

**From:** Oral Health Kansas [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org]  
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## Featured Speakers

**Katherine Weno, D.D.S., J.D.**, is the Director of the Bureau of Oral Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in Topeka, Kansas. A native Iowan, in 1991 she received her D.D.S. at the University Of Iowa College Of Dentistry. After graduation, Dr. Weno practiced dentistry for six years in Iowa and Wisconsin. In 1999, she graduated with distinction from the University Of Iowa College Of Law with an interest in health law.

After practicing Health and Administrative Law at a private firm in Des Moines, Dr. Weno moved to Kansas City, Missouri in 2000 to become the Project Director and Attorney for the MC+ Advocacy Project at Legal Aid of Western Missouri. In April of 2006 Dr. Weno joined KDHE as the Director of the Bureau of Oral Health. The Bureau administers several public oral health programs including: Fluoride Varnish Instruction for Medical Providers, a School Oral Health Screening Project, a Dental Workforce Center and a program to increase oral health access for Children with Special Health Care Needs. Dr. Weno is active in the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, and sits on the board of Kansas' oral health coalition, Oral Health Kansas.

## ***Health".***

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Dr. Kathy Weno

Dr. Kim Kimminau

**Kim Kimminau** is a biological anthropologist and she has worked throughout her career with organizations trying to meet the health needs of their communities. She has a BA from Brandeis University and Master's and PhD. degrees from The Ohio State University. She has taught at Wichita State University, worked for the public sector for the U.S. military in Hawaii and in the private sector for Harvard Community Health Plan in Massachusetts. Most recently she served as vice president for research and analysis, first at HealthNet, Inc. in Kansas City, Missouri and then at the Kansas Health Institute in Topeka.

Dr. Kimminau serves as a consultant to the Sunflower Foundation and an evaluator for both the REACH Healthcare Foundation and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. Her current research includes obesity, cervical cancer, oral health and health disparities.

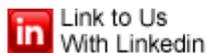
In partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Oral Health, Dr. Kimminau and colleague Tony Wellever have identified key issues related to the oral healthcare workforce in Kansas by surveying dentists and Extended Care Permit dental hygienists, and are now conducting detailed study in the area most severely impacted by workforce shortage, rural Kansas. Dr. Kimminau is the director of community health research, assistant for health policy to the Executive Vice Chancellor of the medical school and an associate professor in the department of family medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

## **Innovations in Understanding the Kansas Dental Workforce**

Workforce shortage areas are usually defined by federal guidelines on a county or sub-population level using a "rational service area for the delivery of care". In reality, the distance between population centers and the nearest provider may not follow county or city boundaries. In states like Kansas that have large rural areas with low populations, factors such as dental practice location, transportation patterns and travel time have an important impact on access to dental care.

Although traditional shortage designations are useful for determining eligibility for federal workforce incentives like loan repayment programs, they are less helpful in describing shortage areas with the levels of precision that is necessary for workforce policy planning. The KDHE Bureau of Oral Health's 2009 Oral Health Workforce Assessment collected information about Kansas oral health professionals' practice patterns and retirement plans. In 2011 the Bureau expanded this project by adding geographic information systems approaches to the issue of workforce shortage areas. This novel research project maps Kansas' population density, reported drive times to providers and services, and the distribution of the current dental workforce. This presentation will release the 2011 Oral Health Workforce Assessment and identify Kansas' Dental Service "Deserts", areas in the state that have the most critical need for oral health professionals.

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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