

# **PREVENTIVE ORAL HEALTH CARE PLAN**

**PROPOSAL FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH**

**NORTH DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

**MSP**

**CAP HAITIEN DENTAL INSTITUTE**

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Oral health care delivery and its medical/dental infrastructure are integral parts of overall general health that should not be ignored. In order to make oral health a component within the provision of overall health treatment it is necessary to facilitate the joint and integrated actions of the many government and non-governmental organizations involved. There should be a comprehensive program in place to deliver appropriate and necessary treatments with regards to these oral health services.

The purpose of this proposal is to help enhance and to further develop various existing programs. This can be achieved by lending assistance to all the primary health care service providers by

- fostering appropriate responses to treatment needs
- appealing to potential donors for additional start up oral health programs
- aid in shipping and delivering donations
- demonstrating a spirit of collaboration
- sharing management strategies

The CHDI has implemented as its core mission the prevention of oral health disease. We have adopted the World Health Organization's preventive health care model, the Basic Package of Oral Care. This document, written in 2001, asserts the position of oral health care

treatments that are appropriate, affordable to implement and uncomplicated to sustain.

This proposal is designed to meet the oral health needs of the residents of Haiti and to work closely with the North Dental Association members to address the long term objectives of improving the oral health infrastructure for the delivery of services. A sustainable program model is proposed that includes the following ingredients

- Empowering local talent
- Transferring knowledge and techniques by training local community members to engage in appropriate oral health practices and behaviors
- Developing methods to ensure quality of services with the MSPP/Haitian Ministry of Health and Population
- Developing monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of the program
- Targeting the residents most in need of service

The CHDI has in previous trips, with the aid from 66 health care workers from North America, carefully and methodically implemented all three components of the BPOC. In addition to this demonstration of the feasibility there have been multiple permanent clinical sites established for the mobile clinic activities. These sites can include

- Shada Community Center
- Hopital Universitae Justinien, MSPP Center
- Clinique De Tauzin, Limonade
- Vaudreuil Community Center Area
- Ft. St. Michel MSPP Hopital

The program is not limited to these locations, additional sites can be identified, but it will be important that local sites have the infrastructure present with the ability to be linked with medical or dental institutions, government or non-government agencies and the private sector to integrate this best practice model.

The key to this proposal is having the delivery of this Preventive Oral Health Plan done by the member dentists of the NDA with the

cooperation and support of the MSPP. The engagement of the NDA dentists will allow this program to be used more often. Initially the program can, at a minimum, be delivered three days each week at three different locations, however, the capacity to increase the frequency of delivery to other area's is feasible.

The plan of action is to establish a member NDA dentist as the chief preventive oral health care program clinician with the capacity to integrate this oral health care program on an ongoing basis. Resources would be provided to ensure that this program would be integrated within current primary health care services, like community health centers, existing national/regional programs, being specific to local health needs and resources, with the emphasis on preventive health practices. The member dentist will require the help of one support staff. The person will be a clinical assistant and assigned to do support work. They would also educate the population in basic oral health care preventive procedures and would be used on a more frequent basis to monitor preventive health programs. Equipment and supplies are available for use by the NDA dental team from the CHDI and would be located at the CHDI Center.

This program is suited well to integrate with the Soins Infantile Gratuits (SIG), to provide free healthcare for children under the age of five, as promoted by the Haitian Ministry of Health.

Improved health will require better primary health care and increased access to that care. The integration of this program into communities will address the challenges of dealing with oral disease, mostly the high cost of delivering dental care due to the high cost of its delivery and treatment that lacks prevention programs for vulnerable communities.

In summary, improved oral health will require better preventive oral health care and significantly increased access to that care. By implementing this collaborative program the local oral health care clinicians will be able to address the needs that are present. This integration will make significant contributions to better health for all the population.