



CALIFORNIA RURAL INDIAN HEALTH BOARD, INC.

September 6, 2006

To: Program Directors, Dental Directors

It is my pleasure to announce that the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB), has been awarded a 4 year grant to develop a California Dental Support Center. This grant is the result of much effort by Dr. Steve Riggio, California Area Office Dental Consultant, and the California Dental Advisory Committee, and resolutions by many tribal health programs. CRIHB agreed to submit the grant when it was learned that the California Area Office was not eligible to submit an application. CRIHB will continue to work with Dr. Riggio and the California Dental Advisory Committee in developing the Dental Support Center for all tribal and urban Indian health programs.

The Dental Support Center has 3 initiatives:

1. Clinic based initiative to prevent caries in infants and toddlers. This will include providing training to primary medical care providers and support staff on the transmission of dental caries to their infants and children, provide training and educational materials to expectant mothers, and facilitating the referral of expectant mothers to the dental clinic for caries assessment.
2. Community based initiative to enhance preschool age prevention plans, with emphasis on providing training to staff, parents and caregivers at existing Head Start Programs.
3. Provide training for Registered Dental Assistants to become certified in dental sealant placement as allowed by recent California legislation. (A survey has recently been sent to your Dental Departments to determine the number of RDA's who are interested in this training.)

Dr. Riggio and I have begun the initial planning process for this grant. If you have questions, please feel free to contact one of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Dahl".

Susan Dahl, MHA, RHIA, CHC, CHP
Health Systems Development Director
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