



Executive Director Medical Director Finance Director Operations Director Billing Front Desk

July is Cultural Competency Month!

July is Cultural Competency Month and people who work with the underserved work with a culturally diverse patient population.

The Association of Clinicians for the Underserved is providing information and links to many more resources for clinicians who depend on their ability to relate to a culturally diverse patient base. According to the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, studies indicate that as health care providers bridge the cultural gaps between themselves and their patients, *clinical outcomes improve*. Becoming better equipped to deal

with cultural diversity results in:

- More specific and complete information from patients
- More accurate diagnoses
- Improved compliance with treatment plans
- Increased patient satisfaction with treatment
- Improved health outcomes

In Addition, the National Center for Cultural Competence provides clinicians with a series of tools designed to improve cultural awareness and sensitivity in clinical practice. You can visit them here:

- <http://gucdc.georgetown.edu/nccc/>

To assess your organization's cultural competency, visit here:

- <http://gucdc.georgetown.edu/nccc/nccc7.html>

Visit these websites for more information on cultural competency:

- <http://www.xculture.org/>
- <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/culturalcompetence/Default.htm>

Countdown To The July PPMC Meeting

The July 19th Pharmacy & Purchasing Manager's Meeting in San Francisco is almost here and the response from Council Connections' statewide client base has been tremendous! This is our third quarterly event and the momentum continues to grow, along with the excitement of what we can learn and share.

The theme for July is "Technology as a Tool" and we have an agenda that is chocked full of technology goodies. Through the generosity of our sponsors, we have been able to make this a FREE full day event in which we will discuss new Unilab technology, customized patient education on line, CPCA technology updates, advanced technology for prescribing,

communicating with web sites and our key note topic: *Positioning Your Organization for Internet Purchasing*.

We have less than 10 seats left for this wonderful day in the city by the bay, and would love for you to join us. For more information, please contact Joann at 619-265-2100, x309.

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Summer Musings . . .

Who has ever photographed a possibility? Yet that is all the quantum world is made of. If you say a word or make a molecule, you have chosen to act. A little wave laps up from the ocean's surface, becoming an incident in the space-time world. The whole ocean remains behind, a vast, silent reservoir of possibilities, of waves that have yet to be born.

Deepak Chopra, M.D.

Building an Oral Health Safety Net for Children



We are happy to announce that the Oral Health Safety Net Project has been funded by the San Diego County Children and Families Commission (Prop 10)! The project will address the tremendous unmet need for oral health prevention and treatment services for children under age 5 in San Diego's community health centers. The Project will include three primary strategies:

Prevention and Education Strategies

Using a community-based health education model, the Project will integrate oral health prevention programs and messages into a variety of existing primary care and prevention programs targeting children under age 5 in community health centers. Clinics will be able to expand oral health prevention education to a variety of community sites, coordinated closely with other prevention programs at the clinics. Health Education staff at each clinic will:

- Expand the capacity of community clinic prenatal programs to reach high-risk pregnant women with oral health prevention messages. These women will be referred for dental services and educated about the importance of oral health care for their infants.
- Coordinate training for community clinic primary care physicians on integrating oral health prevention and screening into the pri-

mary care visit, utilizing existing curricula and contractors.

- Target community based programs such as Head Starts, child care providers, WIC programs, and other programs with which the clinics have linkages. Community based outreach will be done in close coordination with other clinic and community efforts.
- Provide referrals for assistance with enrollment in Healthy Families, Medi-Cal and other programs as appropriate to maximize third party funding for dental services.

Screening, Early Intervention and Referral Strategies

The Project will strengthen the oral health system of care for children under age 5 through dental provider training, dental screenings and early intervention including the application of fluoride varnishes. The following strategies will be emphasized:

- Coordinate and implement training for dentists in caring for young children under age 5.
- Implement mobile oral health prevention, screening and fluoride varnish clinics, countywide. We will target sites that do not offer dental treatment services to link those families with a dental home.
- Link uninsured children under age 5 with a dental home, including providing referrals to assessment and application assistance for health insurance options as appropriate.



Treatment and Infrastructure Expansion Strategies

The Project will enhance the community clinic dental treatment infrastructure by providing resources to expand the capacity of existing clinic dental providers to serve additional children under age 5. Currently, community health centers that provide dental treatment services are operating at capacity. The Project will expand the capacity of providers to serve additional children under age 5 by:

- Purchasing and implementing additional dental operatories and dental equipment to serve children under age 5 in need of a dental home.
- Supporting additional personnel in clinics, allowing dental clinics to expand hours or to add personnel to existing clinic hours.
- Expanding dental treatment resources and capacity will result in additional dental homes and additional children receiving their first dental exam under age 5 in San Diego County.

The Oral Health Safety Net Project will lay a foundation for building a strong infrastructure to improve the oral health of children under 5 years of age in San Diego's community health centers. For more information on oral health, check out the Dental section of the Links Library on the Community Clinic Health Network web site at

www.ccc-sd.org



Oral health is essential to overall health and well being.

Oral Health ailments - cavities, cancer, gum disease, tooth loss, oral-craniofacial injuries and birth defects - afflict more Americans than any other cluster of health problems.

Most oral health problems are preventable.

Effective prevention interventions - especially community based dental sealant and water fluoridation programs - can provide immediate and long term health protection.

Oral health is not solely dependent on individual behaviors. Governments and business/community leaders can do more:

- *Fluoridate community water supplies*
- *Expand school-based or linked dental sealant programs*
- *Step up community and school based oral health programs that provide*
- *Establish statewide oral health monitoring systems and invest in oral health research*
- *Ensure public health agencies have the capacity to promote oral health*