



Work continues on a new Mobile Dental Service program

Executive director Deb Coulter has been hard at work researching costs on a new mobile dental van to provide services to 0-5 age children in Sutter County. She has been in contact with several suppliers and local individuals to research information on estimated expenses for such a program. Patrick Godwin has offered the support of the Yuba City Unified School District. The district would provide storage for and maintenance of the van. The possibility of this program was discussed at the October 24th Commission

meeting. Deb Coulter informed the commissioners that on November 13th at 11am one of the manufacturers contacted will be at the Sutter County Children & Families Commission Office with a dental van. If you are interested please come by and tour the van.

The Commission has funded the "Sutter County Smiles Program" a school based mobile dental program that has been very successful. The expanded services that this new program could provide for 0-5 children in Sutter County

are very exciting. The need for dental services both restorative and preventive is a well documented fact.

The Commissioners have requested more cost information on a mobile dental van before finalizing their decision on this program.

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Volume 1, Issue 1
November 2003



Sutter County Children & Families Commission Staff

The staff hopes you enjoy our first newsletter. It will be published every other month. If you have suggestions or would like to submit information you would like to see included in future issues please contact the office at 822-7505. Deb Coulter is the Commission's executive director. Deb has lived in

Sutter Co. for 32 years and served as the Director of Community Development for the Fremont Rideout Health Group prior to coming to the Commission. Deb is an RN, Asst. District Governor of Rotary, VP of the United Way Board, on the Head Start Policy

Council and is the chair of the Sutter Yuba Substance Abuse Advisory Board. Rupi Dail is the Outreach Coordinator for Bright Futures. Rupi has been working in this capacity for 9 months. The new Secretary is Bev Dal Porto. Bev started in Sept. and has worked for Sutter Co. in other positions for the past 6 years.

Inside this issue:

- Bright Futures Update
- Bright Futures Volunteer Thank You Event
- Upcoming BF screenings
- Commission Meeting Schedule
- Project Updates- School Readiness Early Care Retention Incentives



Bright Futures Volunteer Thank you Event

Many Thanks go to the volunteers that come and work the Bright Futures Assessment program events. The events are held monthly and some of the volunteers have come many, many times to help screen the children.

Bright Futures screenings give parents an opportunity to discuss and have their child participate in a wide variety of school readiness assessments. The stations cover several areas including hearing, sight, motor skills, cognitive functioning and nutrition. The program offers all of these basic screenings to parents in ONE location and in a fun and neutral envi-

ronment. The children and parents receive informational handouts, books and toothbrushes. Interpreters are available for families that need assistance.

One of the many aspects of Bright Futures that makes it successful is the personal contact provided by the outreach coordinator who follows up on any referrals made at the screenings and assists parents



in obtaining the referrals if needed.

A thank you dessert to recognize the dedicated volunteers and organizations that make this program possible is scheduled on Thursday November 19th.



School Readiness Initiative

The School Readiness Initiative Committee is entering its third year of operation with a sense of enthusiasm and a new purpose. The group's October meeting focused on the shift in our function from operating solely as a planning committee to operating as an implementation and planning committee. The committee will now assist and advise on implementation of a school readiness program that has an annual budget of over \$500,000. This program is made possible due to three grants; the William F. Goodling Even

Start Family Literacy grant from the California Department of Education (\$310,500), the School Readiness Initiative State grant (\$100,000), and the Sutter County Children & Families Commission matching grant (approximately \$135,000).

The School Readiness Initiative program addresses the needs of all pre-kindergarten children who live in the attendance areas of three schools, King Avenue, Bridge Street, and Park Avenue. The services provided by these grant programs in-

clude kindergarten transition, home-school communication, training for staff members from preschools and early elementary grade levels, targeted family literacy services to needy families, and on site parent and child interactive literacy programs for pre-kindergarten children.

2003 Second Round Mini grant applications have been submitted

The deadline for the second round of mini grant applications for community and childcare was October 14, 2003. There were a total of 23 childcare provider applications and 5 community applications submitted. The grant applications have been submitted to the readers. The review team met the first week in November to develop recommendations to the Commission.

The funding recommendations will be presented to the Commission at the November 21 meeting.

This round of grant funding was very competitive as approximately \$38,000 remains in funds available for mini grant awards.

If you have a great idea for a grant watch the newsletter for the



dates of workshops that will be held on grant writing and outcome evaluation prior to the release of future RFP's and maybe you can get your great idea funded.

▶▶Bright Futures Screening Schedule◀◀

Bright Futures screenings are held on Wednesdays at the Yuba City Mall in the Community Room

2003

November 12, 2003 12-4pm

December 10, 2003 12-4pm

2004

January 14, 2004 12-4pm

February 11, 2004 12-4pm

March 10, 2004 12-4pm

April 14, 2004 12-4pm

May 12, 2004 12-4pm

June 9, 2004 12-4pm

Additional screenings in 2004 are being planned for locations around Sutter County on Saturdays and those dates and locations will be announced as soon as possible.

For information on screening appointments please call 822-7505.



The kids will win if we work together!



Bright Futures Assessment Program

The Bright Futures Assessment Program offers health and developmental screenings to children 0-5 in Sutter County at no cost to the parents. Screenings include height, weight, hearing, vision, speech, dental, blood pressure check, nutrition counseling and a general health check. The screenings also give parents a chance to talk with and receive information from Bright Futures volunteer

staff on a variety of topics. Families participating receive free information pamphlets, books to read with their children, toothbrushes, dental hygiene instruction and referrals for any issues identified during the screening process. Rupi Dail is the Bright Futures outreach coordinator and provides the personal assistance that helps to make this program successful. For families that

need language assistance interpreters are available to assist throughout the screening.

This program has been providing services since May of 2002. The screenings have been held in Yuba City and Live Oak. Plans for 2004 include scheduling screenings in locations throughout Sutter County on Saturdays. Watch our newsletter for dates and additional information.

Early Care Retention Incentive Project

The goal of the project is to improve the quality and retain early care and education providers caring for children ages 0-5 years of age in Sutter County. The Child Care Planning Council and the Sutter County Children and Families Commission's plan invites early care and education providers to develop an educational plan with the goal of completing at least 3 semester college units in one year. Eligible providers receive a

stipend of \$900 upon successful completion of a 3 unit class with a grade of "C" or better. To be eligible providers must provide child care services within the school boundaries of Live Oak, April Lane, King Avenue, Bridge Street or Park Avenue. The goal of the educational plan is to assist each provider in obtaining a Child Development Permit from the California Commission for Teacher Credentialing. Providers

who have not yet received a Child Development Permit are encouraged to apply to the program. Currently, there are 30 providers enrolled in the project: 27 center based teachers, 2 family child care owners and 2 family child care assistants.

For more information regarding this project please contact Rebecca Canada at 749-3276 ext 103 at the Child Care Planning Council Office.



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Sutter County Children & Families Commission Information

Upcoming Meeting Schedule-

November 21, 2003 2pm at the Yuba City
Police Dept. Training Rm.

December 19, 2003 2pm at the Yuba City
Police Dept. Training Rm.

2004 Meeting Schedule

January 23, 2004 2pm YCPD

February 27, 2004 2pm YCPD

March 26, 2004 2pm YCPD

April 23, 2004 2pm YCPD

May 21, 2003 2pm YCPD

June 25, 2004 2pm YCPD

For additional information about SCCFC visit our web-
page. Go to www.co.sutter.ca.us click on the Human
Services dept link and Click on the Children and Families
Commission link. Posted on this page are commission
meeting minutes, agendas and other information.

Sutter County Commissioners

Chair– Supervisor Casey Kroon

Edmund Smith

Edward Fischer

Chief Richard Doscher

Dr. Olga Gonzalez

Christine Odom

Patrick Godwin

Joan Hoss

Judge Timothy Evans

Commission Staff

Deb Coulter, Executive Director

Bev Dal Porto, Secretary

Rupi Dail, BF Outreach Coordinator
