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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2013 3:51 PM  
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**Subject:** Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
*Weekly Wednesday Update*

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

Volume 4, Issue 5

February 6, 2013

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## February is Children's Dental Health Month

February is Children's Dental Health Month and Oral Health Kansas wants to help spread the word about the importance of oral health in children and to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

Whether you're a member of a dental team, a teacher or a parent, Oral Health Kansas has put together age specific oral health packets that can help with oral health presentations, ideas for the classroom and coloring and activity sheets that can be used as handouts which are all available [HERE](#) on our website.

## Registered Dental Practitioner Day at the Capitol

Today members of the Kansas Dental Project coalition, led by Kansas Action for Children, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, and Kansas Health Consumer Coalition, gathered in Topeka to talk to lawmakers about the proposed Registered Dental Practitioner (RDP) model. Kansas Dental Project leaders were joined by coalition members from across the state at the Capitol today.

Dental Champions  
Corner

**OHK Website  
Links**

- Home
- Our History
- Dental Champions  
Partnerships
- Community Coalitions
- Contact Us
- Legislative Alerts



Get Oral Health Kansas news wherever you are! Be sure to find us on your favorite social media platform: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Pinterest](#).

And be sure to share with your friends.

**Weekly  
Wednesday  
Update  
Survey**

Oral Health Kansas has been sharing regular updates through our Weekly Wednesday Updates. We hope you have found these to be valuable.

We would like to have your input as we plan our update topics for 2013.

A new bill to establish the RDP model was introduced last week in a House Committee. As of this writing, [HB 2157](#) has not been set for a hearing. A similar bill was considered in the House and Senate health committees in 2011 and 2012.

RDPs would be dental hygienists who receive an additional 18 months of training to provide certain dental services, such as fillings, extractions of baby teeth, and extractions of loose permanent teeth. The RDP would work under general or direct supervision of a dentist. To learn more about the model, visit the Kansas Dental Project's [website](#).

**KanCare Regional Meetings Set**

Later this month the state will host a series of 16 regional meetings about KanCare, the state's new Medicaid managed care program. The meetings will focus on how to choose the KanCare plan that is best for you and your family. The meetings will be February 18-21 and will be located in Dodge City, Manhattan, Winfield, Topeka, Garden City, Salina, Parsons, Kansas City, Colby, Great Bend, Fort Scott, Olathe, Hays, Wichita, Emporia and Atchison. Two meetings will be held in each location - one in the afternoon and the other in the evening. To learn more, visit the KanCare [website](#).

**Ombudsman Available to help with  
KanCare Challenges**

To help ensure challenges people encounter with KanCare are addressed, the state has established a [KanCare Ombudsman](#) office. James Bart started work as the Ombudsman in December. He brings a background as a lawyer and a father of a child with a developmental disability. The Ombudsman's office is charged with helping people resolve KanCare service problems, understand their rights and contact the right people to resolve their issues. The Ombudsman's office can be reached toll-free at 855-643-8180 or by email at [KanCare.Ombudsman@kdads.ks.gov](mailto:KanCare.Ombudsman@kdads.ks.gov).

**Candidates for Silver Haired  
Legislature Sought**

Kansas' older adults who have an interest in politics are encouraged to register to become a candidate for the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature (SHL). The deadline to register is quickly approaching.

The SHL is a unicameral legislative body consisting of 125

Please take just a few moments to respond to a brief survey at [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)

If you encounter any trouble with the survey, please let us know.

## Traveling Drink Display

Currently the OHK traveling library drink displays are on display at the [West Wyandotte Library](#) and the [Corinth Branch Library](#) in Johnson County.

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



## Did You Know???

The average American spends 38.5 total days brushing their teeth over a lifetime.

[StarSmilez](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

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

representatives. All of the elected officials are age 60 or older. The SHL provides an educational experience in the political process and an opportunity to identify policy concerns for Kansas' older adults. The SHL develops bills and resolutions that are presented to the Kansas Legislature and Governor Sam Brownback as recommendations for state policy.

Elected Silver Haired Legislators are responsible for advocating for their legislation, testifying at hearings on SHL legislation, meeting with older adults in their county/district and attending scheduled SHL meetings.

Elections to become a Silver Haired Legislator are set for **March 14**. Candidates must be 60 years or older and registered to vote in their district.

Candidate registration forms and additional information are available on the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services [website](#). Forms must be downloaded, signed and returned no later than **Feb. 14 at 4:30 p.m.** Forms and information also are available at Kansas' Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). AAAs are located in Kansas City, Chanute, Hiawatha, Wichita, Dodge City, Arkansas City, Hays, Ottawa, Olathe, Topeka and Manhattan. For exact locations, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The Kansas Silver Haired Legislative Session takes place Oct. 8-10, in Topeka.

## Dental Champions Corner

### Class 6 Application Deadline Extended!

Oral Health Kansas has extended the deadline to apply for the 6th Dental Champions Leadership Program class to February 28.

Applicants will be notified by March 15 of their acceptance in the class. The session schedule remains the same.

To learn more about Dental Champions Class 6 and apply, please visit the Oral Health Kansas [website](#).

We are pleased to announce that the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation has joined the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund as a funder for Class 6.

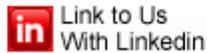
Without the support of these two funding partners, the Dental Champions Leadership Program would not be possible. Thank you to our generous sponsors!

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

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



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