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Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update

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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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### In This Issue

[Dental Champions  
Corner](#)

[Sponsorships Available](#)

[Did You Know?](#)

[Award Nominations](#)

### OHK Website Links

[Home](#)

[Our History](#)

[Dental Champions](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Community Coalitions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Legislative Alerts](#)

## Dental Champions Corner:

Two days remain to  
nominate someone for  
the 2013 Outstanding  
Dental Champion  
Award. [Make a  
nomination today!](#)

Past award winners

## Two more days for Awards Nominations

Oral Health Kansas is seeking nominations for the 2013 Excellence in Oral Health Awards. The awards recognize Kansans who have made significant contributions to the oral health community. Awards are given in several categories:

- Outstanding Organization
- Outstanding Dental Hygienist
- Outstanding Dentist
- Outstanding Community Leader
- Bob Bethell Outstanding Policy Maker
- Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer
- Outstanding Dental Champion



Details about the awards categories, a list of previous award winners, and the on-line nomination forms are available on the Oral Health Kansas website. **Nominations will be accepted through September 27.**

Awards will be presented at a luncheon during the Oral

include: Amber Sellers (Class 4), Kathy Hunt (Class 1), Schaunta James-Boyd (Class 4) and Gail Kennedy (Class 4).



## Traveling Sugary Beverage Display

In September, the Oral Health Kansas traveling sugary drink displays will be on display at the Greenwood County Health Department, and Haskell Township Library.



If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to [Tanya](mailto:Tanya).

Drink displays are available for hosting this fall!

Thanks to

Health Kansas Conference at Johnson County Community College on November 8.

## Early Bird Deadline Expires October 4

Registration for the 2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference is open. On November 7 and 8, join your friends and colleagues at Johnson County Community College to learn about state and national trends in oral health and the economics of the future dental care delivery system. National experts on water fluoridation advocacy efforts will be on hand to share their insights.

A full list of conference sessions is available on the [Oral Health Kansas website](#). The link to register on-line also is available on the website. A group discount of 10% is available for two or more people attending from the same organization. **Early bird rates are available until October 4.**

## Brush with

# Greatness



The conference will feature a reception with tours of the Johnson County Community College dental hygiene clinic and will include nine dental continuing education credits.

Hotel rooms are available at the Hawthorne Suites by Wyndham Overland Park, 11400 College Boulevard. Please call 913-344-8100 to reserve your room now. Ask for the special "Oral Health Kansas" rate of \$89 per night. The special rate is available until October 7.

Call 785-235-6039 or email [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) with any questions.

## Conference Sponsors!

Oral Health Kansas thanks the following organizations for sponsoring the 2013 Conference November 7-8 in Johnson County:

**Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation**

**Comfort Dental**

**Bureau of Oral Health**

**DentaQuest**

Contact [Oral Health Kansas](#) to learn how to join in November the celebration of Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary with continuing education and networking opportunities!

## Did You Know...

There were plenty of miserable ways to die before the mid-20th century, but dying of a tooth abscess had to be among the worst - a slow, painful infection that limits your ability to eat, causes your head to throb endlessly, and eventually colonizes the body and kills you of sepsis. Now it's a rare way to go, thanks to modern dental care,

## New Dental Reform Act Introduced in Congress

On September 18, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT.) and Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) introduced legislation to address the dental crisis in America.

The bills - which would expand dental coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act and the Department of Veterans Affairs - were filed one week after a new government study documented skyrocketing costs and limited access to dental care.

The Government Accountability Office found that Americans spent about \$108 billion on dentists in 2011 at charges that varied greatly for the same service. The GAO report was prepared for the Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, which Sanders chairs. The panel held a hearing on September 12 that also examined inadequate insurance coverage and government policies that discourage preventative care.

"When people cannot get to a dentist when they need one, they often end up in emergency rooms. It just doesn't make sense for us to spend so much money on those who wind up in hospitals but refuse to help people get the care they need before it's too late," Sanders said.

Cummings, the House sponsor, said the legislation "puts us on the path to universal access by increasing the availability of care and expanding coverage to veterans, seniors, and low-income Americans. This is a critical step to addressing the vast differences in health care outcomes we see in our society."

The Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2013 is supported by the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, the American Dental Hygienists' Association, the Children's Dental Health Project, the Pew Children's Dental Campaign and others.

In addition to improving access to dental coverage, the House and Senate bills would address a severe and worsening shortage of dentists in underserved communities. The legislation would expand National Health Services Corps scholarship programs and authorize funding to increase access to dental services at community health centers and boost support for mobile clinics and dental clinics in schools.

To read a summary of the bill, click [here](#).

To read the GAO report, [click here](#).

To view the September 12 Senate hearing, [click here](#).

toothbrushes,  
and fluoridated water.

Read more of the [14  
Unsung Heroes.  
Inventions and Ideas  
That Save Lives.](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

## ACA Educational Tour Continues

The [Kansas Health Institute](#) reported this week on Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger's upcoming state tour to educate Kansans about the Affordable Care Act and how to use the law's new online marketplace to purchase health coverage and qualify for federal subsidies.

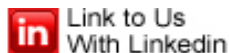
The tour runs through Oct. 22. It includes scheduled stops in 12 cities. A full list of the dates and times for the consumer education meetings is available below and on the insurance department website at [www.insureks.org](http://www.insureks.org). The site also features information about how to use the new online marketplace and a "premium estimator" to help consumers calculate the cost of premiums.

Praeger said she scheduled the meetings to help Kansans learn how to use the online marketplace, not build support for the still controversial health reform law. Nevertheless, she said she believes opposition to the law, which remains high in Kansas, will diminish when consumers learn more about it.

"Not at lot changes if you think about it," Praeger said. "All this (the ACA) does is make private health insurance more affordable for the average person and available to folks who otherwise have been denied (coverage) in the past because of health status."

The reform law prohibits insurers from using many of the tools they once used to manage risk, including denying coverage to persons with pre-existing medical conditions and limiting annual and lifetime benefits.

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).



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