



# Oral Health News

June 9, 2005

Vol. 2 No. 4

## 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 LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

You can now visit Oral Health Kansas on the Web! Our address is [www.oralhealthkansas.org](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org).

Our website is packed with information about the coalition, our activities and priorities as well as photos, a calendar of events, resources and archives of our e-newsletters and testimony.

Funding for the website was provided by Delta Dental Plan of Kansas Foundation.

Check it out today!

## DATES SET FOR ANNUAL ORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Oral Health Kansas Annual Conference will be held September 29-October 1 in Hutchinson at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center, home of the Kansas Splashdown Indoor Waterpark.

The theme of this year's conference is *Working Together for a Healthier Smile*.

Mark Siegal, DDS, Ohio State Dental Director, has been invited to attend as the keynote speaker.

Other sessions have been planned on advocacy, disability and aging concerns, workforce as well as pregnancy and early childhood carries.

Keep an eye on your mailbox for registration information!

In the meantime, contact Teresa Schwab at 785.235.6039 for more information, or visit our website at [www.oralhealthkansas.org](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org).



## LEGISLATURE APPROVES ORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE



At the end of the 2005 legislative session, Oral Health Kansas requested the formation of a legislative task force to develop strategies to increase access to affordable dental services for low-income adults.

Language was included in the Omnibus Bill to approve the task force, which will be convened under the direction of the Office of Oral Health within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The task force will be required to report back to the 2006 legislature.

## DENTAL CHAMPIONS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED

Oral Health Kansas recently created a leadership program with the financial support of United Methodist Health Ministry Fund and Kansas Health Foundation.

An advisory committee has just finalized the participant selection process, and the following individuals have been chosen to participate in the 2005 Dental Champions Leadership Class:

- Cheryl Baldwin, RN, Garden City
- Frank Blacknall, DDS, Kansas City
- Shannon Cotsoradis, Topeka
- Janette Delinger, RDH, Lansing
- Doug Farmer, Topeka
- Mark Herzog, DDS, Ellsworth
- Kathy Hunt, RDH, Wamego
- Jarrod Jones, DDS, Hays
- Dawn McGlasson, RDH, Topeka
- Sean McReynolds, DDS, Humboldt
- Kevin Robertson, Topeka
- David Sanford, Wichita
- Teresa Schwab, Topeka
- Rebecca Scott, Arkansas City
- Brenda Sharpe, Merriam
- Maggie Smet, RDH, Newton
- Sharon Tidwell, Emporia

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- Marlou Wegener, Topeka
  - Jason Wesco, Topeka

The class will participate in extensive leadership and advocacy skills training starting this month and ending next February, when the whole class will volunteer at the Kansas Mission of Mercy in Wichita.

*Congratulations!*

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

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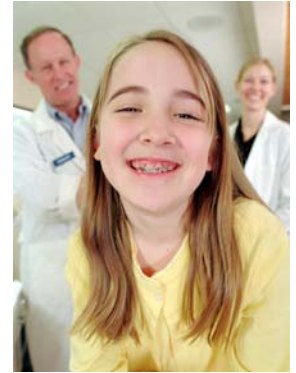
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## SAVE THE SAFETY NET CAMPAIGN

At the recent Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) conference, the National Association of Community Health Centers discussed a new grassroots campaign regarding Medicaid called Save the Safety Net.



Following is some background information about the campaign taken from their website at [www.savethesafetynet.org](http://www.savethesafetynet.org):

The Save the Safety Net Campaign is a nationwide effort by community health centers and other safety net providers and advocacy groups to protect and preserve the safety net provided by the Medicaid program. Working with the Administration, Congress, and affected constituency groups through a media and grassroots outreach, education, and advocacy effort, the campaign seeks to raise awareness about the vital role played by Medicaid in providing necessary health care services for more than 51 million Americans.

Presently, rising healthcare costs, increasing numbers of uninsured, a federal deficit of more than \$400 billion and pressures to increase spending on other federal and state priorities are driving legislative and administrative activity in Washington and state capitols to change Medicaid in ways that could dramatically alter the goals and structure of the program.

Medicaid is too important a program to fail, and no matter how lawmakers proceed in restructuring the program, the Save the Safety Net Campaign will be a voice to ensure that policymakers, working in a bipartisan manner, protect public health and access to care, while assuring that Medicaid continues its crucial role as a strong safety net for vulnerable Americans.

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## BECOME AN OHK MEMBER TODAY

*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).

*You can download a membership application from our website at [www.oralhealthkansas.org](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org).*