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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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13% of Kansans Remain Uninsured

Last week the Kansas Health Institute issued a snapshot report on the health insurance coverage Kansans had in 2012. The report shows 13.1% or 365,000 Kansans do not have health insurance. Read more about the coverage Kansans do have [HERE](#).

2012 Excellence in Oral Health Awards

Senator Vicki Schmidt was honored as the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Policy Maker Award at the Excellence in Oral Health Awards Luncheon during the annual Oral Health Kansas Conference in Wichita on Friday, Sept. 14th.

The Outstanding Policy Maker is presented to an outstanding policy maker that is distinguished from others in excellence, who shows support for the oral health of all Kansans.

Senator Schmidt is a pharmacist and served as the

2013

The twelfth Kansas Mission of Mercy free dental project will take place March 1-2, 2013 at the Kansas Coliseum in Wichita, KS.

This will also mark the ten-year anniversary of the project.

Community support is needed to provide thousands of Wichitans with free dental care in March.

Learn how to help by visiting The Kansas Dental Association's [website](#) or find the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation on Facebook!

Continuing Education Credits AVAILABLE

If you attended the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Conference and are needing CE certificates for the

pharmacy program manager for the Kansas Medicaid program until she was elected to the Senate in 2004. In the Kansas Senate, Schmidt has served on numerous committees, including the powerful Ways and Means Committee. She is the chair of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and is recognized widely as a tireless advocate for health in the Senate. She is respected by her colleagues and is a proven consensus-builder.

As a medical professional, Senator Schmidt is keenly aware of the critical connection between good oral health and good overall health. As such, she has been consistently interested in oral health policy throughout her Senate career. In 2012 Schmidt distinguished herself by championing an oral health improvement bill that passed and became law. She introduced SB 326, which was designed to expand the number of children who can receive dental hygiene services in Kansas schools. At her behest, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held a hearing on the bill, and she led a meaningful debate about it. She understood nuanced issues related to the bill and was able to explain it carefully to fellow committee members. The bill later was folded into another dental-related bill, and Schmidt continued to work for its passage in the Senate. She was successful, as it passed unanimously and was signed into law on May 8, 2012.

While it is not terribly difficult to ask a legislator to introduce a bill, it is remarkable when that legislator picks up the torch for the bill and carries it. Senator Schmidt was keenly aware throughout the Legislative Session of where the bill was and what the best next steps for it should be. She saw the positive change that could come from passing SB 326, and she worked to make sure it would pass. When advocates worked behind the scenes to develop compromise language to ensure the bill did everything it should, she supported the changes and promoted them to her Senate colleagues. Senator Schmidt truly took this bill on as her own and worked tirelessly to pass it unanimously in a year that will be most remembered for its divisiveness.

In addition to sponsoring and championing the dental bill in 2012, Senator Schmidt has consistently supported oral health policy improvement through the appropriations process each year in the Senate. As someone who is both a health professional and a former Medicaid program staffer, she understands the the importance of oral health, especially for people who are underserved, and she is willing to work hard to educate her fellow lawmakers about it. It is a rare legislator who takes her belief in oral health

sessions you attended, send an email to [Julie](#) stating the CE's you are needing.

Dental Champions Corner

Thank you to all the Dental Champions who participated in our recent survey about the annual Oral Health Kansas Conference. We will use your feedback to develop the 2013 Conference and Dental Champions Pre-Conference Session. One of the most important things we learned is that it is important to you to find ways to collaborate with fellow Dental Champions on oral health projects.



a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

policy to the next level by helping to teach her colleagues about that issue.



Help Oral Health Kansas in congratulating Senator Vicki Schmidt as the recipient of the *2012 Outstanding Policy Maker Award*

Oral Health Kansas will be featuring another outstanding award winner next week!

Medicaid Expansion would insure 130,000 Kansans

Over 130,000 Kansans would be eligible for the Kansas Medicaid program if the state chooses to expand Medicaid in 2014 under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These 130,000 Kansas adults have incomes of up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. The June 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision made the law's Medicaid expansion provision optional for states. Last Friday the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition held a Statehouse rally to draw attention to the value of insuring low-income Kansans through Medicaid expansion. Read more about the event in a story from the [Kansas Health Institute](#).

The full cost of Medicaid expansion will be paid by the federal government until 2017, and then states' will be responsible for paying 10% of the cost. This week Governor Brownback announced at a press conference that he is researching the issue.

Did You Know?

Consumption of fluids such as water, soft drinks, and juice accounts for approximately 75 percent of fluoride intake in the United States.

[Delta Dental](#)



KanCare Enrollment has begun/90 day Choice Period Reinstated

On November 9 the state began sending KanCare (Medicaid managed care) enrollment packets to Kansas Medicaid beneficiaries. Packets will be distributed to all 380,000 Kansans who are on Medicaid by the end of this month. A sample packet is available on the Oral Health Kansas [website](#). If you have questions, please contact the KanCare enrollment office at 866-305-5147. Oral Health Kansas also welcomes questions at 785-235-6039 or info@oralhealthkansas.org.

One of the concerns consumer advocates raised about the transition from traditional Medicaid to KanCare was that the state had proposed consumers be provided with 45 days to choose a different managed care plan than the one they had been assigned to. The federal Medicaid rules require consumers to be allowed 90 days to choose a different plan, so the state had asked for that rule to be waived for KanCare. As a result of the on-going conversations state officials are having with federal officials about the KanCare proposal, the 90 day choice period has been reinstated. While federal officials have not approved the entire KanCare program yet, we do know that consumers will continue to be allowed to have 90 days to select the managed care plan that best meets their needs.

The most recent KanCare newsletter is available on the KanCare [website](#).

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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