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In This Issue

[October is National Dental Hygiene Month](#)

[2011 Conference Handouts and Continuing Education Certificates](#)

[Kansas Expands Dental Hygiene Services](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

Quick Links

[Home](#)

[Our History](#)

[Dental Champions](#)

[Partnerships](#)

[Community Coalitions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

October is National Dental Hygiene Month

For more information on National Dental Hygiene Month

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Kansas Expands Dental Hygiene Services Specialty Clinics for Children and Youth with Special Needs

A team of three dental hygienists with Extended Care Permits are providing parent education and oral health assessments at Kansas' two specialty clinics -- Cerebral Palsy Clinic, Spinal Cord and Cleft Lip Cleft Palate. What began in 2008 serving at one clinic has expanded to serve more children at three clinics, thanks to a partnership between Marc Shiff at CYSHCN/KDHE and Kathy Weno, DDS, JD, Bureau of Oral Health.

Kathy Trilli, RDH, DHBS, is providing services at all three clinics at the Wichita clinics. Patty Martinette and Kathleen Elder serve at the Kansas City, Kansas clinics. At all clinics, the hygienist is primarily responsible to ensure that families and caregivers accompanying the child learn how to provide daily oral hygiene services and "teeth healthy" nutrition at home. The overall goal is using many strategies to

Oral Health Kansas has many resources on our website to help with education on good oral health. To view our resources [CLICK](#)



[HERE](#)

2011 Conference Handouts and Continuing Education Certificates

OHK and KAMU conference materials will be available online for a limited time. The handouts provided to us by workshop presenters and keynote speakers are available on our website.

To view and print the materials for the sessions [CLICK HERE](#)

Continuing Education Certificates are still available for anyone who did not pick them up at the conference. Just send an email to [Julie](#) stating which session you attend for the Dental CE's

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Marcia McComas, Kathy Trilli & Marcia Manter

Each hygienist makes time to screen the child's teeth and mouth for tooth decay, chipped and broken teeth, gingivitis, dry mouth, sores, and signs of abuse. Parents learn how to look in their children's mouth for changes in tooth eruption and conditions that might be a concern. Families that need a dental home are given a list of dentists in their home communities that serve children with special needs. They learn how to keep the entire mouth clean, especially for children who are being fed by a tube.

Staff members at all sites report enthusiastic responses from the entire clinic teams and the families. Having dental hygienists serving children and families on a team with physicians, nurses, speech, physical and occupational therapists, nutritionists and social workers has been an educational process for the hygienists, staff and families.



Patty Martinette

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program is within KDHE's Bureau of Family Health. The staff focuses on children and youth with a disability or chronic health condition. The program's goal is to provide or support a system of specialty health care. Funding the

specialty clinics in KCK and Wichita is part of the strategy to realize this goal.

For more information about Kansas Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program

[CLICK HERE](#)

Legislative Update - Adult Dental Medicaid Services

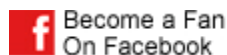
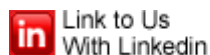
This week the Legislative Budget Committee held a hearing on the benefits of adult dental Medicaid services, and the Home and Community Based Services Oversight Committee held a hearing on the Registered Dental Practitioner model. For details about the hearings, please see these news stories from the Kansas Health Institute. Please also ask us if you have any questions at all. We were pleased to have the opportunity to promote both issues with the key legislative committees this week.

For more information:

<http://www.khi.org/news/2011/oct/10/legislators-urged-expand-medicaid-dental-coverage/>

<http://www.khi.org/news/2011/oct/11/political-fight-continues-over-mid-level-dental-pr/>

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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