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Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon Governor

## Office of Dental Health Established by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Jefferson City, Mo -- The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is pleased to announce the creation of the Office of Dental Health (ODH). This Office, which previously operated as the Missouri Oral Health Program, enhances DHSS' efforts and commitment to improving the dental health of all Missourians.

Led by State Dental Director Dr. John Dane, ODH has primary authority and responsibility for DHSS dental health activities. These activities include the Preventive Services Program that provides dental screenings and fluoride varnish to over 80,000 school children across the state, the new Missouri Dental Sealant Program which will supply dental sealants to over 15,000 high-need children in Missouri, oral health educational programs and collaboration with other health programs in the department.

The creation of ODH came to fruition after the Missouri Department of Social Services, Delta Dental of Missouri, the Missouri Foundation for Health, the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health, the Missouri Dental Association and the REACH Healthcare Foundation collaborated to re-establish the position of State Dental Director. In order to build on the success of this collaboration and the efforts of the DHSS, the Office of Dental Health was established.

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