

First 5 Commission of San Diego
September 11, 2009
Release of Solicitation for Oral Health Initiative

Request:

Staff is requesting that the Commission authorize the Executive Director or her designee to release a solicitation for a countywide coordinator for the Oral Health Initiative for FY 2010-11 – FY 2014-15.

Background:

By the time California children enter kindergarten, more than half have already experienced dental decay, 28% have untreated decay and 19% have rampant decay. Approximately 34.2% of 1 to 5 year olds in San Diego County have not had a dental visit in the past year, and an estimated 21.4% do not have dental insurance. Dental disease remains the single most common chronic disease among children in America, yet preventable. In 2000, the U.S. Surgeon General referenced to it as a “silent epidemic” among children, especially low income children.

Untreated dental disease in young children can lead to:

- tooth decay, pain, poor nutrition, infection, tooth loss
- poor health and self-esteem affecting children’s ability to concentrate, eat, sleep and play
- children’s ability to concentrate and function in school, thus missed school days.

During pregnancy, the mother’s oral health has a direct correlation to her unborn child’s health. Studies have demonstrated an association between periodontal disease and poor pregnancy outcomes including preterm delivery, low birth weight and gestational diabetes.

Ultimately, it is more cost effective for the public to provide parents with comprehensive oral health education and preventative treatment for children and pregnant women.

The Commission’s Strategic Plan 2010 - 15 supports “*comprehensive dental services for children and pregnant women.*” This strategy includes, “dental screening, treatment, care coordination and pregnant education focused on prevention.” Since 2005, the Commission’s Oral Health Initiative (OHI) has been a cornerstone for a comprehensive system of dental care for young children and pregnant women.

Overview of the Commission’s Oral Health Initiative

In the spring of 2005, the Commission funded the Oral Health Initiative (OHI) to improve the oral health of children ages birth to age 5 through dental care coordination, direct patient care, increased provider and community capacity to address young children’s oral health. The intent of the initiative is to meet oral health needs on a coordinated, comprehensive, countywide basis. One lead agency serves as the countywide coordinator to oversee a collaborative of fifteen community health centers, two community/provider education providers, one tertiary dental clinic, private dental providers and other community based organizations. The countywide coordinator contracts with these organizations to provide dental care coordination, caregiver education, exams/screenings, and treatment (routine and specialty). In addition, the countywide coordinator facilitates relationship building among providers from a spectrum of health disciplines (ex. obstetrics, primary care, dental) and community organizations to ensure that young children and pregnant women are cared for in a coordinated fashion to treat and prevent further dental disease. The countywide coordinator also expands community capacity through provider education, training and networking.

OHI Outcomes

OHI has transformed the dental care system in the following ways:

- **Created oral care network.** The network has significantly reduced delays from exams to treatment.

- **Expanded access to oral health services.** Oral screenings now conducted in well child and OBGYN visits and community settings resulting in more clients in need getting referred
- **Improved Standards of Practice.** Promotes the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry standard of a first dental visit by age 1.
- **Instituting a national best practice.** San Diego County is a leading area nationally for implementing the caries risk assessment
- **Created specialty treatment pool fund.** Children in need received 2,726 oral procedures since 2005 where anesthesia was required.

Over its four year history, OHI demonstrated exceptional outcomes:

	Children 0-5	Pregnant Women
Services	Total*	Total*
Screening	59,016	5,275
Exam	35,781	4,046
Treatment (routine)	35,234	3,746
Treatment (specialty)	1,893	N/A**
Care Coordination	20,512	5,063
Parent Education	45,703	8,675

**Timeframe: April 1, 2005-June 30, 2008*

*** Specialty treatment was not initially funded for pregnant women. This key service has been added to OHI for FY2009-10.*

Highlights include:

- Specialty treatment for children increased by 18.1% from FY 2006-07 to 2007-08.
- From FY 2006-07 to 2007-08, routine treatment and care coordination increased for both children and pregnant women.
- Since 2006, 1,080 healthcare/dental professionals and 2,080 CBO providers have been trained on oral health issues of children 0-5 and pregnant women.
- 35,781 exams, 37,127 treatments provided to children 0-5.

Commission History:

- **December 15, 2003 (Item 10):** The Commission authorized OHI to increase access to quality dental care and prevention focused education for parents, provider and the community.
- **January 2005 (Item 8):** The Commission awarded a total of up to \$4.2 million for OHI: awarded \$3.2 million for oral health direct services and a total of \$1 million to six community health centers for oral health related capital projects. Since the initiation of the contract, the direct services provider contract was extended once (November 2006, Item 5).
- **June 2009 (Item 5):** The Commission added \$1,080,500 to the contract for the Community Clinics Health Network for FY 2009-10 to expand oral health services for children and pregnant women.

TPAC Statement: None

Staff Recommendation:

- 1) Find that contracting services for an Oral Health Initiative countywide coordinator is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan, furthers the promotion of a child's healthy physical and emotional development.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to work with the County Director of Purchasing and Contracting, to release a competitive solicitation for countywide coordination of the Oral Health Initiative.

- 3) Approve up to \$13M for a five-year, multi-year contract for FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15 from the Commission's allocations for the Oral Health Initiative. Authorize a project length budget and contract for the OHI countywide coordinator.

Fiscal Impact

Up to \$13 million for FY 2010-11 through FY 2014-15 from the Commission's allocations for the Oral Health Initiative. These funds were approved in the 5 Year Program Allocation Plan. The annual contract amount is up to \$2.6 million.