

## 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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or click here to sign up for our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#).



## Learn What to Tell Patients about VABs

Value Added Benefits (VABs) are extra perks offered by the three KanCare (Medicaid) managed care organizations (MCOs) on top of standard KanCare coverage. Each of the three managed care companies offers their own special benefits to people who join their plan. Dental offices can hear more about these patient benefits during a thirty-minute webinar on June

16 at 12:00 pm. All three MCOs, Healthy Blue, Sunflower Health Plan and United Healthcare, will discuss what each of them provides for their members. This is a great **FREE CE** opportunity for dental offices to learn more! You can register [here](#) at this link.

Oral Health Kansas, the Kansas Dental Association, and the Pathways to Oral Health team are hosting this event! If you have any questions, you can reach out to us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).



## Staff Heads to Capitol Hill to Meet with Congressional Delegates

Oral Health Kansas staff will travel this week to Washington, D.C. to advocate for several important oral health policy priorities. First, these include supporting [H.R. 210](#), the Dental Care for Veterans Act, which would make dental care a standard benefit for all veterans enrolled in the VA health system. Second, protecting access to essential oral health services by maintaining stable Medicaid funding, and lastly, supporting [S. 4008](#), the Promoting Dental Health Act, which would reauthorize funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oral Health Program for five years and help ensure oral health remains represented within federal agencies.

Thank you to the 29 organizations that signed on to our letter to the Kansas Congressional Delegation to prevent cuts to Medicaid dental care. We will be hand delivering it this week! You can view the letter with signatures [here](#).

Watch our [Weekly Wednesday Update](#) next week for an update on our visits!



## Finding a Dentist Webpage

We often get calls from individuals looking for a dentist. They may be insured or uninsured and don't know where to start. If you get similar calls, you can direct them to our [Finding a Dentist](#) webpage. This site has a section on [Community Dental Clinics](#), which are low-cost clinics. These clinics can offer dental care for people with KanCare (Medicaid), private insurance, or no insurance at all. We also have information on how to find a dentist

that [accepts KanCare \(Medicaid\)](#).

Every situation is unique, but this guidance can point you in the right direction. If you find a discrepancy in the information on the site, please email us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) so we can keep it updated.



## Recognizing Pride Month

June is Pride Month which commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York and celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, agender/asexual (LGBTQIA), and other gender/sexual identity communities and the fight for equal rights. It's also a time to educate communities on the inequities people in the LGBTQIA community experience. Fear of discrimination can deter LGBTQIA people from seeking regular dental check-ups and treatment. Dental practices can create welcoming environments for LGBTQIA patients, including non-discriminatory policies and inclusive language or having visible signs of support such as LGBTQIA friendly materials or symbols on display.

[My Dental Care Passport](#) is a useful resource for someone to fill out information about themselves, including gender and preferred pronouns before their dental appointment. An excellent way for dental providers to connect with their patients.

A [report](#) from CareQuest Institute for Oral Health and the American Institute on Disparities in Public Health provides a state-level analysis of transgender and cisgender queer people's access to dental care, general health indicators, oral health indicators, and social drivers of health. Some of the findings were:

- Utilizing dental care was strongly associated with people's general health, general health care utilization, mental health, and dental care utilization.
- Transgender adults consistently experience the highest rates of tooth loss, especially in states with exclusionary policies.
- LGBTQIA adults generally have better oral health outcomes than transgender adults but still face disparities compared to cisgender heterosexual adults.

Addressing oral health in the LGBTQIA community requires a multifaceted approach that includes education, access to care, and addressing underlying social determinants of health. By creating inclusive environments and providing tailored care, dental professionals can help reduce oral health disparities and improve overall health outcomes for LGBTQIA individuals.



## Register to Vote

The deadline to vote in Kansas is July 14. You can register to vote or update your voter registration to change address or name to be able to participate in the August 4, 2026, primary election and the Kansas general election on November 3, 2026. You can use the [Online Voter Registration Application](#) or [Print the Voter Registration Application](#). [View an unofficial list of candidates who have filed for other statewide offices on \[votekansas.gov\]\(http://votekansas.gov\)](#). [The list will remain unofficial until Monday, June 15.](#)

[Families Together, Inc.](#) shared an article from the ARC about [Voting Rights for People with Disabilities Who Have a Guardian](#). Some people think that any person with a guardian cannot vote but that is not the case. Having a guardian does not automatically take away your right to vote. A guardian is a person a court chooses to help someone make decisions. But even if you have a guardian, you may still be able to vote. If you are unsure if you can vote, you can always check with your [state or local election office](#).

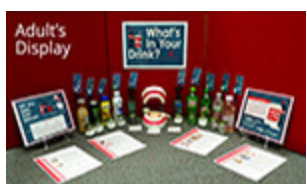


## Upcoming Events

- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- Community Care Network of Kansas annual conference, September 23-25 in Manhattan, Kansas. Learn more [here](#).
- Kansas Public Health Association Conference, October 5 - 6, 2026 in Manhattan. Click [here](#) for information.
- **Webinar:** Rutgers University offering Perinatal Oral Health ECHO Series. Check out the list of series [here](#).
- Save the date! The 2026 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 13 at the KU Edwards Campus.



Congratulations to Dental Champions Class 2 Alumna, Junetta Everett, who was recently named Women in Business Hall of Fame in the *Wichita Business Journal*. The *Wichita Business Journal's* 2026 Women in Business Awards honor female business professionals in our area who have created successful careers and improved their companies and their community. This is the 17th year of the Women in Business program, and this year 35 honorees were included.



## 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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