



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Oral Health News

January 6, 2005

Vol. 2 No. 1

Mission:

To improve oral health in Kansas through advocacy, public awareness and education.

Oral Health Kansas Strategic Areas:

- Access to Care
- Prevention
- Oral Health Status
- Oral Health Leadership
- Work Force

UPCOMING SUMMIT WILL ADDRESS WORKFORCE ISSUES

On January 20-21, Oral Health Kansas will convene a two-day summit to address the oral health workforce shortage in Kansas.

On January 20, Kansas Health (KHI) will release a report it just completed on the oral health workforce in which several policy options are addressed. The press conference releasing the report will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the KHI atrium at 212 SW 8th Ave., Suite 300, Topeka.

That evening, OHK will host a public discussion and reception featuring the author of the report, Andy Allison, as well as a national expert from the University of Maryland Dental School who will address workforce trends across the nation. The evening event will take place from 6-8 p.m. in the Emerald Room of the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka

We will issue special invitations to legislators for the evening event, which will give them a good overview of the current workforce situation going into the 2005 legislative session. **Please help us encourage legislator attendance by calling your state Representative and Senator and personally inviting them to attend. You can get numbers for legislators at www.kslegislature.org.**

On Friday, January 21, we will host an all-day work session at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Maner Conference Center. We will feature Dr. Andy Allison and Dr. Richard Manski in the morning and will follow in the afternoon with break-out sessions to discuss the policy options in the KHI report. Oral Health Kansas will use this information as we move forward a public policy agenda that addresses the Kansas oral health workforce.

Funding for the Workforce Summit is being provided by United Methodist Health Ministry Fund.

For more information, please contact Teresa Schwab at 785.235.6039.

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS JOINS THE *HEALTHYKANSAS* COALITION

The initiative, produced in collaboration between Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger, aims to improve access to health care and to encourage healthy lifestyle choices.

The *HealthyKansas* public policy goals include:

- 1) Contain costs by streamlining the health care system
- 2) Give small businesses an affordable health insurance option
- 3) Provide coverage and preventative care to Kansas children
- 4) Establish a pilot project for children of low-income state employees
- 5) Provide coverage to low-wage, working parents
- 6) Provide access to lower-cost prescription drugs
- 7) Help Kansans get and stay healthy
- 8) Dedicated health care assessment on tobacco products

NEW PROGRAM WILL TRAIN ORAL HEALTH LEADERS IN THE STATE

Oral Health Kansas has received a \$200,000 grant from United Methodist Health Ministry Fund and Kansas Health Foundation to cultivate and train oral health leaders in Kansas.

Participants will gain improved leadership skills, personal development training, planning and organizational skills, and up-to-date information about the oral health scene in Kansas and nationwide.

Program participants will be chosen through a competitive application process.

Watch future issues of *Oral Health News* for more information.

*Oral Health Kansas:
Making oral health
a priority in Kansas
. . .because it matters!*

*Oral Health Kansas
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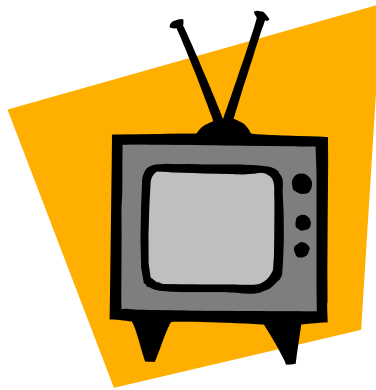
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TELEVISION ADS WILL FEATURE AN IMPORTANT ORAL HEALTH MESSAGE



Kansas Action for Children will begin airing television advertisements discussing the importance of a child's oral health in his/her ability to learn. The ads are part of a multi-communications strategy to raise awareness about oral health.

Three ads will be shown, two featuring children talking about oral disease and its affect on their ability to concentrate and complete their work. The third ad features local healthcare experts. The main message

of the ads is that oral disease is the number one chronic disease in children and that without oral health, kids aren't healthy.

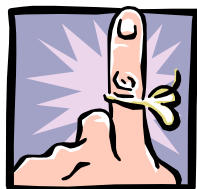
The ads will begin running next week in the Wichita, Kansas City and Topeka markets and will feature a website that will also be available to the public beginning next week, www.yourmouthmatters.org.

DON'T FORGET. . .SALINA MISSION OF MERCY

The next Mission of Mercy free dental clinic will be held in Salina from February 18-20 at the Bi-Centennial Center. The dental clinic is sponsored by the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation.

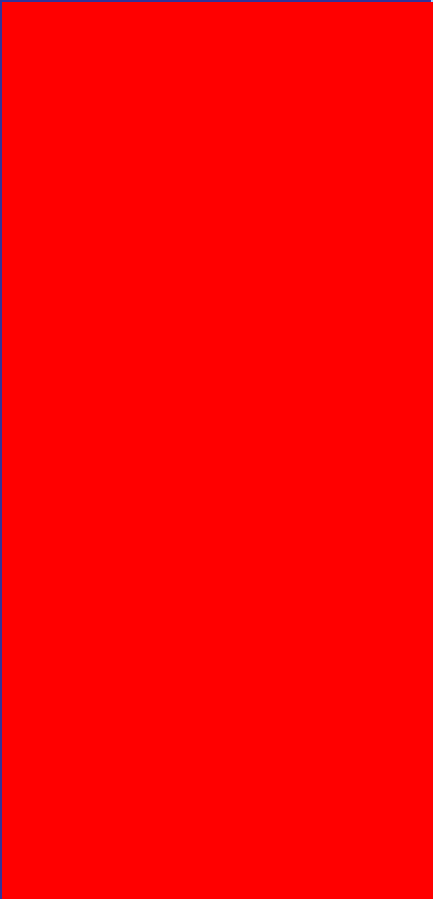
To get more information about volunteering at the Mission of Mercy, please visit www.ksdental.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ORAL HEALTH "DAY ON THE HILL"



In celebration of Children's Dental Health Month, Oral Health Advocacy Day will be held at the Kansas Capitol on February 8, 2005.

OHK is hosting a breakfast reception for legislators and staff starting at 7 a.m. and will follow the breakfast with a press conference at 9:30 a.m. in the Capitol. At the press conference, we will release the



workforce policy recommendations that result from the workforce summit being held on January 20-21.

Following the press conference, there will be a meeting about children's oral health, bringing together those around the state who are working to keep children cavity-free so they enter school ready to learn. For more information about the children's oral health meeting, call Rebecca Scott, Cowley County Tiny Teeth, at 620.442.1000.

Please join us and take the opportunity to visit with your legislator about oral health and the public policy initiatives of Oral Health Kansas.