

California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.



Dental Support Center
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A call for help from Children's Partnership –

The Children's Partnership is working on a project to increase access to dental care for California's children, especially those who live in underserved areas. To learn more about this project, please visit The Children's Partnership | California Children's Dental Workforce Campaign

As part of this project, we are identifying and documenting stories of families who have had dental access issues. The goal of this story collection project is to use individual stories as a persuasive advocacy tool, putting human faces on the dental care needs of California's children. Stories collected through the project will be used in fact sheets, with the press, in visits with legislators and other venues. Examples of stories we would like to hear and document include stories of:

Children who have never seen a dentist; Children who have had a hard time accessing a dentist; Where the local dentist won't take child's dental insurance; Where there is no dentist within reasonable driving distance; When families have had to wait a long time to see a dentist/get an appointment; Where the family is not comfortable with dental visit (e.g. language barriers, confusing paperwork, dentist not skilled at treating children, etc.); Where a child ended up in the emergency room because of a dental problem; Where school work has been adversely affected because of dental health issues; Children who have experienced tooth decay/cavities; and Children who have experienced dental/oral pain

If you know of or become aware of any families who have experienced the above scenarios and may be willing to lend their story to this important cause, please contact us at the email addresses/phone numbers below. We will work with you to get initial permission from the family and identify the best way to reach the family. We will then set up a time to interview the family, including obtaining the proper consents. Families will also be provided a small gift in appreciation of the time they spend with us.

Emily Wilson: ewilson@childrenspartnership.org; 310-260-1220

Jenny Kattlove: jkattlove@childrenspartnership.org; 310-260-1220



California American Indian Recovery Services (CAIRS) program serves California AI clients who are eligible by providing dental vouchers through the program. 16 dental clinics from CA tribal programs are already registered providers for this project.

For more information, check out their website (<http://www.crihb.org/cairs/>).

**California Dental Support Center
Advisory Committee**

- Richard Schoen DDS, Karuk Tribal Health
- Steve Riggio, DDS, Area Dental Officer Indian Health Service/CAO
- Joel Umali, DDS, Riverside/San Bernardino County IHC
- Rick Trahin, DDS, Feather River Tribal Health
- Carolyn Brown, DDS, Native American Health Center
- Gaby Rector RDH, Northern Valley Indian Health
- Carol Kelley, RDA, Sonoma County Indian Health Project
- Rosario Arreola Pro, MPH -Health Systems Development Director, CRIHB,
- Lalani Ratnayake, Dental Support Center Coordinator

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California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.

California Dental Support Center NEWSLETTER



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Our Mission

Reduce dental decay in Native American infants, toddlers, and children. Provide training, technical assistance, and resources to tribal and urban dental clinics operating in California.



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Visit us at:
www.crihb.org



What is GPRA? How GPRA Affect Your Health Program and Services You Provide

Government Performance Results Act (GPRA) – Passed by Congress in 1993.

This law requires government agencies to demonstrate measurable results or benefits gained by consumers from federal programs. Annually, each agency is required to submit an agency-specific performance plan for the new GPRA year to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) along with a yearly budget. This establishes a measure of accountability from the Govt. Agencies.

OMB (Office of Management Budget) analyzes the data and the Congress uses this data as a guide to allocate funds for health programs. GPRA indicators are then set by the Congress and OMB which are attainable but not too minimal for funding support.

The **GPRA reporting period is July 1 through June 30** of each year. Because each GPRA annual data collection period consists of six months in one calendar year and six months in another year, accurate reference involves two calendar years. The current GPRA year began July 1, 2011 and ends June 30, 2012.

The IHS Dental Program is responsible for three objectives:

- **Dental Access** – Proportion of AI/AN patients who obtain access to dental services
- **Dental Sealants**- Number of sealants placed per year on AI/AN patients
- **Topical Fluoride**- Number of AI/AN patients with one or more topical fluoride treatments

IHS keeps track of these three objectives only through provider data collection

These objectives give local dental programs increased incentive to focus on access and prevention. Our funding is tied to the GPRA objectives and these objectives send a strong message to every local community that prevention is important. If we are ever going to make a difference in the prevalence of dental caries in AI/AN communities, it will be through prevention!

(if you have questions regarding RPMS reporting , please contact DSC –lalani.ratnayake@crihb.net)



Community Highlights

American Indian Health & Services Announces Opening of New Dental Clinic in Santa Barbara

American Indian Health & Services (AIHS) formally announced the opening of its new dental clinic on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 3:00p.m. at its facility located at 4141 State Street, Suite C2 in Santa Barbara, California. The new dental clinic will offer services to the Santa Barbara community, including children enrolled in Medi-Cal and to cash pay patients on a sliding fee scale.



“This is truly an exciting moment in our clinic’s history”, said Scott Black, Executive Director of AIHS. Mr. Black continued, “Oral health is a significant contributor to an individual’s general well-being and health status. As individuals age, access to oral health care and regular dental visits are important. Poor oral health can contribute to poor nutritional intake, pain and social isolation; many health conditions also have oral manifestations that may serve as an initial sign of disease and the need for further clinical assessment.”



The Dental Clinic is licensed by the State of California, has four state-of-the-art operatories and is staffed with a full time dentist Staff include: Dr. Drew Preston, Christina Varni RDH, Diane Contreras RDA, and Jennifer Tran, Executive Assistant. AIHS anticipates a strong demand for discount dental services among its patient population and the underserved communities of Santa Barbara and Ventura County.

Upcoming DSC Events

- 7/20/2011 -Lunch & Learn Presentation to dental staff at Colusa Tribal Health—Colusa, CA
- 7/20-2011—Fluoride Varnish Training to medical staff at Colusa Tribal Health—Colusa, CA
- 7/21/2011—Lunch & Learn Presentation to dental/medical staff at Rolling Hills Clinic—Red Bluff, CA
- 8/27-8/28/2011—RDA Dental Sealant Training at Northern Valley Indian Health— Red Bluff , CA
- 8/2/2011—Oral Health presentation to Point Arena Tribal Community—Point Arena, CA

A New Educational Brochure from The Dental Support Center!

The DSC is pleased to announce the new brochure we have developed on Early Childhood Tooth Decay and Disease Transmission. We thank everyone who assisted in creating it through feedback, focus groups, and providing pictures.

This resource will be available to all CA tribal/Urban programs to educate their American Indian communities. If your clinic is interested in having resource, please email—lalani.ratnayake@crihb.net for your free copies of the brochure.



Community Highlights

Oral Health Outreach Project By Indian Health Council



The Indian Health Council Dental health team visited five (5) local pre-schools to provide oral health education, screenings and fluoride varnish applications. A total of 155 children received education on good oral health and received a bag with oral health incentives. The feedback from the teachers was positive and it was an enjoyable experience for the dental staff, and an opportunity to share their dental knowledge with the community.

This project was funded through a DSC Mini-Grant.

Children’s Oral Care Program— Lassen Indian Health Center



The oral screening project extended to local schools and WIC centers throughout Lassen County. A total of 11 schools/centers were visited during the 6 months of the DSC Mini-grant period to serve 302 Native American Children. They received oral health education, screenings, fluoride varnish applications and were sent home with a report from the screenings along with a bag of oral health incentives.

Another project assisted through the DSC Mini Grant program!

