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Thank You for

The Oral Health Kansas Lifetime Achievement Award- Mary Baskett

On September 16, Oral Health Kansas presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for only the second time in our history.

We were proud to honor the work and achievements of Mary Baskett, who is retiring after 12 years of service as the Executive Director of the Kansas Head Start Association.



Mary was the first President of Oral Health Kansas in 2003, the

Joining Us in Overland Park!

Thank you for attending the Oral Health Kansas and Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved Joint Conference. Great conferences aren't created by staff and planning committees-they're created by the active participation of the people who attend. This was a great conference!

At the opening session, W. Mitchell challenged us to think with a "oh yes we can" attitude and showed us what it takes to make change. We closed by paying tribute to the people, organizations, and funders working hard every day to improve oral health in Kansas.

In between, we created many conversations that will clearly continue beyond our time together in Overland Park. We hope that you were able to learn many new things, meet with old colleagues, make new ones and we

year OHK was established and, after serving as President, she continued to serve on the OHK board from 2003-2010. While on the board she also served as our Board Development Committee Chair.

Mary served as Executive Director of the Kansas Head Start Association from 1999 to 2011. During her tenure, Mary has guided the growth of the association from startup, to a nationally-recognized early learning organization. She is a highly active, visible leader in the Kansas early learning community. Mary chairs the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness, an advocacy partnership with the business community, and she works closely with other statewide organizations serving young children and families.

Over the past five years, Mary initiated the design of numerous innovative projects in oral health and parent health literacy. The Kansas Head Start Association was able to expand and enhance Kansas' early childhood oral health system through a grant from Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation. Mary led the way for the development of The Kansas Cavity Free Kids program across Kansas. This program is helping children enter Kindergarten cavity free and ready to learn. This is being accomplished by increased access to dental care, improving the dental knowledge of families and caregivers, and addressing policy issues that create barriers to achieving optimal oral health.

In 2010, the Kansas Head Start Association and Oral Health Kansas collaborated to develop a curriculum specifically for home visitors and others to use when educating families of children, birth to three, about oral health. The Kansas Cavity Free Kids program and the Early Childhood Oral Health Advisory Council work together to advocate for policies that improve oral health outcomes for children and pregnant women.

She has designed and presented facilitation training, she is a trained mediator, and has worked on a variety of complex and challenging group processes. Her leadership of Oral Health Kansas was a gift to the organization in its key formative years. Mary's collaborative and inclusive approach helped Oral Health Kansas become a true coalition with purpose.

Mapping the Rural Kansas Dental Workforce- Implications for Population Oral Health

On September 15, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Oral Health released a new study entitled, "Mapping the Rural Kansas Dental Workforce." This new study builds on the 2009 workforce study with an innovative approach to studying the needs of people in rural areas of the state.

hope to see you at next year's conference!

Please take a few moments to fill out our survey by [CLICKING HERE](#)

2011 Conference Handouts and Continuing Education Certificates

OHK and KAMU conference materials will be available online for a limited time. The handouts provided to us by workshop presenters and keynote speakers are available on our website.

To view and print the materials for the sessions [CLICK HERE](#)

Continuing Education Certificates are still available for anyone who did not pick them up at the conference. Just send an email to [Julie](#) stating which session you attend for the Dental CE's

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Fewer people living in rural communities, limited access to all types of health care services, an aging dentist workforce, and the high costs necessary to run and maintain a viable dental practice combine to produce an oral health care workforce crisis in rural Kansas. This project uses a geographic information systems (GIS) approach to pinpoint locations in Kansas where there are the fewest dental providers serving their communities and oral health care delivery innovation is needed most urgently.

Findings from this research confirm a 2009 KDHE Bureau of Oral Health workforce study that described a shortage of primary care dentists and Extended Care Permit dental hygienists (ECPs) in certain rural areas of Kansas. Setting aside county boundaries typically used to describe federally designated health professional shortage areas (HPSA); this research expands on the concept of workforce shortage areas to look at where people live, how they travel and where providers practice. Taking these factors into account, this research identifies gaps in the dental provider coverage map more precisely than traditional HPSAs designations.

The authors introduce the concept of a "Dental Care Service Desert" to describe the primary GIS result. This methodology is used to define food deserts and other relevant public health shortage areas, but up to this point has not been applied to oral health. The "Dental Care Service Desert" is a new designation that describes geographic areas where there are no dental services and where the closest dental office is at least a half-hour drive from residents' homes.


Findings indicate that at least 57,000 Kansans live in Dental Care Service Deserts, and this number is projected to increase as the current primary care dentist rural workforce retires, and as currently forecast, is not fully replaced.


Key findings from the study include:

1. Access to primary care dentists is not equal for all Kansans.
2. Extended Care Permit dental hygienists have not fully filled in the geographic gaps where primary care dentistry is unavailable.
3. Areas of western Kansas will join the Dental Care Service Desert in the next three years because of retirement of many primary care dentists.
4. The addition of strategically placed dental providers could make a difference in access to oral health care in western Kansas.
5. Dental care workforce innovations or pilot interventions could be tested in Dental Care Service Deserts.

The study can be found [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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