



Dennis Lewis, Dental Aid CEO, Appointed to Safety Net Advancement Center Team to Study Alternative Healthcare Reimbursement Models.

Dental Aid is the only dental provider chosen for this nationwide collaborative.

Lafayette, CO — September 7, 2016 – [Dental Aid, Inc.](#) is pleased to announce it has been selected to join the [Safety Net Advancement Center](#) (SNAC) collaborative whose purpose is to study alternative healthcare reimbursement practices. Only seven programs were chosen from hundreds of applicants for this nationwide collaborative, and Dental Aid is the sole oral healthcare provider. Dental Aid specializes in providing affordable, high quality dental care and education to the low-income and uninsured residents of Colorado’s Boulder and Broomfield counties. Its clinics are located in Boulder, Longmont and Louisville, CO.

The Safety Net Advancement Center, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is housed at Arizona State University. SNAC initiated a nationwide collaborative to look at pay-for-performance reimbursement models as an alternative to more traditional methods of healthcare reimbursement such as fee for service.

With today’s fee-for-service model, providers are not incentivized to look beyond the care provided at any given visit. The pay-for-performance model addresses this weakness by creating reimbursement incentives based on the patient’s longer term, overall health outcome.

“Safety net” is a term used to describe the segment of our population that doesn’t qualify for Medicaid but is still considered low income. Oftentimes this group is uninsured and lives on an annual income of roughly 135% of the federal poverty level, or about \$33,000 for a family of four. Safety-net providers work to ensure access to basic services such as housing, food, dental and healthcare for these individuals and families.

“Dental Aid has provided dental care to local, low income families for over 40 years. We understand the underlying causes of poor health, especially the role oral health plays in a person’s overall health,” said Dennis Lewis, Dental Aid’s CEO. “We’re excited to be able to lend our experience and expertise to an initiative that could drive the kind of high value, outcome-focused health and dental care that new payment models such as pay for performance could support.”

Hundreds of healthcare programs from across the country applied to be a part of the SNAC collaborative, though only seven were selected. Programs were selected, because they are innovative: They have a strong ability for data collection and a strong history of adding value to their community through their cutting-edge plans. Dental Aid is the sole oral healthcare provider chosen to participate. Its selection demonstrates expertise within Dental Aid’s practitioners and leadership.

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About Dental Aid

Dental Aid provides compassionate, affordable, high quality dental care and education to low-income and uninsured residents of Colorado's Boulder and Broomfield counties.

The long term clinical focus of Dental Aid follows a chronic disease management model directed at prevention, education and treatment in the early stages of disease. In addition to direct clinical care, Dental Aid prioritizes education and outreach to high-risk patients including:

- Families and children of all ages
- Pregnant women
- People with chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and HIV/AIDS
- People with physical, mental or emotional disabilities

Dental Aid was one of the first stand-alone, nonprofit, complete-care dental clinics in the U.S. The organization was founded in 1974 as a referral organization and opened its first full-service clinic in 1980. Today, Dental Aid provides dental care to more than 8,000 children and adults annually. It provides services through three clinics (Boulder, Longmont and Louisville, CO) and a satellite clinic at the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. In addition, portable dental equipment is used to bring dental care to the homebound or those living in long term care facilities. For more information, visit www.dentalaid.org.

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