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2013 Oral
Health Kansas
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be held in
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November 7th &
8th, 2013

Dental Champions

KanCare set to start January 1

Last Friday, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the state's application to privatize the Kansas Medicaid system. The Medicaid make-over known as KanCare was officially proposed in August of this year with a planned start date of January 1, 2013. The terms and conditions of the approval are still being finalized, but the CMS endorsement now allows both Medicaid providers and beneficiaries to continue planning for the January transition. CMS noted that some of the consumer protections advocacy organizations like Oral Health Kansas had suggested aided them in approving the waiver. One such protection is establishment of a KanCare Ombudsman office. The [Ombudsman](#) was introduced on a KanCare stakeholder call today. His name is [James Bart](#), and he brings the perspective of a parent of a child with a disability to the position.

The state wrapped up a KanCare enrollment tour during the last week of November. The tour included 15 stops, 29 meetings, and 4000 attendees. A similar KanCare consumer education presentation is available this Friday, December 14 for via webinar. The webinar will run from 10 am to noon. The web address is <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/661801921>, and the call-in number is 855-833-0607. The conference ID is 73713239.

Two more state tours for Medicaid consumers are scheduled for February and May 2013.

A press release from the state regarding the CMS approval is [available](#). The latest issue of the [KanCare newsletter](#) also was published last week. A news story about CMS approval of KanCare is available from the [Kansas Health Institute](#).

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](#)



Did You Know???

Your teeth are as unique as your fingerprints. In fact, even identical twins have different "dental fingerprints!"

[Michigan Dental Association](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

State Revenue Estimates

On Tuesday, November 6, the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group met to make state revenue projections for the next eighteen months. The budget looks dire because the 2012 tax package takes affect beginning January 1, 2013 as individual and small business income taxes are reduced or eliminated. These revenue estimates are important because they determine the amount of state revenue available and any shortfalls will likely require reductions to K-12 funding.

Preliminary key conclusions from the estimate are:

- Current fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 will end with \$473 million in the bank
- Fiscal Year 14 beginning July 1, 2013 will conclude with a \$705 million budget shortfall
- FY 14 would require the use of the \$473 million carry forward balance from FY 13 and \$328 million in new revenue or cuts to reach \$0 dollars by June 30, 2014
- Proposed continuation of the current 1 cent sales tax after June 30, 2013 will only generate \$262 million of the \$328 million needed
- The Governor has expressed support for continuing the 1 cent sales tax to allow time for the 2012 tax plan to be fully implemented

The Governor has requested 10 percent budget cuts for state agencies while vowing to protect K-12 education, public safety, and social services from reductions. The Governor will make his budget recommendations known when the session begins and the Legislature will assume its responsibility of adopting or modifying his recommendations.

Coffee and Oral Cancer

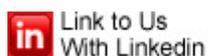
December 10th, 2012 a new study by the American Cancer Society that was published in the American Journal of Epidemiology, found a link between drinking coffee and a reduced risk of death from oral cancer.

Those who drank more than 4 cups of caffeinated coffee a day were 49% less likely to die from oral cancer than those who drank coffee only occasionally or not at all. There was no significant link was found for decaffeinated coffee, and no link at all for tea.

To read more [CLICK HERE](#)



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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