



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS 2000 - 2007 SITE DESCRIPTORS

COMMUNITY SITES: MOBILE DENTAL PROGRAMS

USC Neighborhood Mobile Dental Clinic

Established in March 2002, second and third-graders in the USC Partner schools benefit from this USCSD mobile dental van which is dedicated to improving the oral health of inner-city school children in Los Angeles, many of whom have never before seen a dentist. Dental students rotate through this program and provide screenings, oral health education, fluoride treatments and dental sealants to the teeth of participating children. This year, the Neighborhood Mobile Dental Clinic provided preventive care to 606 children at 5 local elementary schools and has become one of the signature programs of the entire university's outreach effort through its annual Good Neighbors Campaign.

Sealant Project – Incorporated into the Neighborhood Mobile Dental Clinic

Established in 1990, the sealant project is a USC School of Dentistry community service and educational program. Using portable equipment, USCSD senior dental hygiene students provide preventive dental care to schoolchildren in Southern California. Over 4,200 inner-city children have received dental care through this program since its inception. In 2004, the Sealant Project merged operations with the USC Neighborhood Mobile Dental Van.

Doctors Out to Care (DOC) – Incorporated into the Neighborhood Mobile Dental Clinic

Established in 1993, the programs' mission: "To integrate the School of Dentistry with metropolitan schools; to enhance oral health awareness; and to generate awareness of dentistry as a profession in local communities." As part of this program first year dental students go into the neighborhood elementary schools and teach children one to one about oral health. Based on its success, the program was formally integrated into the dental degree freshman curriculum in 1997. The number of children served grew to 850 children in three schools in 2000-01 alone. As of the 2005-06 school year the DOC program has brought this oral health appreciation and education to more than 6000 children.

QueensCare + USC Mobile Dental Clinics I & II

QueensCare brings free comprehensive dental care to second and third-grade elementary school children within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and local parochial schools in LA using mobile dental clinic vans. This program is a collaboration between the University of Southern California School of Dentistry, the Franciscan Foundation (QueensCare), the Everychild Foundation and the LAUSD. In 2004, a second pair of QueensCare/USC mobile dental clinic vans was established. USC dental faculty, staff and student volunteers now provide care in four trailers at different schools within the 30 located in the Hollywood and adjacent areas. The QueensCare/USC mobile dental clinic has now expanded to treat children in grades 2nd through 5th, and provided comprehensive care to more than 12,000 children in 2005/2006.

Mobile Dental Clinic

This Program began 41 years ago when the Mobile Clinic began to treat migrant farm workers in the San Joaquin Valley who had no money, no insurance and no previous dental treatment. Today, and more than 80,000 with no other resources for oral health care have received comprehensive dental treatment and this program has become a resource for others seeking to establish mobile health care programs often providing consultation on vehicle design and operational tips. The focus of the Mobile Clinic is often the rural children of California but recently funds from the Patterson Foundation helped to launch the Mobile Dental Clinic in the urban backyard of USC where many children fell into the insurance gap without any sort of safety net. That support was then leveraged and gave the Mobile Clinic the opportunity to expand its services to children who needed specialty services. The mobile clinic operates at 13 to 14 different geographic sites per year and annually provides more than \$1,000,000 worth of care to underserved children at no cost to their families.

STATIONARY DENTAL PROGRAMS

Community Health Centers of the Central Coast Dental Clinics

From providing professional CE courses as part of our Pacific Aids Education and Training Dental Program to helping treat severely underserved children through the efforts of the USC Mobile Dental Clinic, the USC School of Dentistry has been working with the Community Health Centers of the Central Coast. In March 2008 we are embarking on our newest collaboration whereby USCSD dental students will spend 4 to 6 weeks on rotation to the CHCCC dental clinic at Nipomo treating dental patients of all ages and living in the community.

USC + Union Rescue Mission Dental Clinic

USC School of Dentistry operates a community based dental clinic at the Union Rescue Mission on skid row in downtown Los Angeles. The USC School of Dentistry developed this clinic in partnership with the Union Rescue Mission to provide dental care for the homeless. USC School of Dentistry dental students, hygiene students,

AEGD/GPR residents and faculty provide comprehensive dental services in a modern dental clinic located within the Mission and patients are referred to the USC School of Dentistry for specialty care as needed. In 2005 and 2006 DDS students and residents served about 930 homeless patients with many receiving the comprehensive care needed to help them return to productive lives.

Hollenbeck Home

Hollenbeck Home located in the Boyle Heights area provides senior citizens lifetime care with opportunities for residential living, assisted residential living and skilled nursing services. The USC School of Dentistry established an on-site dental service for Hollenbeck residents in April 2000. A dental chair, portable dental unit and X-ray equipment within the skilled nursing facility allows onsite access to emergency care for residents and educational opportunities for USC dental and dental hygiene students. Follow-up and comprehensive care is provided at the school in the Special Patients Clinic as the result of a transportation plan that was arranged and is operated by the Hollenbeck Homes for their residents.

The Maternal and Children/Adolescent Infectious Diseases and Virology Clinic

This Title IV Ryan White Clinic cares for the medical and social needs of many minority families who have one or more HIV infected family member(s). In 2004 the USC School of Dentistry established a dental clinic at the site with USCSDF faculty and staff triaging, screening, and providing palliative care and referral to our Special Patients Clinic and/or our Group Practices as well as an on-site educational program for HIV positive mothers/children/pregnant women and their families.

USC School of Dentistry Special Patient Care Clinic

The clinic provides comprehensive care for geriatric, physically and emotionally disabled, and medically compromised as well as intake, triage and referral services for severely compromised patients. AEGD residents or Geriatric Fellows and predoctoral dental students, supervised by faculty provide care for these patients. A full range of anesthesia services is also available (IV sedation and General Anesthesia) in our fully equipped operating room.

WIC Centers (Women, Infant, Child)

At the WIC centers, faculty members assisted by dental students, and dental hygiene students, provide parent education on a one-on-one basis during an oral health screening exam for baby and the young child. Parents are taught how cavities begin and are passed from mom to child, the importance of baby teeth and dental visits. They are also taught prevention strategies to avoid getting cavities and early childhood caries (good nutrition, how to brush and floss and how to keep their own mouths healthy so bacteria will not pass from parent to child). Over 400 children and adults have been screened and educated as part of this program outreach.

Early Head Start Programs

Since 2001 as part of the pediatric dentistry educational experience, USCSD Pediatric Dentistry faculty providing oral health screenings and oral health education at a number of Early Head Start and Head Start programs throughout Los Angeles. A part of this program also involves educating the early childhood educators and home visitors at these programs. Initially residents and selected predoctoral students conducted these screenings. However in 2006 these oral health screenings became a part of the 1st Smiles Oral Health curriculum, which the students complete as a part of their junior block. The oral health screenings and education provide practical experience in applying what the students have learned in the course. In the last two years, over 1,000 children 0-5 years have been screened as apart of this program.

e-Health Teledentistry Project

In collaboration with the USCSD Mobile Dental Clinic, Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) has implemented an eHealth Network Program to address access to oral health care issues in rural Tulare County, California. The eHealth Program consists of the creation of school-based dental clinics connected to the CHLA Division of Dentistry through a high speed computer network allowing for videoconferencing and real time remote input and access to the dental systems at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Under the remote supervision of pediatric dentists, a registered dental hygienist provides preventive oral health treatments and education to underserved K-12 children of agricultural workers in the county. eHealth staff work closely with the families to address access to care barriers and coordinate restorative care needs with local dental providers. The USCSD Mobile Clinic which has been working in this community since 1974 takes care of those children who are unable to access any local care. The primary goal of the program is to encourage behavior modification in high risk patients and families leading to life long health.

AYUDA

In collaboration with Ayuda, Inc., USCSD dental student and faculty volunteers provide dental treatment to underserved children at elementary schools throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Treatment is provided using portable equipment one weekend a monthly basis. More than 28,000 children have been treated at these clinics since 1991. Volunteers from USC and around the country also travel to Central and South American twice a year during school breaks to educate and treat children and adults with oral health needs.

FOSTERING THE RECRUITMENT OF UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITIES INTO DENTAL CAREERS

California Endowment – PPP

In 2003, The California Endowment provided funding for USCSD to join the four other California dental schools in participating in the Pipeline, Profession and Practice: Community-Based Dental Education, a national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program aims to: partner dental schools with community-based health care organizations; revise the traditional public health and

behavioral science didactic curriculum to raise students' awareness of socio-cultural and health care delivery system issues in dentistry, which will prepare them for community-based experiences during and after dental school; initiate programs to recruit, enroll, and graduate numbers of underserved minority/low income students; and identify and advocate for public policy changes at the national, state, and local levels to advance the objectives of the Dental Pipeline program. Since starting in the program, USCSD has dramatically increased its enrollment of underserved minority/low income students and developed culturally sensitive curriculum and training for staff, faculty and students. The Pipeline has also allowed USCSD to participate in a regional Post-Bac program and provide DAT prep courses for minority students seeking admission to dental school.

Dental Explorers

Established in 2003, this program recruits 15 minority high school students along with 15 minority undergraduate students to experience a 2-week dental camp here at the USC School of Dentistry. In conjunction with the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs, the students attend several workshops that incorporate lecture and hands-on learning. The workshops range from presentations from faculty and staff regarding Orthodontics, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Oral Surgery, Dental Hygiene, Endodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, and an Admissions workshop, as well as conducting a mock PBL case. The dental camp culminates with a presentation by the students illustrating what they learned in the 2 weeks.

Medical Magnet High Schools (MMHS):

USCSD is developing strategic partnerships with the three local Medical Magnet High Schools (MMHS) in Los Angeles—Bravo (East LA), Orthopedic (central LA) and King-Drew (south central LA). Traditionally affiliated with hospitals, these schools predominantly offered medical-related career exposure, and dentistry had not even been on the “radar screen” of careers discussed. USCSD is strategically located between these schools, allowing our students, staff and faculty to work with MMHS administrators, counselors and teachers.

For MMHS presentations we coordinate volunteers to conduct outreach activities to:

- 1 Familiarize students with dental career opportunities and educational requirements
- 2 Provide didactic topic presentations and interactive lab/clinic experiences
- 3 Expose students to USC Dental School, faculty/staff, and dental/hygiene students
- 4 Motivate and support minority students and parents towards dental career pathways
- 5 Promote USCSD students to meaningfully participate in community outreach activities

DAT/Summer Enrichment Program

This a California Wellness Foundation grant-funded summer enrichment program begun in 2005 to assist identified minority college students to improve their performance on the Dental Admissions Test (DAT) and, to increase their success in admission to dental school. The curriculum incorporates materials and methods from the commercial DAT education test programs. Participants receive formal instruction in the areas of biological science, chemistry, perceptual aptitude and reading comprehension and individual/small group tutoring as needed to augment the classroom instruction.

Participants are also offered assistance with the dental school application and interviewing process, activities that enable them to experience what it would be like to be

a dental student, and a visit to our community-based rotation sites. In addition to the DAT prep sessions, funding supports ancillary activities, such as:

- Hands-on activities & Mini Problem Based Learning (PBL) sessions --
- Mentoring opportunities & Motivational speakers –
- Shadowing opportunities & Service activities –

Scholarships for Under-Represented Minority Dental Students:

We recognize that we must work to increase access to our school for disadvantaged students by presenting USCSD as a viable choice. Through activities of the PPP program, we have been able to substantially increase these numbers. The cost of dental school education is a major obstacle for most minority and low-income students. Funds from the Kellogg and California Wellness Foundations have been coupled with an internal USC source – the Mexican American Alumni Association (MAAA) – that has matched funds, dollar for dollar, toward tuition assistance for Hispanic students. We are also collaborating with Latinos for Dental Careers (a volunteer group of dentists supporting Hispanic students and participating in community outreach activities) to raise scholarship money for disadvantaged students. Between 2003-2007 this project alone awarded over \$170,000 to newly enrolled USCSD dental students. In return, these students agree to perform community service that involves participation in the Spanish for Dentistry class, Dental Explorers program, or outreach to the Medical Magnet High Schools and local colleges, in order to further recruit and support increased enrollment of other underrepresented minority students. This service-learning involvement will remain a requirement for these scholarship recipients in the future.

ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS AND AWARENESS

Family Fun Dental Fair

In response to recently passed state legislation (AB1433) which requires all children entering kindergarten to obtain a dental assessment screening, USCSD held its first “open house” this past July. In addition to the focus on the needs of the child, USC School of Dentistry opened its doors to offer free family screenings as well as a myriad of other family fun health events. Various educational (and fun) game booths, tooth fairy story time (with free books), booths for the various USC community programs with information on how parents may participate were available. Our goals for this annual event are to: inspire parents to become involved in the education, health and well-being of their children; educate parents on the various programs that they can take advantage of here at USC; create a fun filled day for local families while at the same time helping them obtain (at no cost) the oral health assessment certification that is needed for their childrens’ first year of school.

GKASD

Give Kids a Smile!" day is a national children's dental access day each February during National Children's Dental Health Month. The goal is to improve the oral health of the numerous underserved children by providing oral health education, screening, prevention, and comprehensive treatment to children who can not usually access care. USCSD's "Give Kids A Smile!" program is one of several across the nation offering these treatments/services to our neighborhood elementary schools.

Special Olympics

The Special Olympics games are held twice a year in Southern California. USCSD not only provides faculty, student and staff volunteers to promote oral health and to provide free dental screenings, but the overall director of the oral health clinical experience for both the fall and the summer games for the past five years is a USCSD faculty member.

Smoking Cessation – The Great American Smoke-Out and other Community Events

The USC School of Dentistry offers smoking cessation services to all of our patients within the USCSD clinics. In addition to these efforts, USCSD has partnered with the American Cancer Society and the “USC Colleges Against Cancer” to promote the benefits of being tobacco free at programs such as “The Great American Smokeout” and other health fair activities. USCSD faculty and staff volunteers answer questions, provide information on the ill effects of smoking and how to quit as well as cessation kits.

Oral Cancer Screenings

USCSD faculty members in collaboration with the Oral Health Foundation are active in organizing annual screenings as part of a nation-wide tour to raise awareness of oral cancer and to provide access to screening to people who might not otherwise be screened.

Health Fairs

USCSD dental and dental hygiene students volunteer to promote oral health, provide free oral screening exams, provide preventive care instruction and educational materials at more than 30 health fairs a year sponsored primarily by schools, local government and social service agencies, faith-based and other organizations. Our mobile dental vans are often used to provide free screenings at these events.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Spanish for Dentistry

Established in 2004, this course is offered to approximately 40-50 dental students and is taught through didactic instruction, as well as role playing. Students are provided with Command Spanish materials, which include a pronunciation CD, where they can continue their learning outside of the classroom. In order to facilitate learning through smaller groups, more advanced Spanish-speaking students are encouraged to help teach novice students.

Pacific Aids Education and Training Center

The Pacific AETC offers a variety of education and training programs for dental practitioners through our dental team at USC School of Dentistry. The Oral health education and training is targeted to dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants. Through our USC site, dental education and training programs are available to be presented at sites as requested throughout the four-state Pacific AETC region:

California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii, as well as the U.S.-affiliated Pacific jurisdictions. The overall goal of the program is to train dental practitioners to recognize early oral signs and symptoms of HIV infection and oral conditions that may herald the onset of AIDS, and to manage all aspects of their patients' oral health needs, no matter their stage of HIV infection. This is accomplished by increasing practitioner competence in providing quality care to HIV+ patients.

Women and Community (WAC).

WAC is a women-focused Promotora leadership-training program. A partnership between USCSD and Women and Community was established in 2005 to bring oral health education and services to children and their families through "Community Promotoras". The Promotoras are trained to be peer educators; stimulate positive measurable outcomes in community health literacy; and instill appropriate behavior in accessing health care- services, especially dental services. The goal is to provide effective and significant improvement in oral health education to complement the outstanding clinical efforts at the USCSD's oral health community sites.

First Five Smiles Program

The First Smiles Program is part of the statewide First 5 Oral Health Education Initiative funded by the California Children and Families Commission or better known as the Prop 10 Commission. USCSD partners with the CDA Foundation and The Dental Health Foundation to educate health providers on the importance of primary teeth as well as behavior management techniques for treating the young child through continuing education courses held on and off campus. A similar but separate arm of the program educates parents on why primary teeth are important, what affects the health of the mouth (such as medications, malnutrition, etc.) and how to reinforce healthy habits at home as well as what nutritional habits their children should develop for healthy smiles.

Teeny Teeth Program – Young and Healthy

Through a partnership between USCSD and Young and Healthy, the First Smiles training curriculum is utilized to provide training specifically for school nurses. The goals of the trainings are to provide the nurses with an understanding of the science behind the caries process, an understanding the importance of dental care/screening for the young child, an understanding of the extent of the dental epidemic, risk assessment and anticipatory guidance for the young child, and knowledge of "how to" provide a dental screening for the young child.

The Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation

Efforts to improve dental health while enriching of the lives of underserved children served by the USC School of Dentistry are supported by the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation through a "Reading Program" and from monetary support for our Mobile Clinic. A partnership was established between USCSD and the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation to provide free books to children who had completed their dental treatment with the hope of fostering a love for literature and a second reason to smile after their dental experience with USCSD. This last year, more than 2500 children received an Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation book.

AFFILIATED HOSPITAL AND DENTAL PROGRAMS

Children's Dental Center (CDC)

At the CDC comprehensive dental services are provided to children 18 and younger without access to dental care who live in the Inglewood area. Services include oral hygiene, fillings, sealants, orthodontics, endodontics, oral surgery and a unique oral health education/instruction program at the associated Tooth Cottage. USCSD dental students and residents engage in clinical learning opportunities while meeting the care needs of the children in the neighborhood.

Children's Hospitals: Los Angeles, San Diego, Ranchos Los Amigos Medical Center, Beach Long Miller Memorial Hospital and Orange County

For over a decade USCSD has had a relationship with the network of children's hospitals in Los Angeles, rotating pediatric residents to increase the quality and quantity of care for disadvantaged patients at these sites. In 2002 we partnered with Children's Hospital of San Diego in their development of a new pediatric dentistry residency program, and in 2005 the development of a new pediatric dentistry residency program was initiated along with an affiliation agreement between the Children's Hospital in Orange County and USCSD.

Long Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center, Department of Dentistry

USC School of Dentistry students provide dental care for veterans who are disabled in the outpatient dental clinic at the VA in Long Beach. USCSD faculty members provide supervision for these students.

Los Angeles County +USC Medical Center, Department of Dentistry and Oral Surgery Outpatient Clinic

USCSD dental students provide oral surgical services and general dentistry to patients of all ages in these clinics. Joining the predoctoral dental students in providing care are residents from the GPR and OMFS programs which are located at the medical center and AEGD residents from the dental school.

Downtown L.A. V.A. Outpatient Clinic, Department of Dentistry

USC School of Dentistry GPR residents provide dental care for veterans who are HIV+ and have other disabilities. Dental Hygiene students use this clinic to gain experience treating medically compromised patients. USCSD faculty members provide supervision for these students.