

NEWS RELEASE



El Dorado County **HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Neda West, Director / Olivia C. Kasirye, MD, MS, Public Health Officer
931 Spring Street, Placerville, CA 95667 • (530) 621-6156/ FAX (530) 626-4713

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2010

CONTACT:
Margaret Williams
(530) 621-6243
www.edcgov.us

El Dorado County to Secure Dental Van for Young Children

Some of El Dorado County's kids will soon have more to smile about. A new program is coming to the county to offer dental check-ups, cleanings and treatment services for young children ages 0-5, who are uninsured or on Medi-cal, through a mobile dental van that will rotate to various school sites throughout the county. It is hoped that the children's dental van will be operational by this summer. The dental program is a collaborative effort of First 5 El Dorado, the El Dorado County Health Services Department Children's Health Initiative, the Shingle Springs Tribal Health Program, and the El Dorado County Office of Education.

"Many of the children who will benefit from this program have never been to a dentist before," said Kirsten Rogers, Supervising Health Education Coordinator at the Health Services Department. "Our goal is to focus on prevention and early treatment of dental problems so that children can be healthier and ready for school." According to Rogers, there are currently few dentists in El Dorado County who have the means to treat children who are uninsured or on Medi-Cal.

Plans are in the works to purchase the children's dental van, which will feature three exam and treatment rooms, equipment to take and process digital x-rays, and electronic record-keeping. Funding for the van will be provided by a grant from First 5 El Dorado. Dentists from the Shingle

Springs Tribal Health Program will provide dental services for the children. The van will be housed at various school sites through a cooperative agreement with the County Office of Education.

According to Rogers, the children's dental van is one of several planned local interventions to address dental concerns of children. "This is an exciting project and one that we hope to build upon," said Rogers. "All of the agency partners involved in our children's oral health collaborative are comprehensively looking at the local needs and what we can do with the resources available to us." Individuals wanting more information about the children's dental van may contact Rogers at (530) 621-6143.

#