

# ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Volume 8, Issue 31

August 2, 2017

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## When summer fun doesn't include brushing

It's the summer time and kids are participating in activities and having fun. You remind them to brush their teeth and it becomes a struggle. How about turning oral health into fun time also!

[Here](#) are some experiments you can do with your child, to show him why it's important to brush twice a day, for two minutes. Make it fun and they are learning too!

## Nominate someone for their outstanding leadership

So many individuals do outstanding work in their fields, yet are never recognized publicly for their work in improving oral health. This is your opportunity to see that recognition is given. Nominate someone for an [Excellence in Oral Health Award](#) or [Dental Champion Award](#). Take time to fill out the form and submit it by **Monday, October 2 at 5 pm**. Winners will be announced at our Oral Health Conference Awards reception on November 2.

The categories for nominations are:

- Outstanding Organization
- Outstanding Dental Hygiene Clinician
- Outstanding Dentist Award
- Outstanding Community Leader
- Bob Bethel Outstanding Policy Maker
- Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer
- Outstanding Dental Champion

Here is a list of last year's recipients:

**Outstanding Dentist:** Dr. Nick Rogers



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## Open slots still available for exhibitors

OHK still has open slots for exhibitors for our annual conference in November. This year the conference will be held November 2-3 at the KState Olathe Campus in Olathe. Your exhibitor registration will provide the following benefits:

- An 8 foot table with tablecloth and skirting
- Two chairs
- Electricity, upon request
- Complimentary internet access
- Complimentary access to all conference meal functions and speakers

If you have any questions, email us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)

To fill out an exhibitor form, click [here](#).

**MEETING** the  
**CHALLENGE**  
of **CHANGE**

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## 2018 Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM)

The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KDCF) is pleased

**Outstanding Dental Champion:** Kevin Robertson

**Outstanding Organization:** Comfort Care Homes, Inc.



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## 2017 Oral Health Kansas conference sponsors

We are so excited to announce two more sponsors for our 2017 OHK conference in November. Thank you to [Delta Dental of Kansas](#) and [Envolve](#) for your generous gift!

**DELTA DENTAL**

**envolve**  
Benefit Options

If you are interested in sponsoring our conference, there are several ways you can be a sponsor:

- Platinum Sponsor
- Gold Sponsor

to announce that the 2018 Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) free dental clinic will be held on February 9-10, 2018 in Hutchinson, KS at the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

Visit the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation](#) website for more information!



Kansas Mission of Mercy  
*Making a Difference*

## Sugary Drink Display

Our August month of reservations is filling up already! Reserve one for you to use! Use the drink display at schools, for classroom education, health fairs or even at your office!

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

Reserving yours ahead of time ensures you can get the date(s) you need. [Email us](#) and let us know when you would like to reserve a drink display.



- Silver Sponsor
- Clinical Post-Conference Sponsor
- Student Sponsor
- Dental Champions Pre-Conference Sponsor
- Patron Sponsor

[Here](#) is a description of each level. Our conference registration will be opening soon! Stay tuned!

## Oral health for seniors is inadequate

Elizabeth Mertz, PhD, a dental sociologist and associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry (UCSF), did research on the dental care gap. She discussed the challenges older adults face when trying to access dental care, as well as the ways four states (California, Florida, Minnesota and North Carolina) are trying to solve those challenges.

Mertz found that seniors in long-term care facilities have the worst oral health. Residents pay either out of pocket or have Medicare Advantage.

For Mertz, the key takeaway from her research is that there are no standardized oral health policies, so there are no cohesive models. This affects both care and research, and it is extremely difficult to obtain relevant data for the research that needs to be done. To find out more of her findings, read the article [here](#).



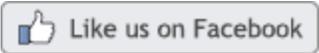
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This past spring, OHK's executive director, Tanya Dorf Brunner, was featured in a Guest Column in *Keynotes*, a publication by the North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Tanya expressed the need for dental services to be covered by Medicare and KanCare, the state's Medicaid program. Too often our organization hears stories from consumers who have health insurance through KanCare and/or Medicare, but these programs do not cover dental services. Therefore seniors go without or have to use what little funds they have in savings to pay for the dental care they need.

In her op-ed, Tanya urges more advocacy. Seniors, family members and care givers can talk to their legislators and share their story with them to express the need for dental services. OHK advocates for dental services in Medicare and KanCare. If you would like to share your story, contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org), or 785-235-6039. Let us know you would like to be added to the list of Kansans who will not stand for seniors to go without dental services.

Read Tanya's full op-ed [here](#).

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