

**Valley Mountain Regional Center
Community Placement Plan Proposal
VMRC Oral Health Initiative
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Tony Anderson, Executive Director and
Mary Sheehan, RN, Clinical Director
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Our Project and Request for Funding

Recognizing that lack of access to dental services and overall oral health is the number one public health problem for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our region, Valley Mountain Regional Center is requesting significant financial support to engage in a comprehensive multi-faceted campaign to address the problems. While the effort would most likely require a permanent dedication to this issue by VMRC the level of financial allocation and time allocation would be dramatically reduced after significant initiatives are achieved. Initiatives such as increased hospital access, dental clinics, and pipeline activities with dental schools, and policy questions related to payments and covered services are completed. Putting these non-policy initiatives in place will take considerable collaboration and negotiations but once agreements are made the maintenance of agreement should only require occasional review. The policy initiatives once achieved will only require regulatory follow-up.

Our request for funding would support (1) a dental coordinator that would also serve in the capacity of a social services project management professional, (2) the development of a Virtual Dental Home and (3) a training component for the Dental Home and other topics, and (4) a grant writer contract to fund some of the time limited projects listed in this report/proposal.

Year One

Dental Coordinator/Project Director

The central component of this project includes a fulltime dental coordinator who has both the clinical experience supporting people with IDD and knowledge of their unique oral health and related needs but also a professional with the experience and skills to direct a complex social service project. While the position will be housed in our clinical department in Stockton California the functions of the Dental Coordinator will be met by an independent contractor. The contract will be set at \$86,000 a year which is the equivalent of our project managers in-house. The contract will be for 3 years, to see projects to fruition and set up processes to continue services in future. The position will be overseen by the VMRC Clinical Director and will work collaboratively with personnel from the regional center as well as community partners in the field of medical, dental, and education. The dental coordinator will also manage the deliverables from the Grant Writer, work to advance the initiatives listed above, advise the legislative activities listed above, and project manage the progress of the Virtual Dental Homes and the related training program to be implemented in year two (described below).

Virtual Dental Homes

The History of the Virtual Dental Home System

The Virtual Dental Home (VDH) system was created by the University of the Pacific a decade ago and tested in a six-year statewide demonstration project that included a state sponsored Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP). This demonstration found that across a number of high risk populations, including people with developmental disabilities, approximately two-thirds of the children and adults involved could be receive all the services they needed by dental hygienists in community locations with only one-third needing more advanced services that needed to be provided by dentists. As a result of the success of the HWPP, legislation was enacted in 2014 (AB1174) that incorporated new duties tested in the HWPP into the scope of practice of Extended Function Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists. It also required the California Medical program to pay for “Store-and-Forward” teledentistry services. In 2015 regulations were adopted to support AB1174 and are now in place. Pacific is now engaged in providing training and technical assistance to organizations wanting to use the VDH system of care.

Virtual Dental Home Components

- The VDH system as applied to RDHAP Dental Hygienists who will collect diagnostic records and provide preventive and early intervention services in residential facilities and day programs.
- Examination and treatment planning provided by dentists using the program telehealth system.
- Prevention and early intervention services provided in residential facilities and day programs by dental hygienists that include traditional preventive dental procedures plus the placement of Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITRs). An ITR is a filling that can be placed with no anesthesia and no drilling in a community site by removing soft material from the tooth with a hand instrument and placing a bonded tooth-colored filling material. ITRs stop the progression of decay and can stabilize teeth for a long period of time.
- Desensitization for both daily “mouth care” and dental procedures using a systematic desensitization approach.
- Training and monitoring of caregivers to perform daily mouth care using a package of training materials Pacific has developed called Overcoming Obstacles to Oral Health.
- Coordination and tracking of care and referrals in conjunction with the VMRC Dental Coordinator.
- Referrals to dental offices, clinics, surgi-centers and hospitals as needed. However, the emphasis of this project will be to keep people healthy and reduce the need for these services.

Training for Successful Virtual Dental Home Implementation and Other Important Topics for Professionals Supporting People with IDD

We propose to work with Dr. Paul Glassman, Director of the Pacific Center for Special Care. He has been providing direct dental services and developing grant supported systems of care for regional center consumers since 1975. He and members of the Pacific Center staff and other faculty of the school of dentistry have extensive

experience developing and directing community oral health delivery systems and delivering direct dental services. Pacific's Special Care clinic in San Francisco receives referrals for care of people from all over Northern California for clinical and hospital-based care. We will ensure the ongoing success of the VDH system from year one by providing training and technical support for a variety of groups that will be participating in this resource. These courses and training would use a variety of formats including on-line modules, webinars, and in-person sessions. The courses include:

- Continuing Education (CE) courses for dental personnel which would include:
 - Courses for community dentists and dental hygienists on providing oral health services for people with developmental disabilities.
 - Specific training for the dentists and dental hygienists involved in the VDH system on all the components of the system described above.
- Formation of a "learning community" among participants in the VDH system including dental personnel, caregivers, and Valley Mountain Regional Center personnel.
- Technical assistance at all levels of the VDH system.

Year Two

Dental Coordinator/Project Director

Continuation of the dental coordinator contractor position.

Virtual Dental Home Implementation and Training (Continuation)

Continuation of the dental coordinator contractor position.

Year Three

Dental Coordinator/Project Director

Continuation of the dental coordinator contractor position.

Virtual Dental Home Implementation and Training (Continuation)

Continuation of the dental coordinator contractor position.

Grant Writer Contract

Several initiatives that the dental coordinator may pursue from the recommendations from staff and other experts will require start-up funding and sustaining the dental coordinator position may also be eligible for outside support by foundations and other funders. The grant writer will target projects and gap funding identified by the dental coordinator. We propose to utilize this resource by the beginning of the third year to give us two years' experience managing our projects and assessing what's working and what's not working and to be strategic in targeting funders for support of the most impactful initiatives.