



The Filling Station

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

May 2010

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Board of Directors meet

Quarterly on the

2nd Thursday

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Aids Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)

SC HIV/AIDS Activist are urging State Legislators not to reduce their HIV/AIDS Funding

The South Carolina AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provides access to HIV/AIDS treatments to low-income, uninsured and underinsured people living with HIV/AIDS. Authorized under Part B of the Federal Ryan White CARE Act, ADAPs are administered by each state and territory that receives federal Ryan White Part B ADAP funds. The ADAP fund pays for medication for person living with HIV/AIDS.

South Carolina ranks 8th in the nation for the rate of new AIDS cases. Columbia, the state's capitol, ranks 9th in the nation in the rate of AIDS. South Carolina AIDS cases is not decreasing. Yet, funds for the needed medication is being reduced.

According to Becky Allen, (The Body, March 24, 2010 article) Thomas Berry of South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), is the agency that maintains the ADAP program, states, "previous years, South Carolina's ADAP was funded by a combination of state and federal money". Mr. Berry states, "this year, the proposed budget provides no state-bases funds, ADAP will continue to run on \$2.2 million from federal government, provided through Medicaid". Mr. Berry continues indicating, "this is still a serious reduction in the program's budget, which has already caused SC to close ADAP to new enrollees, and is likely to lead to the creation of an ADAP waiting list. Mr. Berry states, "DHEC plan to work with wait-listed people to help them enroll in pharmaceutical company assistance program so they won't be left without any recourse."

According to the most recent ADAP Watch report, as of March 1, 662 people are on waiting lists across 10 states —up from 346 in nine states in November. However, those number do not include everyone who was receiving ADAP coverage but had their assistance cut. Some people are not on waiting list because, due to ADAP changes in their states, they are no longer even eligible for assistance. By Becky Allen, Staff writer.

On March 17, 2010, Aids Activists lead by the South Carolina HIV/AIDS Care Crisis Task Force set to rally at South Carolina State House to "reinstate all \$5.9 millions in HIV/AIDS funding. The rally urged South Carolina's legislatures' to restore the ADAP funding for the State Aids Drug Assistance Program, as the proposed cuts will have severe and catastrophic consequences if enacted." Dr. Bambi Gaddist, Chair, SC HIV/AIDS Care Crisis Task Force states, "This is truly a matter of life or death for the thousand of people who depend upon the state to provide the lifesaving medications that enable them to lead healthy, productive lives. HIV medications can also reduce the level of infectiousness and prevent transmission of HIV from one person to another. So, this funding is also needed to help prevent the further spread of AIDS in South Carolina". Dr. Gaddis further states, "Although we understand that an amendment has been submitted to restore \$2.2 million of the original allocation of \$5.9 million, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program is receiving one hundred new application each month. If the legislature fails to fully restore funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and ADAP back in the budget, we fear that South Carolina is looking at an even greater crisis than the one in 2006 which lead to four tragic deaths".

SOURCE: Aids Healthcare Foundation

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Columbia Oral Health Clinic has a responsible and a commitment

The Columbia Oral Health Clinic has been in operation for over 10 years. During this period the dental clinic has always maintained our patients with the upmost respect and care.

The Staff and the dental team are mindful of putting the patients interests first. Whether our patients' need a simple tooth filling, extraction, cleaning or to be processed for a partial or a set of dentures, our staff ensures that our patients receive the highest level of dental care.

The entire staff of COHC believe that comprehensive and preventative dental care assures that our patient base would always know and understand how to maintain their oral health. The dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistance and administrative staff are qualified members of COHC's dental team with professional skills and an ability to always maintain a positive relationship with our patients. We strive to have our staff and dental team develop their skills through training and other methods of professional development.

We are determined to build long lasting relationships with our patients. We strive to have our patients return to the dental clinic knowing that the staff is truly interested and firmly care that our patients receive the best of service. With that our patients' remember that they are in good hands.

COHC offers a unique dental experience to our patients - we provide a one-on-one approach to teaching and educating our patients as to how to brush, floss and to care for their teeth and their dentures. We value our patients and strive to provide a quality of care to our patients in a environment that is conducive to a private dental clinic. Our staff work as a team in providing such care to

our patients. We are dedicated and we all take pride in our service to our patients and to the community.

Many people in South Carolina are without dental insurance. As a result, the demand for our dental service is continuously growing. As more patients learn of our services, and learn how to access our services, our waiting list has increased and our dental appointments are booked months in advance. Because of the increase in our dental demand, we encourage each patient to call to confirm their appointments. Although our appointments are booked months in advance, we try diligently to accommodate the influx of patients in a timely matter.

The Columbia Oral Health Clinic is aware and understands the urgency of **EMERGENCIES**. We make every effort to accommodate our emergency cases, as a way of helping to alleviate the pain caused by tooth aches, or other dental issues.

According to the Division of Oral Health, National Center for chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (November 21, 2006). "For every adult 19 years or older, without medical insurance, there are three without dental insurance. Seventy percent of adults reported visiting a dentist in the past 12 months. Those with incomes at or above the poverty level are much more likely to report a visit to a dentist in the past 12 months; as those with lower incomes. Patients with a weakened immune systems, such as those infected with HIV and other medical conditions (organ transplant) and who use some medication (e.g. steroids)"..

We understand about the relationship with the Federal Government and their provision of dental service's for HIV/AIDS patients' and we seek

to accommodate the individual oral needs of our patients'. Oral health is one of the portals to managing overall health of every individual.

HIV-positive people should be encouraged to receive dental services every six months. HIV-positive people may develop conditions such as thrush as a result of poor oral hygiene. Most oral health problems, such as dental caries, and periodontal diseases, are the result of bacterial infections. Persons living with HIV/AIDS can protect themselves not only with routine examinations, but also by brushing and flossing regularly. Smoking and alcohol use is related to oral cancers, which are common and have a poor prognosis compared to other types of cancer.

(David L. Rosenstein, D.M.D., M.P.H.)

COHC cares about nurturing our community. We want our patients to know we are here and we care about their oral health.



OUTRAGE: Dental Bill Puts Bite on Homeowner

By: Michelle Diament: Source the AARP Bulletin print edition April 1, 2010.

Capri Ramos has never missed a mortgage payment on her Salt Lake City home, but after a lengthy court battle she could lose the house anyway, thanks to a \$68 dentist bill. Ramos, 43, was a young mom when she took her 4-year old to a dentist for swollen gums more than 15 years ago. Uninsured, she made partial payment and expected to be billed for the rest. But she never received a subsequent bill and soon forgot about the episode. Meanwhile, a lingering charge for \$67.72 went to collections and was brought before a judge. Ramos say she was not notified. The judge award the collections agency

hundreds of dollars and ordered the sheriff's department to sell her house to make up for the debt. The home sold at auction in 1996 for \$1,550, though Ramos had paid \$51,000 for it. It wasn't until two years later that Ramos learned on a fluke that she had lost the title to the buyer, Jarmacco Properties LLC. She paid Jarmaccc what was owed to regain the title, but the company has refused to transfer it. She's been fighting in court to regain the title ever since. "There's something immoral about how it was done," says Ramos of the sale of her home, where she still lives. "They tried to take advantage, and just because I don't have a lot of money, they thought I wouldn't fight."

A BIG THANKS and WAY TO GO !

Our Multi-talented Administrative Assistant "Pat Reynolds" has a special talent for spontaneous fundraising. By carrying a few business reply envelopes with her; Pat instantly empowers those who are supportive of our clinic. We thank her for inviting people to give to the clinic and for recently attracting over \$675.00 from various private donors. Her persistence and consistency are paying off as donations continue to come in. We sincerely appreciate her efforts, her time and dedication to this dental clinic and the patients we care for. CUDOS PAT!!

If you would like to send a donation to support our clinic and the work we do in the community, please send your donations to:

Columbia Oral Health Clinic
PO Box 3206
Columbia, SC 29230

We Thank you in Advance

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- February 23**, attended SCHAC Task Force meeting from 10-1pm
- March 7**, attended LRADAC Open House
- March 9**, visit to PALSS with interns—HIV presentation with a overview of the available programs
- March 11**, meeting with Palmetto Health Tiffany Sullivan
- March 17**, attended SCHAC rally at the State House for the ADAP funds from 11:30-12:30pm
- March 24**, staff attended Hinman Conference in Atlanta from March 24-27
- April 1**, attended meeting at MCC with Nancy Raley
- April 13**, meeting with Dennis Coker, Free Medical Clinic—establishing grant proposal for continual dental service
- April 28**, attended Palmetto Health Policy update meeting from 9-11am
- May 10**, attended meeting at Free Medical Clinic with the community Impact team at 11:30am

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A Unique Free Dental Clinic

Our Mission

The COHC mission is to ensure access to high-quality oral health care service for adults living with HIV/AIDS, as well as, the homeless and those persons who are uninsured and underinsured that meet our admissions criteria. Our purpose is to disseminate state-of-the-art treatment, oral health information, patient advocacy, and educate patients

You can find us on the web at our new site:

www.columbiaoralhealthclinic.org

Check Out Our Virtual Tour



**WE TAKE PRIDE IN
 OFFERING HIGH
 QUALITY CARE TO OUR
 PATIENTS AND ARE
 ALWAYS SEEKING WAYS
 OF
 IMPROVING THE SERVICE
 THAT WE
 PROVIDE.
 IF YOU HAVE ANY
 FEEDBACK TO HELP US
 HELP YOU
 PLEASE LET US KNOW.....**

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Administrative Staff and the Dental Staff attended the Hinman Atlanta 2010 Dental Conference from March 25-27 at the Georgia World Congress Center Omni Hotel. The staff spoke of the excitement and knowledge learned during the conference. The workshops and seminars were very informative. There was much information related to their area of interest.

Most notable was the opportunity to explore new advance products and services that would be useful within our clinic. The staff was able to price merchandise and to make a long wish list of new products that would make our daily duties more effective and efficient for all.

In addition to the conference exploring beautiful Atlanta was a pleasure for the staff. They enjoyed the many restaurants and the city with all of its wonder.



Mother's Day

Mother's Day was established by Anna Marie Jarvis, following the death of her mother Ann Jarvis on May 9, 1905, with the help of a Philadelphia merchant called John Wannamaker. A small service was held 12 May 1907, in the Andrew Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Anna's mother had been teaching Sunday School. The first official service was held May 10, 1908, in the same church accompanied by a larger ceremony in the Wannamaker Auditorium in Philadelphia. She then campaigned to establish Mother's day as a US National holiday, and later a international holiday. The holiday was declared officially by the state of West Virginia in 1910, and the rest of the states followed quickly. On May 8, 1914, the US Congress passed a bill designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and requesting a proclamation. On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation, declaring the first national Mother's day, as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers' whose sons had died in the war. In 1934 Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt approved a stamp commemorating the holiday.