



## 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](#).

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**Weekly  
Wednesday  
Update.**



## There's a Spot for You! Register Now!

With just days away, the 2025 Conference on Oral Health will be making a debut! This year has been impactful in Kansas and nationally, so we're ready to show you what has kept us so busy and all the partnerships we have created along the way. We hope you find the topics captivating!

New this year! We're providing three breakout sessions to allow you to choose a topic that you want to learn more about. But you can only choose one! (Please note: Our previous planned session, Dental Care for Veterans, has been canceled).

### **Breakout Sessions in the afternoon: Community Approaches to Meeting Community Needs**

- **Expanding Impact: How Dental Hygienists can Lead Community Outreach**

Kylie Austin, RDH MS ECP-III, UMKC School of Dentistry; Tammi Engel, RDH, ECP-III, Northwest Smile Center; Kathy Hunt, RDH, ECP-II, Oral Health Kansas

- **Dental Care for Individuals with Disabilities: Behavioral Strategies to Improve Patient Experience and Cooperation**

Christie Stiehl, BCBA, Stiehl Behavioral Consulting, LLC; MaryAnne Lynch Small, MPH, BDS, Oral Health Kansas

- **Integrating Dental Care into Medical Care**

Celeste Carpenter, RDH BS ECP III, Swope Health; Shawn Oprisiu, RDH, BS ECP III, Swope Health; Julie Thiesen, RDH BS ECP III, Swope Health, Abigail Richwine, RDH, BS, Oral Health Kansas

### **State of the State of Oral Health in Kansas**

Stuart Little, PhD, Little Government Relations; Rep. Allen Reavis, DDS, Tanya Dorf Brunner, MS, Oral Health Kansas

### **Accessible Oral Health: Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities**

Jaqueline Belden, MLS, KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth University of Kansas Medical Center

### **Fluoride in Kansas: Trends, Policies, and Public Health Impact**

Melissa Burroughs, BA, CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

### **KEYNOTE: Positive Exposure by Rick Guidotti**

### **Providing Thoughtful Care for People Who've Experienced Trauma**

Trina Morgan, BEd, MOL, Kansas Children's Service League

### **Pathways to Oral Health: A Collaborative Approach to Improving Access to Medicaid Dental Care**

Tim Kolling, Compass Marketing & Advertising Partners, Oral Health Kansas Staff and Pathways Partners

**When:** Friday, November 7

Breakfast and registration begin at 7:30am CST. Sessions begin at 8:30am CST.

**Where:** Virtual or in person at KU Edwards Campus (BEST Conference Room), 12600 S Quivira Rd, Overland Park

The opportunity to earn 5.75 CE's is available!

YES! You can still register. Register at this [link](#) and find out more information about the conference.



of the best ways to engage with policymakers. Along the way, the students learned how valuable dental professionals are as oral health advocates and experts in their communities. Students brainstormed the barriers people face in accessing dental care. This word cloud shows their insight is keen. This class of students is learning a lot and will be ready to advocate for their communities and ensure their future patients and neighbors have every opportunity to maintain good oral health.



## FDA Limits Fluoride Supplements for Children Under Age 3

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced on October 31 its recommendation that ingestible fluoride drug products should not be given to children under age three or any child at low or moderate risk for tooth decay despite the effectiveness fluoride supplements have shown to be effective. In a recent statement from the American Dental Association states:

“The research shows that daily use of fluoride tablets or drops at home are a safe and effective way to strengthen teeth and prevent cavities in children who are at high risk for tooth decay and whose water is deficient in fluoride,” said Richard J. Rosato, D.M.D., president of the American Dental Association. “A doctor’s clinical judgment, not a new warning label, should remain the guiding factor in determining appropriate fluoride use for children, ensuring both safety and access to essential oral health care.”

Fluoride supplements have been shown to be effective at reducing tooth decay and are one method for maintaining oral health when utilized daily in compliance with the proper dose. The first step before taking supplements is to determine the fluoride content in the drinking water (well or water system). Families in cities like Wichita that are not optimally fluoridated have long relied on fluoride supplements to keep their children’s teeth strong and healthy. This policy change could put children’s dental health at risk.

Oral health advocates from across the country are responding to the recommendations. You can read the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry’s response [here](#), the American Fluoridation Society’s response [here](#), and the American Dental Association’s full response statement [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](#).





- **Webinar:** Motivational Interviewing: How and Why to Collaborate with Patients, November 6 at 6:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- 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.

■ **Webinar:** The Oral Systemic Connection: The Importance of Oral Health in Patients with Intellectual or Developmental Disorders (IDD), December 9 at 6:00pm CST. Register [here](#).



Rick Guidotti is the Keynote Speaker for the 2025 Conference on Oral Health which is coming up on Friday, November 7. Rick will be coming to Kansas from New York City! We're so grateful he's coming to share his time with us

and conference participants! Rick is an award-winning photographer who worked in New York City, Milan, Paris and London for a variety of high profile clients including Yves St Laurent, Revlon and L'Oreal. Rick founded Positive Exposure after a chance encounter in 1997 with a young lady living with albinism at a bus stop in New York City, was taken back by her beauty and asked if he could photograph her.



Picture courtesy of Positive Exposure

[Here](#) is a glimpse of Rick's work. He photographed individuals with disabilities and their families while they shared some of their struggles accessing health care services and dental care.



## 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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