

ACCESS POINTS



TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE

Bringing Health Care to the Children
Rural Dental Practice Approach has Appeal
Small Town Practice is Win-Win for Dentist and Patients

Bringing Health Care to the Children

The smiles of the children gathered around Sioux Falls Mayor Huether were contagious and all were excited to participate in cutting the ribbon for the newest Falls Community Health, Inc. school-based clinic site at Terry Redlin Elementary.

This is the second school-based clinic site to open in Sioux Falls and joins five other existing school-based sites across South Dakota.

"Children have difficulty concentrating on anything when they are hurting. The school-based clinics can provide the child's basic health needs to allow them to excel in the classroom," said Judy Kendall, clinical services manager for Falls.

Falls' first school-based site at Hawthorne Elementary began during spring semester of 2008. During the summer of 2010 a classroom remodel at Hawthorne and an addition at Terry Redlin creating a permanent site at both schools.

Kendall added, "The Terry Redlin clinic services



Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether with children, staff, and school officials at the ribbon cutting for the Falls Community Health, Inc. school-based clinic at Terry Redlin Elementary.

school children and their families, as well as serving as a neighborhood clinic."

Hawthorne recorded 189 provider visits and 183 nursing visits and Terry Redlin had 228 provider visits and 225 nursing visits during 2010.

Schools serve as a central focus for many neighborhoods and communities. Having a clinic in the building is convenient for parents work-

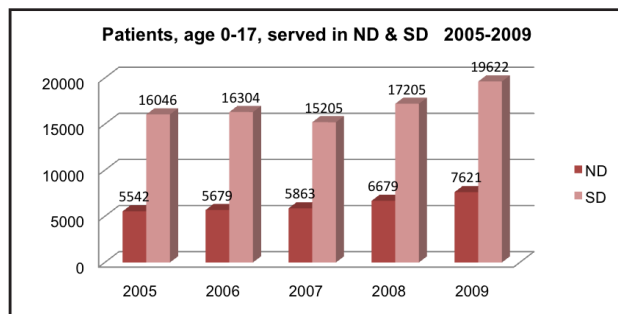
ing long hours or with limited ability to leave work for doctor appointments.

Students feel comfortable in the school environment and clinic staff become part of the close knit group of people the students trust and interact with regularly.

"We participate in special events such as school carnivals, conferences, and a Cinco de Mayo party. We also offer flu shots to all school-age children and their siblings 6 months to 18 years of age," commented Kendall.

Community health centers across the Dakotas have seen a consistent increase in patients between the ages of 0-17 receiving care. (See graph to the left.)

Providing primary and preventive care at a young age helps create healthy habits students will use for a lifetime.



Source: Uniform Data System Report - 2009

Rural Dental Practice Approach has Appeal

"The opportunity seemed like what I was really looking for: a more community responsive approach that maintained the concepts of preventive and comprehensive care," stated Riley Parker, DMD, of his new position with Northland Community Health Center's dental site in Turtle Lake, ND.

Dr. Parker attended the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health in Mesa, AZ, where his first exposure to community health centers was in the form of oral health rotations.

After graduating he moved to Roseburg, OR, and worked at a corporate dental office for two years.

"Knowing there's a way to get out from under the educational loan debt rather than passing the cost on to the patient is significant," added Dr. Parker.

State and federal student loan programs provide an added incentive for returning to rural areas to work and can help keep oral health care costs down.

Limited access to oral health services across the state brings patients from all over the surrounding areas to the Turtle Lake clinic site for affordable, high-quality care.

Dentists starting private practices are faced with high loan payments

"I want to provide ideal dentistry when patients want ideal dentistry. That is the approach at Northland."

Dr. Riley Parker

"The corporate atmosphere had an emphasis on number of patients and procedures and I preferred the patient-oriented care I was part of at the community health centers during my rotations," Dr. Parker shared.

Being natives of North Dakota, Dr. Parker and his wife began to discuss the idea of returning to the state and saw the position with NCHC.

The added possibility for student loan repayment made joining the community health center site even more appealing.

in addition to the start up expense for facilities and equipment. These costs often get passed on to patients through higher service charges.

Start up costs won't be an issue for Dr. Parker. NCHC has a total of six oral health exam rooms for dentist and dental hygienist use.

"I want to provide ideal dentistry when patients want ideal dentistry. That is the approach at Northland," commented Dr. Parker.

"The patient is the beginning and the end. Their outcomes are crucial."



Dr. Riley Parker is the newest dentist to join Northland Community Health Center's clinic site in Turtle Lake, ND.

Continuing to improve and enhance the preventive services such as sealants, fluorides, and varnishes is one of Dr. Parker's focuses for the future.

Speaking at the local school and handing out toothbrushes is just one of the ways he will continue to emphasize the message of primary and preventive oral health care in the community.

Even after just a few weeks on the job, Dr. Parker can see how NCHC is meeting the need for oral health services and the potential for continued growth.

"This clinic site doesn't just treat Turtle Lake, but a wide area in the surrounding communities," stated Dr. Parker. "The goal is to have many people utilizing services over a long period of time to maintain their oral health care."

Small Town Practice is Win-Win for Dentist and Patients

Other dentists in central North Dakota along Highway 83 have come and gone, but not Bill Kuehn, DMD.

Getting to know his patients and becoming a part of the Turtle Lake community has been an added benefit for his lucrative private practice in this rural community in central North Dakota.

While others sought out bigger communities, Dr. Kuehn's practice flourished and he provided dental services for over 30 years before joining Northland Community Health Center (NCHC).

His philosophy has always been that dentistry is about more than just taking care of teeth, it's about caring for the whole person.

NCHC shares that philosophy and adding oral health services at their Turtle Lake clinic was the perfect match.

Nadine Boe, chief operating officer for NCHC, agreed, "Providing access to primary care is the mission of every community health center and Northland is proud to have Dr. Kuehn to provide oral health services to our patients in Turtle Lake and the surrounding communities.

We continue to see increasing demands for oral health care across the state and, unfortunately, many residents in rural areas continue to go without care."

There is a tremendous number of people who need dental care and I am thankful and grateful for the opportunity to continue to provide it."

Bill Kuehn, DDS

"So many need help, but the big obstacle is financial," stated Dr. Kuehn.

The financial obstacles exist not only for the patients, but for potential providers as well. Dr. Kuehn counted off the many

providers in towns like Washburn or Garrison who stayed for a few years before moving on.

Dr. Kuehn added, "Overhead for a dental practice creates hardship for access to care.

There is a tremendous number of people who need dental care and I am thankful and grateful for the opportunity to continue to provide it," commented Dr. Kuehn.

NCHC will soon expand their existing dental office of four operatories to six:

thanks to the generous donation of two dental chairs and equipment from Robert Vogelwede, DDS.

Dr. Vogelwede owned a private practice in Carrington, ND, and continues to provide oral health services with the Veterans Administration Medical Clinic in Fargo, ND.

With a full schedule and more patients to see than hours in the day, the extra equipment provides NCHC with the capacity to expand services and add oral health staff.

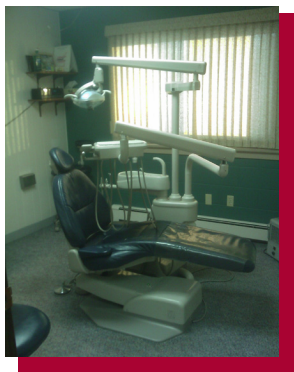
For the right dentist, the established clientele and well-equipped dental office is a golden opportunity.

Clearly, Riley Parker, DDS, agrees as he recently



Northland Community Health Center Dental Clinic staff located at the Turtle Lake clinic site. (from l-r:) Sue Saari, Caitlin Borner, Dr. Kuehn, Victoria Oliver, Roxanne Lang, and Shaina Pochant.

See Winning Smiles Page 3



One of the six oral health operatories located in Northland Community Health Center's Turtle Lake clinic site.

became the second dentist to join NCHC. (See *Rural Dental Practice Approach Has Appeal* on page 3.)

The community has been receptive to the new dentist and appreciate the additional orthodontic services Dr. Kuehn continues to provide in this rural town.

He has enjoyed the ability to improve the smiles of his patients and has even had the opportunity to enhance the smiles of two of the winners of the Miss North Dakota and Mrs. North Dakota pageants.

Dr. Kuehn knows winning smiles start with the basics of primary and preventive oral health care and hygiene.

"Patients who get in on a preventive train have healthier lives," Dr. Kuehn stated.

Many don't realize how oral health issues can affect the rest of the body.

Periodontitis which is inflammation of the gums

with bone loss can be accompanied by major infection that transfers bacteria throughout the body.

The effects can be severe enough to delay potential treatment and/or surgery until the infection is under control.

The community health centers focus on educating patients to manage their health care needs through regular exams and monitoring allows for the isolation and early treatment of many common health concerns such as periodontitis.

Community health centers like NCHC have seen the proof not only in the lives of their patients, but in the costs of care.

Primary and preventive services reduce health care costs across the board by preventing crisis treatment and encouraging healthy lifestyle development.

Regardless of insurance coverage or financial status, every CHC patient receives high-quality primary care. In addition to accepting insurance programs,

Medicare, and Medicaid, each clinic site also offers discounts based on a sliding fee scale.

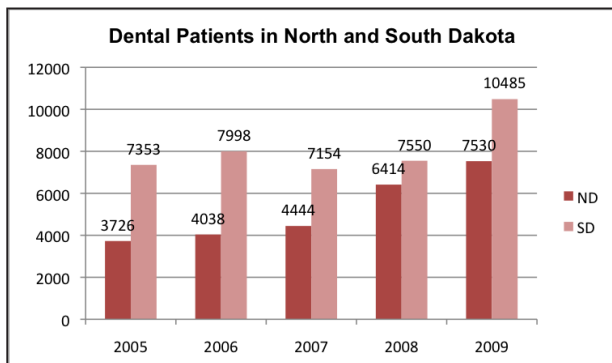
The demand for oral health care continues to increase across the Dakotas and community health centers have seen a significant jump in patients in the last year.

Number of patients in North Dakota increased by over 1100 and South Dakota saw an additional 3000 in 2009 based on the Uniform Data System Reports.

There are currently 53 clinic sites across the Dakotas with eight of them providing oral health services. (See pages 6-7 for a directory of community health centers with oral health services.)

In addition, the Delta Dental Smile Mobile is a resource for community health center sites across South Dakota that do not currently have oral health services.

Contact Ann Skoglund at (701) 255-2811 for more information on Smile Mobile locations and dates.



Source: Uniform Data System Report - 2009

CHAD Member Community Health Centers

Coal Country Community Health Center

Beulah Clinic.....	Beulah, ND
Center Clinic.....	Center, ND
Sandhills Community Health Center.....	Towner, ND

Community Health Center of the Black Hills, Inc.

<u>Community Health Center</u> *	Rapid City, SD
Flormann Health Center	Rapid City, SD
Healthcare for the Homeless	Rapid City, SD

Falls Community Health Center

<u>Community Health Center</u> *	Sioux Falls, SD
--	------------------------

Family HealthCare Center

<u>Fargo Clinic</u> *	Fargo, ND
Homeless Health Services	Fargo, ND

Horizon Health Care, Inc.

Aurora County Clinic.....	Plankinton, SD
Bell Medical Service	DeSmet, SD
<u>Bennett County Family Health Center</u> *	Martin, SD
Bryant Community Health Center.....	Bryant, SD
<u>DeSmet Dental Clinic</u> *	DeSmet, SD
Howard Community Health Center.....	Howard, SD
Jerauld County Clinic.....	Wessington Springs, SD
Lake Preston CHC.....	Lake Preston, SD
Mellette County Health Clinic	White River, SD
Mission Medical Clinic	Mission, SD
Regional Detention Center.....	Plankinton, SD
<u>Prairie Winds Dental Clinic</u> *	Howard, SD
Whiting Memorial Clinic.....	Woonsocket, SD

Migrant Health Services, Inc.

Grafton Clinic.....	Grafton, ND
Moorhead Migrant Health Center	Moorhead, MN

Northland Community Health Center

McClusky	McClusky, ND
Rolla	Rolla, ND
Rolette	Rolette, ND
<u>Turtle Lake</u>	Turtle Lake, ND

Prairie Community Health, Inc.

Bison Clinic.....	Bison, SD
Family Health Center.....	Eagle Butte, SD
Faith Clinic.....	Faith, SD
Takini School	Howes, SD

Prairie Community Health, Inc. Continued

Tiospaye Topa School	LaPlant, SD
Isabel Community Clinic	Isabel, SD
McIntosh Clinic	McIntosh, SD

Rural Health Care, Inc.

Oahe Valley Community Health Center	Ft. Pierre, SD
Buchanan School	Pierre, SD
Community Care Clinic.....	Gettysburg, SD
Highmore Clinic	Highmore, SD
Jones County Clinic.....	Murdo, SD
Onida Clinic	Onida, SD
Stanley-Jones Memorial Clinic	Presho, SD

Union County Health Foundation

Alcester Medical Center	Alcester, SD
Community Health Clinic	Elk Point, SD
Union County Correctional Facility	Elk Point, SD

Valley Community Health Centers

Grand Forks Dental Clinic *	Grand Forks, ND
Northwood Clinic	Northwood, ND
Larimore Clinic.....	Larimore, ND

***Denotes members with oral health services**

All articles were written by Stacie Fredenburg, manager of communications and marketing, unless otherwise noted.

For additional information on community health centers, please contact one of our offices at the numbers listed to the right.

Additional staff and program information can also be found on our web site at www.communityhealthcare.net.

Bismarck Office
1003 East Interstate Avenue, Suite 1
Bismarck, ND 58503

Phone: (701) 221-9824
Fax: (701) 221-0615

Sioux Falls Office
1400 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1570

Phone: (605) 357-1515
Fax: (605) 357-1510





CHAD

Community HealthCare
Association of the Dakotas

1400 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1570

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sioux Falls, SD
PERMIT #7300