

## **Aetna partners with Oral Health Kansas to support access to dental care for all**

*\$30,000 Aetna donation to fund training program for providers treating Kansans with disabilities*

TOPEKA, Kan., August 8, 2023 – Aetna Better Health of Kansas today announced that Aetna has donated \$30,000 to [Oral Health Kansas, Inc.](#), to help support its Pathways to Oral Health: Education Initiatives for Accessible Dental Care (Pathways) program aimed at increasing dental care for individuals with disabilities. Oral Health Kansas works with partners to create a culture that values oral health as a part of overall health for Kansans.

Kansas University Medical Center [Project ECHO](#) (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) will partner with Oral Health Kansas on the Pathways program to provide training for dentists, hygienists, case managers and other health care professionals on the unique oral health needs of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The goal of the Project ECHO training is to increase participants' ability to treat and manage complex health care challenges in their own communities. The donation will help sustain the five-session, continuing-education series offered to participants at no-cost.

“Kansans with a disability are [more likely to not visit a dentist in the past year than Kansans without a disability](#),” said Jane Brown, CEO of Aetna Better Health of Kansas. “Our support of this vital program could help eliminate that barrier to care in every Kansas community.”

Tanya Dorf-Brunner, executive director of Oral Health Kansas, added, “A lack of preventive dental care on a regular basis can lead to more serious oral health problems, higher medical costs and an increased chance of disease. The better we train providers, the better we can care for our communities.”

The donation also will support Oral Health Kansas' Feeling Good About Your Smile program — an oral health workshop for adults with disabilities and their caregivers. The 60-minute session includes colorful slides, hands-on activities and a free toothbrush and toothpaste. Attendees will have fun while gaining the knowledge and confidence they need to adopt healthy behaviors that improve oral health.

Since 2021, Aetna Better Health of Kansas has donated more than \$330,000 to various community-based organizations across the state to positively impact population health and provide those in need with more options to access quality health care.

### **About Aetna Medicaid**

Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC (Aetna Medicaid), a CVS Health company, has more than 30 years of experience managing the care of under-resourced populations, using innovative approaches and a local presence in each market to achieve both successful health care results and effective cost outcomes. Aetna Medicaid has expertise serving high-need Medicaid members, including those who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Currently, Aetna

Medicaid owns and/or administers Medicaid managed health care plans under the names of Aetna Better Health and other affiliate names. Together, these plans serve members in 16 states, including Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. For more information, visit [www.aetnabetterhealth.com](http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com).

### **About CVS Health**

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