



Kansas

National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

The [Kansas Oral Health Plan 2011–2014](#)¹ is a project of the Bureau of Oral Health in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in collaboration with Oral Health Kansas, the state's oral health coalition. The plan contains broad strategies and specific activities for three areas of oral health care: education, advocacy, and workforce. As part of the objective to educate the public that good oral health is essential to overall wellness, the plan recommends increasing oral health literacy among all of the state's diverse populations. A key activity for achieving this goal is the promotion of the National CLAS Standards and their use in improving services to minority and underserved populations, through outreach to oral health providers, public health educators, community partners, and advocates.

National CLAS Standards Dissemination

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment created a [What is Cultural Competency?](#)² webpage to disseminate information on the guiding principles of cultural competency. One section provides an overview of the National CLAS Standards and their goals, and includes a link to the National CLAS Standards on the federal Office of Minority Health website.

The National CLAS Standards also have been disseminated through presentations at the Kansas Public Health Association's Annual Governor's Conference on Public Health. In 2012 the Kansas Department of Health and Environment offered a presentation on the National CLAS Standards.³ The presentation provided an overview of the National CLAS Standards and helped participants identify one action that can be undertaken in their home organizations that will support implementation of one of the National CLAS Standards as a quality improvement tool to increase the cultural competency of staff.

Endnotes

- 1 Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Oral Health. (2011, January). *Kansas Oral Health Plan 2011–2014*. Retrieved November 6, 2014, from Kansas Department of Health and Environment: http://www.kdheks.gov/ohi/download/2011-14_Oral_Health_Plan.pdf.
- 2 Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Health Equity Resources. (2015). *What is Cultural Competency?* Retrieved November 6, 2014, from Kansas Department of Health and Environment: http://www.healthequityks.org/cultural_competency.html.
- 3 Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Center for Health Equity. (2012, April 24). *We've Got Clas! Health Literacy, Cultural Competency, and Quality Improvement*. Retrieved November 6, 2014, from Kansas Department of Health and Environment: http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/download/WEVEGOTCLAS_HealthLiteracyCulturalCompetencyandQualityImprovement.pdf.