

January 13, 2004

STAFF REPORT

MEMO TO: SUTTER COUNTY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

FROM: DEB COULTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

RECOMMENDATION: It is the recommendation of the Executive Director to enter into an Oral Health Initiative that will lead to improvements in the oral health status of young children through five years. The program will be designed to specifically address and enhance:

- Access to restorative dental services
- Parent and community understanding of the importance of oral health in young children
- Evaluation of services
- Provision of needed dental services

BACKGROUND: Oral health was selected by the Sutter County CFC as one of the focus areas for further research and investigation of need for services. This focus was based on the review of literature, discussions with local providers and families in addressing dental needs, and compelling presentations by the program coordinator of “Sutter County Smiles” dental grant.

The Sutter County Children and Families Commission has directly supported one oral health project to date. This project, “Sutter County Smiles”, was designed to develop and begin the implementation of a strategic plan to provide dental services to Sutter County children utilizing a school based delivery model. The project was implemented with two community partners, Yuba City Unified School District and Peach Tree Clinic. The program has been very successful in providing dental services to children. In addition the program evaluation has documented the need for dental services for children in reports presented to the Commission in the last fiscal year. “Sutter County Smiles” program funding ends June 30, 2004.

CURRENT PROPOSAL: In order to implement an Oral Health Initiative, a maximum one time capital expenditure from Commission reserves of \$375,000 is requested to purchase a dental van, equipment and instrumentation. And up to \$150,000 annually for 5 years from budget line item, 53100 to support ongoing costs to the program. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding for services shall be entered into with Yuba City Unified School District for operation and maintenance of the dental van and Peach Tree Clinic for provision of dental services, including hiring of staff, securing of supplies, and provision of dental care for children 0-5 years of age, billing for services and associated administrative costs, for the duration of the project. Annual cost of staff and supplies will be dependent upon the level of reimbursement Peach Tree Clinic can secure from third party sources for care delivered and may be less than the maximum amount reserved for this function.

The one time cost of the dental van will depend in part upon the equipment selected to be part of the purchase package but will not exceed the \$375,000 allocated.

IMPACT ON COMMISSION RESOURCES:

\$375,000 from reserves (one time expenditure)

\$750,000 from budget line 53100 (\$150,000 annually for 5 years)

POLICY ACTION REQUESTED: It is requested the Commission allocate a maximum of \$375,000 to purchase the Life Line mobile dental van, equipment and instrumentation and allocate a maximum of \$150,000 annually for 5 years to support ongoing costs of the program. The Life Line mobile dental van has been inspected by Commissioners and local dental practitioners all of whom found it to be the best value.

DC:bd