



# Oral Health News

October 12, 2004

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*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

## OHK WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Two new members were recently added to the Oral Health Kansas (OHK) Board of Directors: Denise Maseman, Wichita, and Dr. Daniel Minnis, Pittsburg.

Denise Maseman, a Registered Dental Hygienist, is the current Chairperson of the Dental Hygiene Department at Wichita State University. Maseman has 30 years of clinical dental hygiene experience and over 20 years experience in dental hygiene education.

Dr. Minnis has been a general dentist for 15 years and owns his own practice, Accent Dental. Minnis is the past president of the Southeast Kansas Dental District as well as of the Pittsburg Dental Society. Most recently, Minnis served as the Chairman of the Pittsburg Mission of Mercy, which provided hundreds of individuals with free dental care last spring.

## "DENTAL CHAMPION" AWARD TO KMOM

The Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) Project and the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation were honored with the first annual "Dental Champion" award during the OHK annual meeting in September.

The KMOM project has so far successfully operated three free dental clinics in Garden City, Kansas City and Pittsburg. Over 6,550 people have received free dental care at these clinics, many of them standing in line for hours to be seen by a dental professional.

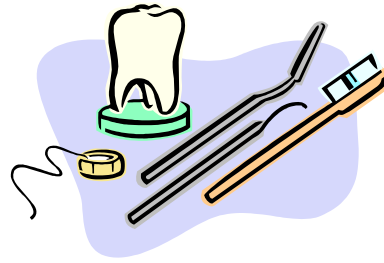
The most recent KMOM, held in Pittsburg April 30-May 2, provided over \$900,000 worth of free dental care to over 2,100 patients. In total, KMOM has given over \$2.2 million in dental care to children and adults who either do not have dental insurance or do not have access to dental care.

The Missions of Mercy have highlighted the extreme problems Kansas is experiencing in the area of access to oral health care.

The next Mission of Mercy will be held in Salina from February 18-20, 2005. It takes nearly 900 volunteers (dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and other community and medical volunteers) to make each project a success.



## COORDINATOR BEGINS WORK ON EXPANDED PRACTICE ACT PROJECT



On September 1, Oral Health Kansas began a contract with Marcia Manter to coordinate an 18-month project that will help dental professionals and community organizations understand how to utilize the Expanded Practice Act. Passed during the 2003 Legislative Session, the Act allows dentists

to sponsor hygienists to work in an expanded practice setting, such as a nursing home, school, correctional facility, Head Start program or health department.

Manter's expertise is in community development and oral health. As a development specialist in Region VII -- Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska -- she has worked with state Dental Directors, dentists, hygienists, and early childhood specialists to improve access to care and increase parent involvement in children's oral health practices. She currently serves as a member of the ASTDD/Head Start Task Force to recommend federal policies and strategies to increase access to quality oral health services for children.

Manter also coordinates another oral health project, the Kansas Head Start Early Head Start Oral Health Initiative. In this role, she is helping to create a statewide system to ensure that EHS infants and toddlers reach age three cavity-free.

Under this project, Manter will develop a "how-to" manual and toolkit and will provide training and technical assistance to assist hygienists, dentists and expanded practice settings to implement new service delivery systems.

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

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## KAN BE HEALTHY CURRENTLY DEVELOPING ORAL HEALTH CURRICULUM

*Note: At the Oral Health Kansas Annual Meeting, there was some discussion regarding oral health and the KAN Be Healthy screening process. This is intended as a follow-up to that conversation.*

As a federal entitlement, children who are covered by Medicaid must have access to annual Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) health care services, including medical, dental, vision and hearing. Dental benefits include an annual exam and six month cleaning. In Kansas, this service is called KAN Be Healthy (KBH).

The current Registered Nurse (RN) training for KBH includes a section on dental screening. During the KBH screen, providers (i.e. physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and registered nurses) perform an exam of the oral cavity and refer for necessary treatment and/or corrective action from a participating dentist. The RN curriculum is currently being developed to support providers in completing the dental screening process.

For more information, or to assist in the development of the RN dental screening curriculum, contact Mary Kopp, KAN Be Healthy Nurse Training Program Coordinator, Washburn University, at 785.231.1010 x 2615, or by email at [mary.kopp@washburn.edu](mailto:mary.kopp@washburn.edu).

For more information on KMAP, please visit <https://www.kmap-state-ks.us/> or contact Greta Hamm, KBH Program Manager at SRS [geh@srskansas.org](mailto:geh@srskansas.org).

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## KPHA CREATES ORAL HEALTH SECTION



At the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) annual conference in September, members voted to create a new section on oral health.

The goal of this section is to raise the level of awareness of oral health need in the state within the context of public health. Members want a break-out session on oral health at next year's annual conference.

For more information, contact the section Chair, Dawn McGlasson, at 785.296.1314, or by email at [dmglass@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:dmglass@kdhe.state.ks.us).