



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Oral Health News

April 26, 2005

Vol. 2 No. 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

2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

The Legislature reconvenes on April 27 to consider the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, and will likely wrap up the 2005 session by the weekend. Although, it may be necessary for Legislators to come back to town for a special session, pending the Supreme Court's review of the school finance plan passed earlier in the session.

2005 Actions Worthy of Note:

- At the end of March, the Senate passed **SB 306**, which is the Kansas Health Policy Authority bill. This is the Senate's version of the Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) that the Governor proposed earlier in the session. If SB 306 eventually passes, it will establish a new state agency within the executive branch of state government with responsibility to "develop and maintain a coordinated health policy agenda that combines effective purchasing and administration of health care with health promotion oriented public health strategies". The aim of the Authority is "to improve the health of the people of Kansas by increasing the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of health care services and public health programs". This is a fairly significant reorganization of the way in which health care is addressed in the state.
- **Senate Bill 91** has been approved by the Governor. This bill addresses dental board fees, but also addresses the regulation of mobile dental facilities and portable dental operations. In order to operate a mobile dental facility or portable dental operation, the operator must be authorized to do so and must possess a current registration issued by the Kansas Dental Board.
- **Senate Bill 154** has also been approved by the Governor. This bill requires the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to develop nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages available to students in Kansas public schools. The bill specifically asks KSDE to seek input from stakeholders in creating guidelines that address nutrition, physical activity and wellness education with the goal of preventing childhood obesity. School districts are encouraged to take these guidelines into consideration when adopting their own wellness policies.

To see the full text of any of the bills listed above, visit www.kslegislature.org.

EDUCATION TASK TEAM

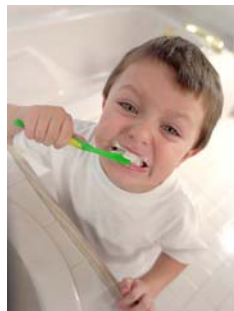
For several months an education task team made up of OHK coalition members has been meeting to discuss oral health educational opportunities in the state.

Through an informal survey process, the task team discovered very little information is being taught in school districts about good oral health and proper hygiene. In response, the team has collected oral health curricula from several other states and a private company and is currently in the process of reviewing them. There has also been discussion with several other states on how they implemented oral health curriculum into their local school districts.



Oral Health Kansas provided testimony to the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) at a public meeting held in March to comment on the proposed state health standards. The current draft of the standards makes no mention of oral health, so OHK proposed indicators and teaching examples that would place some emphasis on the topic. In addition, Oral Health Kansas is working with the KSDE Wellness Policy Team to again place some emphasis on oral health in the proposed nutrition, nutrition education and wellness policies currently being developed by the Department in response to SB 154 (see above).

NEW CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH GROUP FORMED



In February, Kansas Head Start Association (KHSA) invited a group of organizations across the state with a vested interest in preventing early childhood caries to a work session in Topeka.

As a result of the work session, the group agreed to form a children's oral health committee, which would become part of the structure of Oral Health Kansas.

The group's mission statement is as follows: *Individuals working together as part of Oral Health Kansas to meet and exceed the Healthy People 2010 indicators of children's oral health.*

A second meeting of the group is planned for sometime this summer. For more information, contact Rebecca Scott, Cowley County Tiny Teeth, at 620-442-1000.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: KANSAS DENTAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation (KDCF) is pleased to announce a grant opportunity for community-based dental projects.

The KDCF is interested in community-based programs, in particular, those that are innovative in nature and extend beyond the traditional dental community and utilize partnerships within the community.

Grant awards are usually between \$500 and \$2,000 per project.

For more information, visit the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation website at www.ksdentalfoundation.org, or call Greg Hill at 785.272.7469.

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

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*To unsubscribe to this newsletter,
please e-mail us at the address
listed above and type
"unsubscribe" in the subject line.*

OUR OFFICE HAS MOVED

As of April 1, the Oral Health Kansas office location moved to:

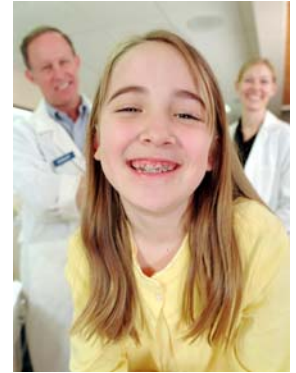
800 SW Jackson St., Ste. 1312
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Phone and fax remain the same:

785.235.6039 (phone)
785.233.5564 (fax)

New e-mail address:

ohks@oralhealthkansas.org



Oral Health Kansas will be launching a new website in the next few weeks. The site will be located at www.oralhealthkansas.org. We'll let you all know when the site goes live!

BECOME A MEMBER

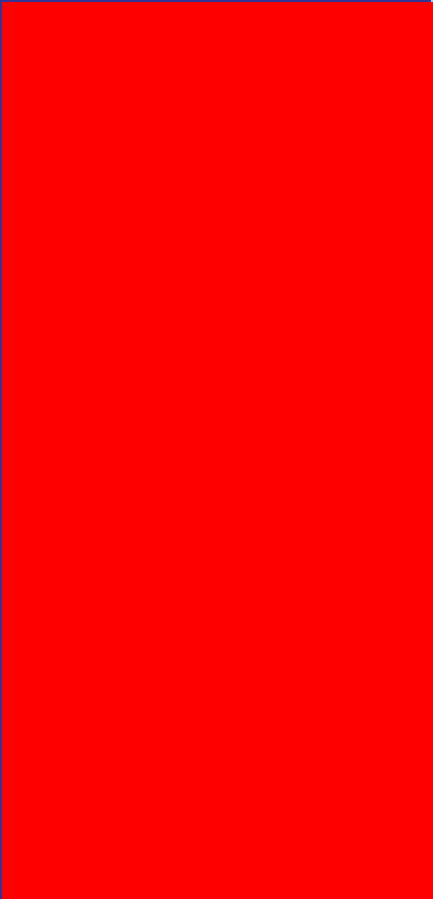
Please join us in improving the oral health status of all Kansas citizens.

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.

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- **Individual Member (\$25):** Open to any individual who is interested in oral health issues (ex. individual dentists or hygienists, consumers, or other interested parties).

Please contact the OHK office for a membership application.