



### California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.

Dental Support Center  
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[www.crihb.org/dental](http://www.crihb.org/dental)

## NewsBites



Be watching for **HPDP Grant Proposal** information this fall!

### Upcoming Certification Courses for RDA/DA

- August 27th & 28th– Coronal Polish
- September 24th & 25th- Sealant Course

At the FADE , located in El Dorado Hills

Please contact Eva-Marie DelPuerto at CRIHB for more information. She can be reached at [Eva-Marie.DelPuerto@crihb.org](mailto:Eva-Marie.DelPuerto@crihb.org) or 916-286-7236 ext 1321

#### DSC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rick Trahin, DDS – Feather River Tribal Health (Northern CA Programs)  
 Li Lin, DDS – Central Valley Indian Health (Central CA Programs)  
 Alice Huang, DDS – American Indian Health Services (Urban Tribal Programs)  
 Stacey Wobbe, RDH – Greenville Rancheria (RDH Representative)  
 Eileen O’Neal, RDA – Chapa De Indian Health (RDA Representative)  
 Steve Riggio, DDS – Area Dental Officer (IHS/CAO)  
 Rosario Arreola Pro, MPH – HSD Director (CRIHB)  
 Eva-Marie DelPuerto, RDA – Dental Support Center Coordinator (CRIHB)

# California Dental Support Center NEWSLETTER



July 2016

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Please welcome **Eva-Marie DelPuerto, RDA, BA** as the new **Dental Support Center Coordinator**

### Our Mission

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



Eva-Marie DelPuerto began her dental career in the United States Navy in 1998. She worked for the largest Dental Clinic in the United States Navy located in San Diego for almost 7 years. Eva-Marie then attended University of Pacific in Stockton and obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Biology in 2007. After she graduated, her path led her to the Shingle Springs Tribal Health Program. Eva-Marie worked as a Registered Dental Assistant, and later became the Dental Administrator Manager. She was responsible for looking over the everyday operations of a 14 operatory clinic for almost 9 years. Eva-Marie has a passion for physical fitness and enjoys running 5Ks, and half-marathons for special causes.

Currently, she is advancing her education in pursuit of her MHA in Health Care Operations with Capella University. Eva-Marie has been blessed to be the mother of a beautiful 3 year old daughter, named Gabriella, with special needs. Eva-Marie is grateful everyday that she gets to be Gabriella’s mother and is blessed that she can enjoy Gabriella’s smile, laughter, and presence.

### Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR) and AB 1174 RDAEF, RDH, & RDHAP

Many clinicians working in Tribal Health Dental facilities can attest to the cycle of chasing decay: the constant challenge of trying to restore all of the existing decay in a patient’s mouth before new decay has a chance to destroy more tooth structure. With the passage of AB 1174, we may be able to break this cycle in the near future. For more information, please refer to the website: [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140AB1174](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1174)

A few of the key points include:

- “The bill would authorize specified registered dental assistants in extended functions, registered dental hygienists, and registered dental hygienists in alternative practice to determine which radiographs to perform and to place protective restorations, as specified.”

The training for ITR will be quite extensive with didactic modules and hands-on clinical education. Be watching for more information, the Advisory Committee for the DSC is committed to bringing ITR to you as soon as possible!

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Once again, our annual dental conference was a success! There were approximately 355 dental professionals attending a total of 38 sessions. Table clinics on "Promoting Oral Health-Tribal Clinics and Beyond" offered five tribal programs the opportunity to share their outreach projects, and the DSC to share about the California Wellness grant project. A total of 31.5 ADA/CERP CEUs were offered. There were 28 dental vendors present. The vendors sponsored the breakfast and lunch reception on Tuesday, May 3rd. We would not be allowed to offer food for the attendees without their partnership! We have compiled the feedback from your evaluations, and the DSC Advisory Committee has already initiated the planning to meet your requests for next year's educational sessions. The DSC would like to thank the DSC Advisory Committee for their continued support to make this annual event a tremendous success. We enjoyed seeing all of you in Sacramento, and look forward to seeing you again at the 2017 conference!



**Learning new things, making new connections, and reconnecting with old friends. If you weren't able to attend, be sure to come next year!!**



**A Fond Farewell to Lalani Ratnayake**

Lalani Ratnayake's last day was June 1st. She started at CRIHB in the Tobacco Education Cessation department, but she quickly transferred to the Dental Support Center where her dental education was put to great use! She worked at CRIHB for 9 years, and is known by so many people throughout California and beyond. She has worked tirelessly for the Tribal Health Programs throughout our state, and can name just about every dental employee in every clinic. Lalani has been involved with community projects such as: Fluoride Varnish programs, Head Start and Preschool programs, educating parents and community members. She has taught grant writing courses. She has written for, and received multiple grants that have benefited our Tribal Health Programs. She has been the person anybody and everybody could call on, and they would always hear a friendly voice. If she didn't know the answer, she would help you find it. And of course, Lalani was the driving force behind the annual continuing education conference. The Advisory Committee will miss her incredible mind and organizational skills, but rest assured, they are committed to hosting another successful conference in 2017.

