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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

[2013 OHK Officers](#)

[Dental Champions
Corner](#)

[Did You Know???](#)

[KanCare News
Stories](#)

[Legislative Session
Begins](#)

[2013 KMOM
Registration](#)

OHK Website Links

[Home](#)

[Our History](#)
[Dental Champions
Partnerships](#)

[Community Coalitions](#)
[Contact Us](#)

[Legislative Alerts](#)

KanCare News Stories

This week the Kansas Health Institute and Kansas Public Radio have presented a series of stories about KanCare. The [first part](#) aired on Monday and focused on the range of people who are served by the Kansas Medicaid program and affected by the transition to the private managed care program known as KanCare. [Part 2](#) was presented on Tuesday and discussed the cost of the program and the savings projected to be realized through the KanCare managed care approach. Care coordination is the cornerstone of the managed care model, and it is described in this segment. The third part aired today with a focus on other states' experience with Medicaid managed care. It includes discussions of studies about whether Medicaid managed care can improve services while lowering costs. The fourth and fifth parts will air on Thursday and Friday of this week. To hear them, visit www.kansaspublicradio.org.

The latest KanCare newsletter from the Department of Health and Environment was published on January 3. It is available on the [KanCare website](#).

Legislative Session Begins

On Monday of this week the Kansas Legislative Session began. All 165 legislators were sworn into office. Senators will serve a four-year term, and Representatives will serve a two-year term.

2013 OHK Officers

In December, Oral Health Kansas held its annual meeting. Officers were elected for 2013:

Karen Finstad,
President
Delta Dental of Kansas
Foundation

Jill Quigley, RN,
Vice President

Marlou Wegener,
Secretary
Blue Cross and Blue
Shield of Kansas
Foundation

Bill Hammond,
Treasurer
USD 443 Business Office

Dental Champions Corner

**Now taking
applications for
Class 6!**

Over the past eight years five Dental Champions Leadership Program classes have graduated. 89 Kansans have joined the diverse network of state-level Dental Champions with a progressive vision for oral health in Kansas.

To view the application and guidelines
[CLICK HERE](#)

To view the application and apply
[CLICK HERE](#)

With the beginning of the new Legislative Session, new chairs of the health committees also took office. Representative David Crum will serve as the Chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee. He previously served as the Chair of that chamber's Social Services Budget Committee. In the Senate, Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook will serve as the Chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. She is a veteran member of that committee. These are the committees that will see any dental-related legislation during the next two years.

As the Legislature got started, the Governor delivered his State of the State address. In his address he called for additional income tax cuts, but did not mention the Medicaid program's transition to KanCare, which officially took place on January 1, 2013. Advocates will be waiting to see if the Governor will take a position on expanding Medicaid in 2014. The Affordable Care Act authorizes states to expand Medicaid to adults with incomes of up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. Currently only adults with incomes of approximately 33% of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible for Medicaid in Kansas. If the Medicaid program was expanded, the federal government would pay 90% of the cost for that population. The federal government pays about 60% of the cost of the current the Medicaid program. Expanding Medicaid would mean thousands more low-income adults would have access to the new adult preventive dental benefit.

2013 KMOM Registration

Volunteer Registration for the 2013 Kansas Mission of Mercy has begun. To learn more and volunteer to help, please visit the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in November to celebrate Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary at the:

2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference
Johnson County Community College
November 7-8, 2013



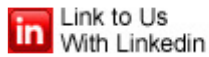
Did You Know???

In 1945, Grand Rapids Michigan became the first city in the world to fluoridate its drinking water.

[The Story of Fluoridation](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org



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