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NEW VIRTUAL DENTAL HOME PROJECT TO ADDRESS ACCESS TO CARE CRISIS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

New project to bring dental care to underserved communities through latest computer technology

Sacramento, Calif. – More than 250 children in the Chula Vista, National City and San Diego areas of San Diego County will be able to receive free dental care thanks to a new virtual dental home project supported by The Paradise Valley Community Health Fund of The San Diego Foundation.

The Virtual Dental Home Project is a new care delivery model developed by the University of the Pacific's Pacific Center for Special Care in partnership with the California Dental Association Foundation. This groundbreaking project, which has received \$289,000 from The Paradise Valley Community Health Fund of The San Diego Foundation, is needed to address the 'access to care' crisis in California by connecting patients with critical dental services.

“With the budgets being cut all over the state, it is imperative that we get the most out of every grant dollar we have available,” said Karma Bass, President & CEO, Alliance Healthcare Foundation and member of the PVCHF Advisory Committee. “The CDA Foundation’s Virtual Dental Home Project is both innovative and effective and will allow many children to improve their oral health care who would otherwise go without care.”

The Virtual Dental Home is designed to expand and improve access to dental services for people who experience difficulty accessing traditional dental offices by establishing collaborative relationships between community-based dental hygienists or dental assistants and dentists in community clinics or private practice. Teledentistry technologies will link community-based personnel to dentists, who will remotely provide consultation, diagnosis and treatment plan to allow for timely preventive and temporizing treatment to be provided in the community setting. Patients requiring complex restorative treatment will be case managed to a dentist for care.

Long term goals of the Virtual Dental Home in San Diego County, according to Rolande Loftus, CDA Foundation program director, include:

- Determining the feasibility of using technology to accurately diagnose and treatment plan dental care outside of a traditional dental office setting.
- Increased access to hygiene instruction, preventive interventions and temporary restorations in a community setting for underserved children.



- Create a more efficient dental case management system for children who require comprehensive dental treatment that must be provided by a dentist by providing some services in the community prior to the office visit.

About California Dental Association Foundation

The CDA Foundation was formed as the philanthropic affiliate of the California Dental Association in 2001 with the mission to improve the oral health of Californians by supporting the dental health profession and its efforts to increase access to care for the state's most vulnerable people. The CDA Foundation works with experts in the dental profession, private business, academic institutions and government to produce programs that increase access to care, promote prevention education and intervention, advance health policy research and build a sustainable oral health workforce.
www.cdafoundation.org