



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Oral Health Kansas' Water Access manager Kelly Rippel made a presentation this week at the [Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care's](#) annual Health Care Roundtable Conference.



Wichita Business Coalition
on Health Care

Approximately 150 people

Oral health community forums kick off

Our first community forum this year was held at a public library in Johnson County on April 13. A diverse group attended and had a productive conversation about tax policy, oral health education, and Medicaid dental services for adults.

Senator Barbara Bollier (R-Mission Hills) attended and told the group, "Grassroots efforts matter." She urged the attendees to pay attention to policy matters that extend beyond oral health, as tax policy and other health policy issues work together to affect the progress we are able to make in achieving meaningful oral health policy.

The series of community forums continues this month! Forums were held in Colby on April 18 and Wichita on April 29. On Thursday, April 20 we will be at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library at 10 am!

RSVP to

attended the summit held at the Kansas Leadership Center, where experts from across the country spoke about workplace health and benefits for employees. Kelly shared the [Thirsty for Health](#) project's work to increase access to and consumption of water in K-12 schools. This was an opportunity to showcase how employers could adopt a similar water access project as well as support local school districts' plans to improve their water access infrastructure.



Seeking Policy Director!

OHK is seeking a full-time Policy Director. The position plays a lead role in promoting the Oral Health Kansas public policy priorities to legislators and other policymakers. The Policy Director also is responsible for managing the DentaQuest Foundation-funded "Kansas Oral Health Connections" grant project, including extensive stakeholder engagement activities. Experience with grant-writing and reporting is required. Previous experience working for a nonprofit organization is preferred.

For a [full job description](#), visit our website!

Applications received by April

dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org or call 785-235-6039. Share our [flyer!](#)

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Community Forums in April

We would like to hear about the oral health challenges and opportunities you face.

You also will hear about the current oral health policy activity at the state level.

Oral Health Kansas will feature several resources we have to offer, including education and advocacy tools, as well as the work of local oral health coalitions in several communities.

Please join the conversation about the importance of oral health for all Kansans!

Overland Park - Thursday, April 13 at 9am - Central Library - 9875 West 87th St.
Colby - Tuesday, April 18 at 2pm - Colby Community College Student Union, 1255 S. Range
Wichita - Wednesday, April 19 at 1pm - Central Library - 223 South Main St.
Topeka - Thursday, April 20 at 10am - Public Library - 1515 SW 10th Ave.
Garden City - Thursday, April 27 at 6pm - St. Catherine's Hospital - 401 East Spruce St.
El Dorado - Friday, April 28 at 1pm - El Dorado Chamber of Commerce - 201 E. Central Ave.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Doug Bowman at 785-235-6039
or dbowman@oralhealthkansas.org
www.oralhealthkansas.org

Another successful event for Brush, Book, Bed project

Last week OHK staff Doug Bowman and Marcia Manter along with Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition leader Carolyn Weinhold attended a Parents as Teacher's Dental Fair in Topeka that was held in conjunction with the Brush, Book, Bed (BBB) project. BBB is a program that focuses on families of young children that blends three essential healthy activities - brushing teeth each night before bed, reading a book to the child and putting the child to bed at an hour appropriate for the child's age.

Oral Health Kansas and Shawnee

25 will receive priority consideration.

Dental coverage for kids really does matter!

In a [recent survey](#) of US parents, results showed that children without dental insurance were twice as likely as insured kids to have had a recent toothache or dental problem that affected their ability to eat, sleep or concentrate in school. The study's organizers at the Children's Dental Health Project concluded that when kids are insured, they are more likely to go to the dentist.

A recent [Journal of the American Dental Association](#) study demonstrated similar results. The study found that uninsured children had the fewest dental appointments and their parents were most likely to report unmet dental health needs due to cost.



Reserve a sugary drink display

April is almost over! If you tried reserving a sugary drink display and we were booked, it's important to reserve one before the slots are full! Reserve a sugary drink display even if it's just for a one day event! Reserving yours ahead of time is crucial. [Sign up now!](#)

County Oral Health Coalition started the program in 2016 in partnership with three Shawnee County Home Visiting programs: Community Action Early Head Start, USD 345 Seaman Parents as Teachers and USD 501 Topeka Parents as Teachers.

During last week's event, Holly Blick, RDH ECP II with Grace Med in Topeka and Jodi Schupe, RHD, ECP II on staff at Ted Jowett Family Dentistry, provided dental screenings to 18 children. They also taught parents how to spot dental decay, applied fluoride varnish and recommended the children visit a dental office.

Staff shared our sugary drink display, an exhibit featuring healthy and unhealthy foods, and a tooth brushing demonstration using a Magic Dragon puppet.



A'jay is talking to the family about healthy and unhealthy food choices

Our sugary drink display contains 10 popular beverages and shows how much sugar is in each. We also include some of our [Tips and Tricks handouts](#) and mirror clings! The display is free to use, up to a month and we reimburse postage!



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It's people such as Veronica, A'jay and Carolyn that make a difference in our communities!

T-21 passes in Garden City

Congratulations to the health advocates in Garden City on their successful advocacy to pass a city ordinance this week to increase the age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21. Garden City joins twelve other communities in Kansas by approving an ordinance help prevent kids from starting to use tobacco products.

The advocacy in Garden City was student-led. Click [here to watch a video](#) of the high school students presenting to the Garden City Commission.

 View on Instagram

T21

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