

TOOTH BE TOLD

SJ TEETH NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to *Tooth Be Told* – Spring 2022

Oral Health activities bloom throughout San Joaquin County this spring. Many community-based organizations are ready to re-engage with families and agency partners identify oral health as a priority for the year.

- San Joaquin County Local Oral Health Program (LOHP) enters a transition phase as the first grant cycle comes to an end on June 30. Closeout activities include:
 - Evaluating progress for LOHP grant activities,
 - Reviewing strategies identified in the [Oral Health Strategic Plan \(2018-2022\)](#),
 - Beginning planning activities for the next five-year grant cycle (2022-2027).
- The LOHP continues to partner with schools to expand the school-based dental screening program and improve Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) reporting compliance.
- San Joaquin County Office of Education Head Start and Early Head Start Programs' Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) identifies dental exams for enrolled children ages 0-5 as a priority workplan activity through 2023.
- First 5 San Joaquin receives another year of funding for SJ TEETH Care Coordination program. Funding will continue through the 2022-2023 fiscal year.



MEET YOUR CARE COORDINATOR

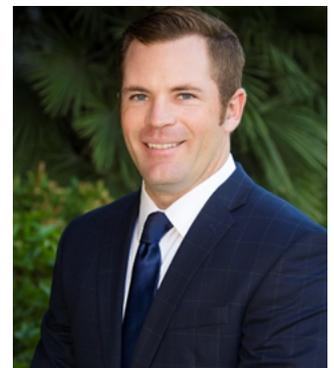
Meet Erika, a dental Care Coordinator for the El Concilio SJ TEETH Care Coordination program! When working with families, Erika has a conversation with parents about the importance of oral health, regular dental visits, and follow-up treatment. Together with parents, they identify barriers that prevent the child from receiving needed dental services and make a plan to overcome those barriers and ensure that the child gets needed dental services. Some barriers may include finding a Medi-Cal dental provider, arranging dental visits, or identifying other resources for the family. Care Coordinators can also arrange transportation to dental visits and provide reminders to parents of their child's upcoming dental visit.

The Care Coordinators have been working hard to re-engage families. In 2022, over 600 children have benefited from Care Coordination services offered by five agencies throughout the county. Care Coordination is available for families with at least one child age 0-5 with Medi-Cal benefits. Interested families can contact Erika Godoy at El Concilio at (209) 636-2990.

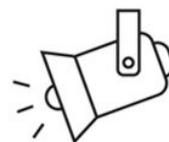
Meet Your Care Coordinator is a quarterly feature of an SJ TEETH Care Coordinator. Share your success story about how care coordination has helped you, your clients, or the community for a chance to be featured in Tooth Be Told! To learn more about Care Coordination, visit SJTEETH.org/Care-Coordination.

QUICK BITES

- Available Now! Order Stella's Shiny Smile books in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Punjabi, Khmer, and Pashto at SJTEETH.org/Community-Partners
- Sean McDonald (photo right) joined the San Joaquin Dental Society as their new Executive Director in February 2022. He also serves as the Executive Director for the Alameda County Dental Society.



SPOTLIGHT



NOTHING BEATS WATER

SJ TEETH will launch a *refreshing* campaign this spring to raise awareness about the benefits of drinking water over sugary drinks, especially for your teeth. Like and share the social media campaign messages that you see on the SJ TEETH [Facebook](#) with your friends, family, clients, and community!

Check out **Nothing Beats Water** campaign videos on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/347p6UQ>.

EXPANDING ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) is a non-profit organization that provides services and resources for children and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties. To receive services, an individual will go through the intake process to determine if they are eligible. They are then assigned to a case manager, called a service coordinator, who will assist in developing an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for children 0-2 years old or Individualized Program Plan (IPP) for 3 years old and over. This allows everyone to be involved in decision making and understand what resources and services the individual, or consumer, needs.

One resource that is often lacking in the five-county area is access to appropriate dental services, specifically dental treatment completed under general anesthesia. While VMRC is advocating for more access to hospital dentistry, there can be more than one solution to address that need. VMRC is currently working to develop a Virtual Dental Home (VDH).

VDH utilizes the Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) and other dental professionals to provide preventive dental treatment in a community setting such as a consumer's home, a day program, a classroom, etc. In this setting, the dental professionals gather information, x-rays, and photos to be sent to a dentist in a separate location via secure telehealth technology.

One aspect of VMRC's VDH that differs from others who are already using this model, is the time allowed for desensitization. Desensitization helps individuals become familiar with the sights and sounds of a dental office. In a traditional dental setting, there is not always time or staff resources for this kind of approach. However, with VMRC's model, the dental professionals have extra time, staff, and training to allow the individual to familiarize themselves with the steps involved in a dental visit. The goal is to provide preventative dental care in a safe and comfortable environment for those who would otherwise receive dental treatment in a hospital.

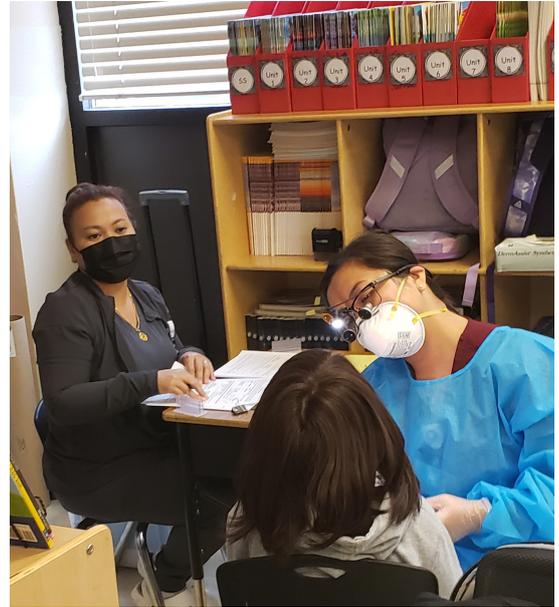
For more information about the VDH program at VMRC, contact Karissa McGuffin at kmcguffin@vmrc.net.



TEAM CHARTER KINDERGARTENERS RECEIVE DENTAL SCREENINGS

SCHOOL-LINKED ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM SUCCESS

Dental Hygienist, Tram Chau, stood at the front of the classroom and prepared kindergarteners for their quick, 2-minute dental screening at Team Charter Bianchi. *"We are going to be checking your teeth and when we ask you to open your mouth, you're going to open it really wide. Like baby shark!"*



San Joaquin County Office of Education's schools participated in the school-based dental screening program offered by the LOHP in March 2022. School Nurse Coordinator, Maddie Aguilera, observed that more than half of their students were missing the required Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) form or had opted out

of completing the dental screening. Parents are allowed to opt out of completing the KOHA if they are unable to find a dentist who accepts their dental coverage, they cannot afford a dental check-up, or they do not want their child to receive a dental check-up.

Allowed under SB 379, schools can provide free oral health assessments at school sites using passive consent and a licensed dental professional who can perform the assessment. With passive consent, schools can assess a greater number of children and refer those who need dental care to a dentist. Another benefit to bringing oral health assessment into the classroom is that it helps to normalize dental care. "It's good for them to get this exposure and be less afraid of going to the dentist," said Maddie.

Over two days, the LOHP school-based dental program was able to screen 93% of kindergarteners at two Team Charter schools (87 students). Overall, 88% of students who were screened had ever had a cavity and 72% had untreated decay. Although almost 28% of students had no obvious dental problems at the time of screening, the dental hygienist recommended early dental care for nearly 60% of students and observed 12 students who needed urgent dental treatment (14% of all students screened). Urgent dental care is recommended when a student needs dental care within the next week because of signs or symptoms that include pain, infection, or swelling. Dental care coordination is offered and care coordinators will follow up with families to make sure these children get needed dental care.

This small sample of students provides us with a glimpse of our children's oral health needs in the county. San Joaquin County's LOHP partners with Community Medical Centers, Inc. (CMC) to provide school-based screenings. For more information about the program, please contact Felicia Estrada at festrada@cmcenters.org.

SJ TEETH Collaborative Meeting Dates

MEETINGS HOSTED BY: FIRST 5 SAN JOAQUIN AND
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES LOCAL ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Friday, May 20 | 9:00AM - 11:00AM | Online via ZOOM |
| Friday, August 19 | 9:00AM - 11:00AM | Online via ZOOM |
| Friday, November 18 | 9:00AM - 11:00AM | Online via ZOOM |
| Friday, February 17, 2023 | 9:00AM - 11:00AM | Online via ZOOM |

Note: Meetings scheduled via video conference due to COVID-19 restrictions and subject to change.

COVID-19 QUICK FACTS

- Children represent about 19% of all reported COVID-19 cases in the U.S. since the pandemic began. About 7.6 million child cases have been reported since early September 2021.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at preventing people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, or death.
- It is safe for children ages 5-17 to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Parental consent is needed for individuals under 18.
- None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the virus, so they CANNOT give you or a child COVID-19.

Tooth Be Told strives to share success stories, challenges, and oral health related news. If you have comments, suggestions, or want to update your email preferences, contact SJTEETH@sjcphs.org.

For more program information, visit www.sjteeth.org or www.sjcphs.org/healthed/Oral_Health.