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To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org
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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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KanCare Waiver Comment Period Open

On August 6, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) re-submitted their KanCare [waiver application](#) to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The waiver is necessary in order to move all Kansas Medicaid beneficiaries to managed care. The waiver application had been submitted in April of this year, but was later withdrawn when the administration discovered it had not consulted with two Indian Health Services providers.

This week CMS opened the public comment period on the waiver application. Any comments submitted on the first waiver application will be retained by CMS, but advocates and consumers are able to revise their comments now and add new comments. Comments can be submitted on [CMS' website](#).

Oral Health Kansas submitted comments on the first waiver application and is reviewing the revised waiver application to determine if additional comments should be submitted. If you have any questions about the waiver or suggestions about comments, please send them to tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org.

More KanCare Public Meetings

Oral Health Kansas Elects New Board President

Early this summer the Oral Health Kansas Board President stepped down due to health reasons. Last week the Board elected long-time Board member Karen Finstad Board President. Finstad is the Executive Director of the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation and has served on the Oral Health Kansas Board since 2007. She is an active oral health advocate and has been a key part of initiatives such as the denture lab at the Topeka Correctional Facility and the new KIND program which will help attract new dentists to dental desert areas of the state.

Finstad previously served as the Board Secretary. Taking over that role is Jill Quigley, who is a former legislator, nurse, and community advocate. She also chairs the Oral Health Kansas Advocacy Committee and is an active member of several Kansas City-area boards of directors.

The final addition to the Oral Health Kansas Board this month is Lougene Marsh. Marsh is the director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. She previously served as the Executive Director of the Flint Hills Community Health Center/Lyon County Health Department where she expanded the dental clinic and began outreach to schools and nursing facilities through Extended Care Permit Dental Hygienists. Marsh is passionate about expanding access to health care, including oral health,

Scheduled

A new series of public meetings for Medicaid consumers and providers has been scheduled by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). These meetings follow a series of meetings held during the last week of July. The questions posed at those meetings, as well as video of the meetings now, are available on KDHE's [KanCare website](#).

The new public meeting schedule includes stops in Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka, Salina, Colby, Garden City, and Pittsburg. KDADS Secretary Shawn Sullivan said, "We are holding these meetings to inform and educate our consumers about what KanCare will mean for them, what will change and what will stay the same, and how to access the services we provide." Dates and locations, as well as details about how to register for the meetings are available from [KDADS](#).

New Report Shows Kids' Oral Health is Improving, but More Needs to be Done

The KDHE Bureau of Oral Health has released a new report called "2012 Smiles Across Kansas," which details the results of the latest statewide survey of the oral health Kansas third-graders. The report shows that fewer children have untreated, active dental decay, but the majority of third-graders still do not have dental sealants, which are a proven method to prevent dental decay.

The report includes recommendations that prevention techniques, such as oral health education, fluoride and sealants are critical to preventing dental disease. Another recommendation is that all Kansans should have access to fluoridated drinking water. Only 65% of Kansans currently have access to fluoridated water, and our state's largest city, Wichita, remains un-fluoridated.

Read more about the oral health of Kansas children and what more can be done to improve their oral health in "[2012 Smiles Across Kansas](#)."

Wichitans will Vote on Water Fluoridation

for all Kansans. We are excited to welcome her to the Oral Health Kansas Board and congratulate Finstad and Quigley on their new officer roles.

Dental Champions Corner

Congratulations to Angie Holladay, Class 5, provided well-reasoned testimony to the Wichita City Council on Tuesday urging Council members to pass an ordinance to fluoridate the water in our state's largest community. Thanks, Angie, for your advocacy!



a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

Make Hotel Reservations Now!

Only ONE DAY LEFT for OHK rate!

Rooms at the Hotel at Old town in Wichita are available at the group rate through August 23.

Please call 316-267-4800 to reserve your room now.

Ask for the "Oral Health Kansas" rate of \$122 per

In a unanimous vote on Tuesday, the Wichita City Council decided to ask Wichitans to vote on a water fluoridation ordinance in the November General Election. Earlier this month the grassroots coalition Wichitans for Healthy Teeth submitted over 11,000 signatures on a petition asking the City Council to pass an ordinance to fluoridate the city's water. The Council held a lengthy public hearing Tuesday and ultimately decided to ask voters to weigh in on the issue.

The Council's vote follows a new poll that shows two-thirds of likely voters would support an ordinance requiring the city to add fluoride to its water supply. Wichitans for Healthy Teeth Chair Dr. Sara Meng provided a [statement](#) following the City Council's vote, saying, "a vote for fluoridation is a vote for healthy teeth and at least \$4.5 million annual savings for the residents of Wichita."

Wichita remains the fourth largest city in the nation that does not have its community water supply fluoridated at the optimum level. In 2000, the U.S. Surgeon General declared community water fluoridation to be one of the ten most important public health achievements in the 20th century.

wichitans for healthy teeth 

Don't miss the 2012 Conference!

Make plans to attend the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Annual Conference September 13-14, 2012 at the Hotel at Old Town in Wichita.

Wednesday, September 12

3:30-7:00 Oral Health Kansas Board meeting

7:30-9:00 Dental Champions Alumni Reception

Thursday, September 13

8:00-1:00 Dental Champions Session
(Open to Dental Champion Alumni)

1:00-2:15 Keynote Address: Role of State Advocacy in improving Oral Health

2:30-3:30 Plenary Session: Affordable Care Act Implementation

night.

If you have any trouble making your reservation, please contact the OHK office 785.235.6039

Did You Know???

Fluorine, from which fluoride is derived, is the 13th most abundant element and is released into the environment naturally in both water and air.

[Delta Dental](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

- 3:45-4:45 Plenary Session: Community Water Fluoridation in Wichita
- 5:30-7:00 Reception at Exploration Place: Sneak Peak of the Big Mouth Exhibit

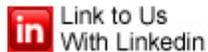
Friday, September 14

- 8:00-9:15 Breakfast Roundtable Discussions
- 9:30-10:30 Plenary Session: Colorado Cavity Free at Three
- 10:45-11:45 Plenary Session: KanCare Implementation
- 12:00-1:15 Excellence in Oral Health Awards Luncheon

For more information or to register [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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