

California Rural Indian Health Board Inc.

Dental Support Center
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October 2008

California Rural Indian Health Board Inc.

California Dental Support Center NEWSLETTER



A Way to Connect and Keep You Updated....

Mission

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

Welcome to the very first edition of the California Dental Support Center Newsletter. The California Dental Support Center (DSC), funded through Indian Health Services is committed to improving the oral health of Native American communities. We realize that in order to achieve our mission we need to build a network among the tribal and urban dental clinics to share information, ideas and resources. We hope this Newsletter will be an effective approach to accomplish this goal.

Do you have a successful project you like to share with others? An oral health promotion event or perhaps a partnership that has improved access to dental services to children and adults? We are certain that there are many positive efforts that are happening in California native communities. This is YOUR newsletter....We invite you to participate and share your dental success stories. Let others be inspired and motivated from your efforts.

I hope I will get the opportunity to work with all of you in the future. Please send your ideas, comments, submissions or questions to:

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2009 IHS/DSC Dental Conference

Save the Date!

May 4th—May 7th, 2009
Red Lion Sacramento
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento CA 95815



DSC Dental Sealant Challenge

Rewards for your efforts!

1. Every Tribal/Urban Program that meet their sealant goal by end of GPRA Year (June 30th, 09) , will receive **\$500.00**
2. Every Program that show a 30% improvement from 2008 GPRA Goal will receive **\$250.00**



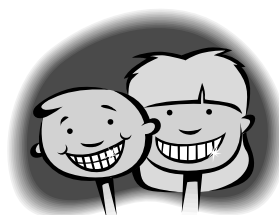
Official numbers will be obtained from National Data Warehouse Publication

A Step Toward A Healthy Smile....

Tooth Decay is the most common chronic condition of childhood and 79% of Native American children 2-5 years had a history of tooth decay *. Therefore, the best defense against this chronic, destructive, costly, but PREVENTABLE disease is to promote the oral health of children as early as possible...right from the start.

The Dental Support Center will continue to promote healthy teeth in Head Start children by providing an oral health guideline that incorporates fun activities, dental puppets, story books on teeth, sing-along tooth songs, posters and other resources to all Tribal Head Start centers in California. Parents need to receive information on oral health preventive measures and good nutrition. Dental Support Center will conduct presentations to Head Start staff and parents, to provide education and promote awareness on the importance of oral hygiene and how together we can help to prevent/reduce tooth decay in children.

* 1999 Oral Health Survey of AI/AN Dental Patients



RDA Trainings for Pit and Fissure Sealant Certification

A survey was sent to **all Tribal and Urban clinics** in September to assess the number of RDAs in need of the training and also to locate clinics that are willing to host these trainings. The hosting clinic receives three RDA slots and the rest of the class attendees are chosen by lottery. All training costs, travel and per diem for the attendees are provided by The DSC.

The DSC would like to **Thank** all of you who sent back the requested information by the due date of October 1. We also appreciate the clinics who have volunteered to host these trainings.

The next Dental Sealant Training will be held at Northern Valley Indian Health clinic in Willows, CA on November 14-15, 2008. The 10 attendees have already been notified.

Dental Support Center is in the process of finalizing the dates and sites for future trainings.

First Birthday Card **Early Childhood Caries (ECC)** **Prevention Project**



To reduce the incidence of ECC young children should receive a dental screening and a risk assessment by one year of age. At this stage a simple screening of the child and preventive oral health recommendations to the parents will be a valuable and effective intervention.

Unfortunately, the dental staff does not routinely see infants in their clinics. But parents do visit the medical professionals for immunizations, routine check-ups, and also seek WIC services. So, to make the best of this opportunity, The California Dental Support Center (DSC) is launching the "First Birthday Card" project to promote early dental visits for young children.

The DSC will provide **First Birthday Cards** to any tribal health agency that would distribute them to parents of one year old infants. The birthday card carries a message stating the benefits of early prevention and urging parents to take their child for a initial dental screening. The card also offers a **Free Gift** that they will receive with the first dental visit. The DSC will provide the gift packages to all the tribal dental offices that wish to participate in this project. The gift bag will include infant tooth brush, child's toothbrush, kids toothpaste, and a brushing cup set.

If you are interested in being part of this prevention effort, or for more details about the project please contact Lalani at 916-929-9761 or lalani.ratnayake@crihb.net

Community Highlights

The dental department at **Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health** began a new trial program for the organization that will help reach out to a relatively untapped group of patients. In coordination with the WIC program, the concept was to provide oral health education, instruction and apply fluoride varnish to the children who accompany their mothers during their WIC appointments. Riverside-San Bernardino currently has 9 sites that provide WIC services. Having a dentist or dental staff member present to provide direct treatment and instruction to the families will hopefully encourage them to make a subsequent appointment at the dental clinic for a more comprehensive dental examination.

The first trial session conducted at the Soboba Clinic was successful and very well received. The children that were seen ranged from ages 6 months to 2 years old. All of them had never been seen by a dentist before. After a brief discussion on oral health, home care, and referral to the dental clinic, each child was given an application of fluoride varnish. Happy First Birthday cards and prizes were also given to the families to increase awareness of the importance of bringing other family members or siblings to see the dentist by their 1st birthday. This was new information to all the families.

Additional sessions at different sites will be scheduled throughout each month. In addition to providing a valuable service to these families, it will also help to improve access to dental care and topical fluoride applications, both of which are important GPRA indicators.

Submitted by: Joel Umali DDS