighted by OHK Executive Director Tanya Dorf Brunner as a way of incrementally building a more comprehensive benefit package.

New research and policy tools were shared by the [American Dental Association Health Policy Institute](#) and [Milliman](#), including tools to project the cost of Medicaid adult dental services and possible return on investment of those services. Among the data presented by the Health Policy Institute was the results of recent studies about Americans' oral health. The [Oral Health and Wellbeing report](#) notes that 59% of Americans who have not visited a dentist in the last year cite cost as the reason, and 29% of low-income adults report the appearance of their mouth and teeth affect their ability to interview for a job.

The other key subject discussed at the national convening was the faces of Medicaid. In order to understand the impact of and need for adult dental benefits, it is important to understand who is affected by not being able to access the services they need. Tanya Dorf Brunner helped present the stories of adults who are enrolled in Medicaid and are unable to manage their oral health because there is not an extensive benefit in place. She was able to share a story recently relayed to Oral Health Kansas about a Kansas adult who is enrolled in Medicaid and has dentures.

Ark City Senior Center
320 South A Street

September 27, 6:30pm

Emporia
First United Methodist Church
823 Merchant

September 29 6:30pm

Hays
Sternburg Museum
Expeditions Mtg Rm, 3000
Sternberg Dr.

October 4, 6:30pm

Paola
Paola Community Center
905 E. Wea

**Wednesday, October 5,
6:30pm**

Atchison, Kansas
Trinity Lutheran Church
603 N. 8th St.



Sugary Drink Display

We have a few October slots open to reserve the drink display! If you're interested, contact us soon before all are booked.

Our drink display has 10 beverages that will show you how much sugar is in each! It has children asking lots of questions!



One of the dentures has been broken for several years, and the adult has been gluing it back together. New dentures are sorely needed because the adult also has diabetes and is unable to eat nutritious food without functional dentures. Adults like this are enrolled in Medicaid, but face problems like this every day because KanCare does not offer an extensive benefit that can help them stay healthy and improve their quality of life.



Picture courtesy of OH2020

Oral health landscape in Kansas: the past 15 years

There are so many changes that have happened in Kansas with oral health but there is still a lot of work we must do. At the [Oral Health Kansas conference](#) in November, we will have a panel of nine state officials and leaders in Kansas to talk about the oral health landscape and the barriers we still endure.

Panelists:

- Matt All, J.D., Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

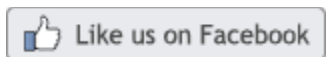
The drink display is free, and shipping costs are reimbursed when you return it to us. [Email us](#) to reserve a spot! Spots are filling up fast!



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

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- Denise Cyzman, M.S., Kansas Assoc. for the Medically Underserved
- Tanya Dorf Brunner, M.S., Oral Health Kansas
- Michael Herbert, Delta Dental of Kansas
- Stuart Little, Ph.D., Little Government Consulting
- Kim Moore, J.D., United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
- Michael McCunniff, D.D.S., UMKC School of Dentistry
- Kevin Robertson, M.P.A., C.A.E., Kansas Dental Association
- Cathleen Taylor-Osborne, D.D.S., M.A., KDHE Bureau of Oral Health

[Register](#) for our conference soon! The conference is November 3-5 at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park.

