



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2005

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR NORTH COUNTY CHILDREN WITHOUT INSURANCE

Dental Sealants and Fluoride Provided to Children Without Dental Coverage

WHO: Peggy Yamagata, RDH, MEd, Program Manager, HHS Dental Health Initiative
San Diego County Dental Society Representatives
San Diego County Dental Hygienists' Society Representatives
North County Dental Task Force
250 children, with their families, receiving dental sealants or fluoride varnish
30-40 volunteers, including dentists and hygienists

WHAT: Media are invited to visit this clinic, which is a follow-up to one held in Nov. 2004, in an effort to accommodate the many North County children (ages 1 to 18 years) with no dental resources. Volunteer dental professionals will apply sealants and fluoride varnish to children's teeth, while community organizations entertain and educate children and parents about dental health.

Funded by County Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, this event is a collaborative effort of the North County Dental Task Force, Mesa Community College Dental Assisting Program, San Diego County Dental Society, San Diego County Dental Hygienists' Society, the San Diego County SMILES Program, the Share the Care Dental Program, and Southwestern College's Dental Hygiene Program.

WHEN: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 16, 2005

WHERE: Neighborhood Healthcare Dental Clinic
425 N. Date Street, Escondido 92025

WHY: Of more than 4,700 children screened in North County public schools during the 2003-04 school year, 22% had obvious cavities. Painting dental sealants and fluoride varnish on teeth is a safe and painless way to help prevent cavities. Unfortunately, many children do not receive these services, particularly in North County, where there are shortages of dental professionals. Free clinics such as this and the one held in November help to fill a gap in dental services, a health service priority of Chairwoman Slater-Price as well as the HHS North Regions.

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