

Alachua County Dental Association
We Care Network – Project: Dentists Care
Report to the ACDA Board – March 2008

Project Dentists Care (PDC)

Through the We Care Network the Alachua County Dental Association has sponsored an organized volunteer dental program for residents with low-income. This volunteer dental initiative started in 1993 and is known as Project Dentists Care (PDC). Through Project Dentists Care volunteers provide necessary oral health services to local residents with no other means to access care. Volunteers provided \$98,000.00 in dental care to uninsured residents with low-income in 2007. Partners in PDC include Santa Fe Community College dental programs, the University Of Florida College Of Dentistry, the Florida Department of Health, and the Alachua County Health Department.

- Jean Sampson is the coordinator of oral health services for the We Care program. Ms. Sampson has 40 years of experience as a dental assistant. She has been with the We Care program since July 2004.
- Dentists are eligible for up to 7 hours of continuing education credit during each education cycle earned at 1 credit for every hour of volunteer dental care provided through PDC.
- The Department of Health is able to provide liability protection (sovereign immunity) to eligible volunteers.
- **Since 1993 volunteer oral health services have exceeded 1 million dollars!**

There are many ways to volunteer your professional skills. If you are interested in learning more about Project Dentists Care please call Ms. Jean Sampson at 334-7926.

2007 Update on Program Activities

SFCC – Dental Programs

- The Dental Program at SFCC continues to be an invaluable partner in our volunteer efforts
- Hygiene students participate by providing an initial workup, including medical and dental history, x-rays, hygiene, education, and post restorative maintenance
- Faculty and staff assist in the treatment planning process and provide support during twice monthly restorative clinics known as the **Clinic Setting Initiative (CSI)** held at SFCC
- Students in the Dental Assisting Program at SFCC rotate through the CSI for valuable hands-on experience

Clinic Setting Initiative (CSI)

- Volunteer dentists and dental students provide necessary dental treatment to prescreened patients in a small clinic setting at Santa Fe Community College
- This project emphasizes continuity of care, completion of treatment plans, and post restorative maintenance

Community Participation

- Dentists in private practice continue to provide necessary dental services to eligible patients
- Services include: urgent dental evaluation and treatment, restorative care, oral surgery, endodontics on a limited basis, and tooth replacement for targeted patients with special needs
- We are grateful for all the private dentists in the community who have continued to provide their support

Prosthetic Program for Special Need Patients

- Special needs patients continue to receive prosthetic services at the CSI or from private dentists
 - Special needs patients are generally parents with young children, cancer survivors, or the disabled
- PRIDE dental lab continues to provide low-cost lab services to many of these patients