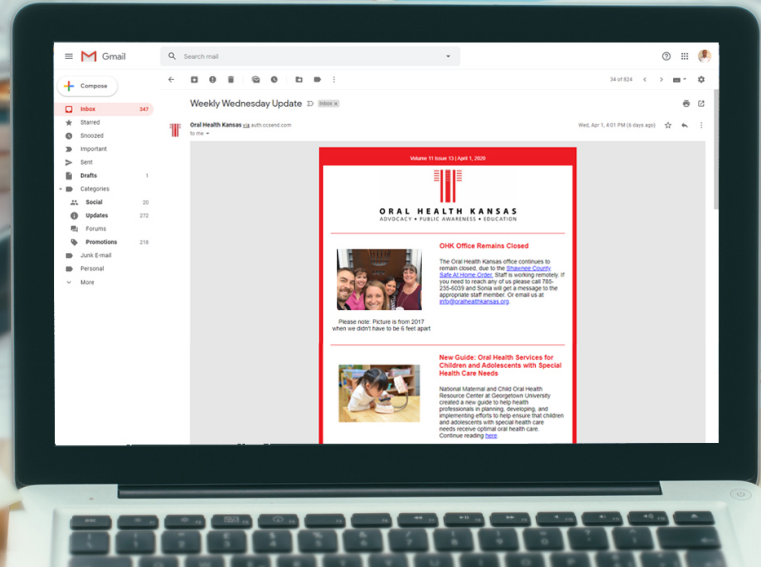




WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

October 8, 2025

Volume 16, Issue 39

Scan the QR code



or click here to
sign up for our
**Weekly
Wednesday
Update.**



Uniting Minds, Driving Change at the Conference on Oral Health

Hear from Kansas speakers and national speakers at the Conference on Oral Health. The all-day conference will be held on Friday, November 7 with virtual and in-person opportunities. Meet us at the KU Edwards Campus, BEST

Conference Center, 12600 S Quivira Rd in Overland Park. **This year the sessions are shorter!** This

allows participants an experience where they can attend a wider range of topics and speakers on the same day. Breakfast will begin at 7:30am CST with sessions beginning at 8:30am.

- State of the State of Oral Health in Kansas
- Accessible Oral Health: Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities
- Fluoride in Kansas: Trends, Policies, and Public Health Impact
- KEYNOTE: Positive Exposure by Rick Guidotti
- Providing Thoughtful Care for People Who've Experienced Trauma
- Pathways to Oral Health: A Collaborative Approach to Improving Access to Medicaid Dental Care

Three Breakout Sessions – Community Approaches to Meeting Community Needs

- A Dental Hygiene Approach to Community Outreach
- Dental Care for Veterans
- Integrating Dental Care into Medical Care

Register to attend! Click here to find more information about the conference including registration: <https://www.oralhealthkansas.org/Conference.html>. If you run into problems during registration, please call 316-978-6493.

Attendee Rate - \$125

Student Rate - \$20

Walk-up Attendee - \$150

Walk-up Student - \$25

5.75 CE's will be available!

Hotel: Courtyard Kansas City Olathe

12151 South Strang Line Ct.

Olathe, Kansas 66062

\$145 plus taxes. **Please book by October 16.**

Book at this [link](#) or by calling 1-888-236-2427. Group name: Conference on Oral Health

If you're interested in sponsoring the event, we would be grateful! We have different sponsor levels which include free conference registration spots. Learn more about the levels [here](#) and register your sponsorship [here](#) or if you want to exhibit.



How To Win a Free Conference Registration

Hop on over to our [Facebook](#) and find out how you can win a free conference registration for Friday, November 7 to the Conference on Oral Health!



Kathy Hunt



Abby Richwine

Dental Hygiene Month

Dental Hygiene Month is an annual observance held in October to raise awareness about the importance of oral health and the role of dental hygienists. This year's theme, "The Power of Us," reflects how united dental hygiene communities can create lasting change for the profession and the communities served.

Hygienists are more than someone who cleans your teeth. They are observant of your health by examining every part of your mouth to include, teeth, gums, tongue and throat. They are also individuals making a difference in their communities. Dental hygienists are seen volunteering at events providing dental care to families or presenting at conferences.

Oral Health Kansas has two dental hygienists on staff. Kathy Hunt, RDH, ECPII and Abby Richwine, RDH, BS, provide oral health education to various groups such as dental hygiene students, dental students, middle schools and clinics just to name a few! They're the ones that give their expertise on our educational materials. They understand the importance of public health in the dental world.

If you want to learn more about integrating public health and oral health, check out our information for the [Conference on Oral Health](#) coming up November 7! It's an opportunity for 5.75 CE's.



Elevating Voices: How SACK Leads Advocacy for Kansans with Disabilities

SACK (Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas) is a [Pathways to Oral Health](#) project partner and this week's blog spotlight. SACK has long been a driving force for change, ensuring that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are not only heard, but included in the decisions that affect their daily

lives.

Dental care is one area where inequities are particularly visible. Shane Lewis, a SACK advocate, shared his personal challenges with long waiting lists and difficulty finding providers who accept Medicaid. Angie Reinking, Executive Director of the ARC of Douglas County, echoed that even in Lawrence "a sizable community" there are too few Medicaid dental providers, especially for adults.

Angie explained, oral health is not just about teeth: "It impacts employment, confidence, relationships, and overall quality of life." That's why Pathways to Oral Health values its partnership with SACK. Together, we are working to ensure that dental care is recognized as an essential part of health for all Kansans.

Read the [full blog](#) on the Pathways to Oral Health project website.



Lived Experience Advisory Group Share Personal Stories with Students

OHK Education Coordinator, Abby Richwine, and members of the Lived Experience Advisory Group visited Flint Hills Technical College in Emporia to present to the dental hygiene students about the lived experiences of people with disabilities such as the challenges and barriers they face. The students heard powerful firsthand stories from Stephanie Coleman and Melanie Jacobs, two members from the [Lived Experience Advisory Group](#). The presentation offered students practical tools, such as the [My Dental Care Passport](#), to better support and treat individuals with disabilities.

The Lived Experience Advisory Group members will continue to visit dental and dental hygiene students across Kansas to share their stories.



Partnership Creates ECPIII Scholarships

Community Care Network of Kansas in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Oral Health, announce applications are open for six full scholarships to the University of Missouri-Kansas City, School of Dentistry (UMKC SOD) Extended Care Permit (ECP) III Course that meets Kansas Dental Board requirements. ECP III course equips Dental Hygienists, under the sponsorship of a dentist, to expand their scope of practice to treat patients in a variety of outreach and public health locations including schools, long-term care facilities, and more.

- The next ECP III course begins on February 2, 2026, and ends May 2, 2026. The course features:
- 24/7 online access to 12 topic modules
- Discussion board and posting with other participants
- Full semester to complete all 12 modules
- One-day, in-person lab at the UMKC School of Dentistry (5/2/2026 from 8am to 3pm at UMKC SOD)

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is November 1, 2025. Notice of Award will be on November 10, 2025. For more information contact Treva Smith tsmith@communitycareks.org.

National Primary Care Week

During National Primary Care Week is celebrated October 5-11. Our primary care physicians know us almost as well as we know ourselves. They look at every aspect of our body, including our mouths. It's



important to recognize how oral health plays a vital role in overall wellness. Primary care providers are often the first to spot signs of oral disease that may indicate broader health issues like diabetes, heart disease, or infections. By strengthening the connection between dental and primary care, we can promote earlier detection, prevention, and better outcomes for patients. This week is a reminder that a healthy smile isn't just cosmetic—it's an essential part of total health.

The [100 Million Mouths Campaign](#) is a national project that has identified oral champions in selected states to work with their health schools (e.g. medical schools, physician assistant schools, obstetrical residencies, nurse practitioner schools, etc.) to integrate oral health into their curricula. This in turn will produce medical professionals who realize that the mouth affects overall health and the importance of including oral health in conversations with their patients. Kansas was selected as one of the first 14 states to promote this campaign. Over the next decade, this project will create oral health champions in each state. Learn more [here](#)



Upcoming Events

- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- The Conference on Oral Health will be held Friday, November 7 at the KU Edwards Campus. Click [here](#) for updates on the conference.
- SPEAK Up! (Self-Advocates Promoting Empowerment and Access in Kansas) conference on Saturday, November 8. Click [here](#) for information.



The Pathways to Oral Health project partners have been busy! From the recent “Making Medicaid Work for You” webinar series that provided information for dental clinics interested in becoming Medicaid providers, to the Accessible Oral Health series, providing “Feeling Good About Your smile programs across the state, and publishing the third edition of the My Dental Care Passport, Pathways has been providing a lot of information and



resources. Pathways partners will be on a panel at the [Conference on Oral Health](#) to share the work that's been done, the future of the project and how you can get involved.



Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Display's available for reservations. These displays are eye catching at exhibits, schools, library, dental offices, clinics and just about anywhere you see them! We only have a limited amount so please sign up soon if you're interested in reserving one. Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

Follow Us



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