



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

# Oral Health Kansas E-newsletter

March 23, 2004

Volume 1, Number 3

**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**

## **2004 Legislative Update**

### **Dental Director:**

The House Appropriations Committee approved the Kansas Department of Health and Environment subcommittee report on March 11. The budget committee recognized in its report that a Dental Director could be beneficial to improving oral health in Kansas. Although the committee supported the Dental Director, no funding was added for the position. The budget committee recommended the issue of funding be considered at Omnibus.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee also acknowledged the importance of a Dental Director position and actually included the state general funds necessary to make it happen.

Because the House and Senate Committees did not agree on funding for the Dental Director position, this item will be debated during a joint House/Senate Conference Committee. Conference Committee negotiations will likely begin next week.

### **Adult Medicaid Dental Services:**

Currently Kansas does not offer comprehensive dental care to adults receiving Medicaid. When these individuals want or need dental services, they must either pay for services out of pocket, ignore the issue or utilize the safety net clinic system, which can be difficult to access because of a lack of resources.

Last week, the Senate Subcommittee on the Social and Rehabilitation Services budget recognized the lack of access to dental care in its report and encouraged SRS to pursue opportunities to partner with community-based programs, such as the Kansas Dental Association Mission of Mercy, to increase access to care for underserved individuals.

### **Fluoridation:**

The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee in early March devoted three days to SB 530, which is a bill that would require currently non-fluoridated communities to add fluoride to their water systems.

The bill has not yet been worked by the Committee.

## **Oral Health Funding Opportunity**

Recognizing the need to address oral health issues in this state, Delta Dental Plan of Kansas recently established the Delta Dental Plan of Kansas

Foundation—a philanthropy dedicated to improving oral health for all Kansans.

The goals of the Foundation are to increase access to dental care for underserved populations, build the capacity to provide dental care, increase public awareness of oral health and promote the prevention of oral disease.

The Foundation has begun its work by offering grants to four projects:

- Community Health Council of Wyandotte County, Inc., WyCare
- Oral Health Kansas, Inc.
- Kansas Mission of Mercy
- Kansas Children’s Service League

For more information on funding opportunities for oral health through the Delta Dental Plan of Kansas Foundation, visit the Foundation’s website at [www.deltadentalksfoundation.org](http://www.deltadentalksfoundation.org).

## **National Oral Health Conference**



The National Oral Health Conference will be held this year in Los Angeles from May 3-5. Preconference sessions will be held from April 30-May 2. The theme of this year’s conference is “Lights, Camera, Call to Action: Spotlight on Oral Health”. Session presentations will reference the U.S. Surgeon General’s Call to Action Steps.

For more information, visit [www.aaphd.org](http://www.aaphd.org) or [www.astdd.org](http://www.astdd.org).

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

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## Become a Member

*Please join us in improving the oral health status of all Kansas citizens.*

### Privileges of membership:

- Opportunity to participate in the OHK annual meeting.
- Subscription to the OHK electronic newsletter, which includes information on state and national oral health initiatives and activities as well as legislative updates and alerts throughout the legislative session.
- Legislative, Executive and Administrative Branch and community advocacy representation.
- Opportunity to participate in coalition committees and other work groups.
- Discounted rates for OHK training and/or other events or educational opportunities.

### Types of membership:

- **Sustaining Member (Above \$500):** Consider making an additional gift to Oral Health Kansas to support us in achieving our mission.
- **Corporate Member (\$500):** Open to for-profit entities, corporations, businesses, consultants, vendors or institutions that support oral health issues or provide oral health services.
- **Associate Member (\$100):** Open to not-for-profit or public entities or organizations that support oral health projects or provide oral health services.
- **Individual Member (\$25):** Open to any individual who is interested in oral health issues (ex. individual dentists or hygienists, consumers, or other interested parties).

*To receive a copy of the membership application, please contact the OHK office. To download an application, please visit <http://www.kpha.bluestep.net>.*

## Coalition Description

Oral Health Kansas is a coalition of members committed to improving the oral health status of all Kansas Citizens. With support from major contributors, membership dues and other donations, the coalition has its focus in five strategic areas:

- Prevention
- Access to oral health care
- Oral health leadership
- Oral health status
- Developing a dental workforce

In 2003, interested parties from around the state identified critical issues which warranted a more coordinated effort to considerably improve the oral health status of Kansans. Oral Health Kansas, Inc. was born of this group's efforts.

Oral Health Kansas needs each of you in its effort to bring a level of awareness and credibility to oral health issues which has not previously existed in our state.

By bringing our collective voices together, we *can* make a difference in the oral health of all Kansans!



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## Contact Us

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