Cathy Taylor-Osborne, D.D.S., M.A., has been selected as the next director of the Bureau of Oral Health. She began her post at KDHE on March 21, 2014.

Most recently, Dr. Taylor served as the dental director of Cabot Westside Medical and Dental Center, a federally qualified health center in Kansas City, Mo. In 2011, she established a dental clinic during an extended mission trip to Bangalore, India. She received her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from University of Missouri-Kansas City and her Master of Arts in bioethics and health policy from Loyola University.

Dr. Taylor fills a vacancy created in September 2013 when Dr. Kathy Weno left KDHE for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta as the Division of Oral Health Director, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. In the interim, Jennifer Ferguson, KDHE’s Children’s Oral Health Program Manager, has served as the agency’s acting director of oral health.

Dr. Taylor practiced dental hygiene for 15 years before pursuing her DDS degree. At UMKC School of Dentistry, she was the American Student Dental Association delegate and received honors from the American Student Dental Association and American Association of Public Health Dentistry, as well as the National Society of Dental Practitioners’ Law and Ethics in Dentistry Award and the Warner-Lambert Preventative Dentistry Scholarship. Dr. Taylor operated her private practice in Overland Park, Kan., from 2001 to 2011. During that time, she served as a delegate to the Kansas Dental Association and in many roles in the Fifth District Dental Society, including president from 2008-2009. She was recognized as UMKC Dental Alumni Young Alumnus of the Year in 2004.
DENTAL CHAMPIONS
CLASS VII (.7)

Cathy Taylor-Osborne and Pam Smith have been participating in a year long Dental Champions Program. This is a leadership program developed by Oral Health Kansas. The program offers participants leadership and personal development training as well as other training focused on planning and organizational skills and up-to-date information about the oral health scene in Kansas and the nation. The purpose of Champions VII is to make progress on an issue that has perhaps the deepest impact on the oral health of all Kansans: community water fluoridation.

ETHICS IN DENTISTRY

“Fifty Shades of Dental Ethics” is underway in Kansas City! Dr. Cathy Taylor-Osborne, Director of the Bureau of Oral Health for KDHE, discusses situations during which ethical dilemmas arise in public and private dental practices. Her presentation includes ethical dilemmas that dentists may experience, a conflict resolution exercise and several case presentations. You can plan to attend the next event sponsored by the Kansas Dental Association on July 31st, at Great Wolf Lodge in Kansas City, KS.

Right: Cathy Taylor-Osborne & Mike McCunniff (UMKC-SOD) discuss public health at the NOHC conference in Kansas City.

Below: Cathy Taylor-Osborne presents “Ethical Considerations in Dentistry” to Kansas Dental Association in Kansas City on June 6, 2015.

Jenni represented BOH at the 26th Annual Statewide Summer Conference for Kansas School Nurses in Wichita, all to promote the KS Oral Health Screening Program to school nurses. BOH is expanding surveillance to include Pre-K to Grade 12. You can now access multiple levels of data at our website or https://khap.kdhe.state.ks.us/Public/KSOH/ksoh_report_public.aspx. Thank you to those who stopped by our booth! (pictured below) Kathy Hunt of Oral Health Kansas and Head Start, helps select the winners of the BOH table contest.
CMS ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

BOH has been selected as 1 of 5 states to participate in the CMS Oral Health Initiative. This initiative will increase CMS resources available to support states in their efforts to improve the delivery of dental and oral health services in Medicaid and CHIP. The two primary aims of this effort will increase by ten percentage points of Medicaid and CHIP children (age 1 to 20) who receive a dental service and a sealant on a permanent molar. BOH, Oral Health Kansas, Kansas Head Start, Kansas Medicaid Division and MCO’s have been working diligently to carve out a innovative plan. Kansas was recognized by the Medicaid State Dental Association as 1 in 3 states that is close to achieving aim one. You can read in more detail about this initiative at http://www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/CIB-07-10-2014.pdf

PRESS RELEASE: DENTAQUEST FOUNDATION’S ORAL HEALTH 2020 INITIATIVE GRANT FOR KANSAS

BOH in collaboration with 7 other public health organizations constructed a proposal to land a $570,000 grant to improve the oral health for all Kansans. Some of the initial activities will include a Head Start Basic Screening Survey to gain a baseline for early childhood caries (ECC) and a pilot program to promote school oral health screenings, school sealant programs, ECP III equipment grants and licensure and educational platforms for oral health in the classroom. Watch for statewide opportunities to become involved with this initiative. For more information about this announcement http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/pdf/WWU/NewOpportunity_5-5-2015.pdf

KANSAS STATE ORAL HEALTH PLAN 2015-2017 WEBSITE

Oral Health Kansas and Bureau of Oral Health along with over 60 key stakeholder across the state, developed the Kansas State Oral Health Plan for 2015-2017. The plan represents four goals that will make a difference in the prevention and treatment of oral disease of all Kansans. The four target areas outlined are Financing, Oral Health Literacy, System Collaboration & Workforce. Each of these target areas are supported by objectives and strategies. You can now view the full State Oral Health Plan online at http://www.kansasoralhealthplan.org/.

NOTES FROM BOH

Do you know a dental health professional that would like to volunteer for the Kansas Oral Health Screening Program? Take the online course for calibration on KS-TRAIN and contact us to find out how to get started or just refresh your screening skills! https://ks.train.org/DesktopModules/eLearning/CourseDetails/CourseDetailsForm.aspx?tabid=62&courseid=1029736&backURL=L0Rlc2t0b3BTaGVsbC5hY2hlc2Fpbi5tb2Jtb3N0P3RhYmlkPTU0JmdvdG89YXNjcmVzaWQ9Ym90aCZsb2NhbD1hbGxvdyZ0MjImY2xpbmU9aW50aW51bWVudF9xdWVzdCZ0LTkvYm90aCZyZWRpcmF0aW9uPTA=&ncb=1

CDC & HHS showcase new website; Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI 2015) is an interactive web application that produces health profiles for all 3,143 counties in the United States. Each profile includes key indicators of health outcomes, which describe the population health status of a county and factors that have the potential to influence health outcomes, such as health care access and quality, health behaviors, social factors and the physical environment.

http://www.cdc.gov/communityhealth
CONCLUSION OF THE 2014—2015 KANSAS SCHOOL SEALANT PROGRAM

In the summer of 2014, Jenni planned a tour of thirteen school sealant outreach program in Kansas, over the course of four months. This was an opportunity to introduce the new Dental Director and have her become familiar with the sealant sites. Each site was able to have a one-on-one with the Dental Director and Children’s Oral Health Manager. It was also a unique opportunity for each site to showcase their clinic, growth capacity and the intentions of their programs. During this time, KBOH discussed the ability to match sealant funding with Medicaid funding. If the clinics were able to find their own non-federal funding for their sealant programs and divert those fund through KBOH, we would be able to have that money doubled. Since those site visits, KBOH has been able to double $105,000 non-federal dollars, for a grand total of $210,000 for the Kansas School Sealant Program.

The preliminary numbers from the 2014-15 Kansas School Sealant Program are shaping up to be very successful. In spite of the loss of HRSA funding, each program has continued to provide useful data to KBOH. Jenni is feverishly entering the data. With multiple schools still to enter, Jenni currently has;

387 Schools
15,544 Prophy’s
18,692 Fluoride Treatments
3,969 First Molar Sealants
1,000 Other Molar Sealants
20,852 Total Sealants And still counting!!!

Even with the loss of funding through HRSA and staffing changes, the sealant program has maintained the momentum that has been developed in recent years. Congratulations to all for what is anticipated to be a very successful year for the Kansas School Sealant Program!

HHS ISSUES FINAL RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

On April 27th, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services today released the final Public Health Service (PHS) recommendation for the optimal fluoride level in drinking water to prevent tooth decay. The new recommendation is for a single level of 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water. It updates and replaces the previous recommended range (0.7 to 1.2 milligrams per liter) issued in 1962. This recommendations will apply only to public water systems that ‘adjust’ fluoride upward for the prevention of tooth decay. Kansas Department of Health and Environment, BOH and Bureau of Water had suggested in January 2011, that Kansas water systems fluoridate their water at the lower end of the range (0.7 ppm). These recommendations do not change the primary MCL (4.0ppm/L) and secondary SMCL (2.0 mg/L) standards for naturally occurring fluoride.


THANK YOU!