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Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 4:02 PM
To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org
Subject: Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

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

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**Thank you to the
Sponsors who
made the 2012
Conference
possible!**

- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Delta Dental of

KID Announces Essential Health Benefits Package

On September 24, the Kansas Insurance Department (KID) sent a letter to Governor Sam Brownback with their recommendation on the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) package for Kansas. Earlier this month KID had held a public hearing seeking comments on the contents of the EHB that will be offered on the Exchange in Kansas through the Affordable Care Act beginning in 2014. States that will use an Exchange set up by the federal government, such as Kansas, have been asked by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to select the EHB that will best meet its residents' needs.

Oral Health Kansas had advocated that the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) be used as the benchmark for the pediatric oral health benefit that must be provided through the EHB. We are pleased to announce that Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger did recommend the CHIP dental benefit serve as the model for the pediatric dental benefit offered in Kansas.

Governor Brownback now has the opportunity to decide on the recommendation from KID. If no recommendation is sent to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Kansas will be forced to default to using the federal employee's insurance program's children's dental benefit. As Commissioner Praeger noted in her

- Kansas Foundation
- REACH Healthcare Foundation
 - Amerigroup
 - Kansas Dental Association
 - United Healthcare
 - United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
 - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas



DCLP Corner

Thank you to all the Dental Champions who attended the Oral Health Kansas Conference this month in Wichita. Members of each of the five classes learned about current oral health advocacy activities and took part in analysis of an oral health leadership case study. We look forward to another great Dental Champions session next November in Kansas City!

Did You

letter, "Selecting CHIP provides more continuity of care between CHIP and the marketplace and would result in less disruption as families transition between CHIP and the Kansas private insurance market."

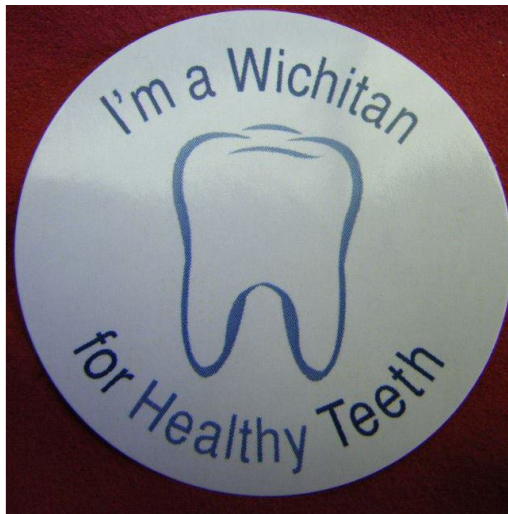
To read Commissioner Praeger's letter to Governor Brownback, [click here](#).

National Fluoridation Victories

Two city councils recently voted for fluoridated community water for their residents. Yesterday the [city council of St. Joseph, Missouri](#), voted to retain the fluoridation in their community water by not opening the issue up for new debate.

On September 12 the [Portland, Oregon, city council](#) voted unanimously to fluoridate the city's water. The decision came after a long summer of advocacy to provide fluoridated water as a way to reduce tooth decay.

Congratulations to St. Joe and Portland on their decisions to help their residents maintain healthy teeth with the optimal amount of fluoride in their water!

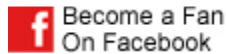
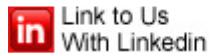


With the city of Portland's decision, Wichita, Kansas, now stands as the largest city in the country that still lacks fluoridated community water. Voters in Wichita will decide the issue in November. To get the facts about the fluoride vote in Wichita, visit www.fluoridevoterguide.com.

Know??

It will cost approximately 9 cents per month per household to maintain water fluoridation in the city of Wichita. The average family would save the cost of 1 dental filling (\$153) per year.

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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