

## Take Care of those Teeth!

Dental hygiene is an important lesson for children. KSFHP tries to stress the importance of dental care as well as preventative dental visits. I recently had a child who was in need of some dental services. She had an appointment with a local dentist and was then referred to a pediatric dentist. It was actually at this point that I became involved. She had just started living with her aunt and uncle who are enrolled in our program and I hadn't had a chance to get her information yet. In speaking with a staff person at the pediatric dentist's office, I found out that the child will need extensive dental care, but they will not know what for sure until after her initial consultation. They already had the appointment scheduled in a couple weeks.

I then spoke with the family and learned the history of this child and her siblings. Their mom passed away a couple years ago and their father lives in Nebraska. She and her siblings are living with their aunt and uncle in Kansas because their dad does not have anyone to take care of them while he is at work. I got some advice from another KSFHP staff person as well as a couple KanCare Outreach workers. I found out that the aunt and uncle can apply for KanCare for this child. I was able to mail them an application and find out all the needed documents to submit, since this is not a normal case. The family filled out the application and faxed it to the outreach worker two days before her appointment. The pediatric dentist was willing to see the child for her consultation appointment before knowing about KanCare eligibility. During that appointment, it was confirmed that she needed pretty extensive treatment done.

Two days after her appointment, we received notification that the child was approved for KanCare! And it will be able to go back and pay for the appointment with the pediatric dentist as well as the initial appointment she had with the local dentist. This was great news for all of us. The child now has an appointment scheduled to start her treatment. It is about a month away, but they have already called once because they had a cancelation and wanted to see if it would work in the family's schedule. They are committed to getting this child her dental care and now KanCare is able to help to pay for the bills.

My next success story will hopefully be about scheduling an interpreter for her appointment. Taking care of one's teeth is important... and especially for children. It is great for this child to receive services and to now learn how to care her teeth so she grows up with a beautiful smile! It is wonderful that KanCare covers these services.

