

Red Cliff Community Health Center receives Health Smiles, Healthy Children Access to Care Grant

The Red Cliff Community Health Center (RCCHC) was recently awarded a \$20,000 Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children (HSHC) Access to Care Grant from the Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. The grant award will go towards the purchase of equipment that will improve the overall access to and quality of pediatric dentistry serving Red Cliff and the surrounding area.



"We are especially pleased to have been awarded this grant opportunity, which will increase access to pediatric dentistry for families of Red Cliff, Bayfield, Washburn and beyond," said Red Cliff Tribal Chairman Richard "Rick" Peterson. "It demonstrates a continued commitment to bringing the best health care possible to our members, their families and the general public," added Peterson.

Red Cliff Community Health Center Dental Director Patrick Brown says the funding will be used for equipment, supplies and training for the center's Pedodontic program.

"The funds will be utilized to enhance the treatment of children by allowing a greater number of children needing oral sedation to be seen at here at the clinic in Red Cliff, said Dr. Brown. "Currently, children with special needs and children requiring full mouth rehabilitation are seen at Memorial Medical Center Hospital (MMC in Ashland, WI) for their treatment, which is very costly, added Dr. Brown.

Each child sent to Memorial Medical center costs \$20,000 for utilization of the hospital rooms, staff and billing for sedation dentistry using general anesthesia. Those costs do not include the dental fees for equipment, supplies and staff provided by the Red Cliff Community Health Center in the operating room setting. In order to address the growing need for pediatric dental care in Red Cliff, Dr. Brent Sunday was hired in 2017. Dr. Sunday specializes in pediatric dentistry.

In addition to the equipment, the funds will also be utilized for training of four dental assistants for Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification, which is necessary for providing oral sedation and treatment "in house" at the Red Cliff Dental Clinic. Dr. Brown says this will decrease the number of patients needing to go to Memorial Medical Center in Ashland.

Along with the training costs for the Red Cliff Dental Clinic to utilize oral sedation will be the additional costs for equipment to monitor the children being sedated.

"Purchasing a respiratory sensor with capnography (a monitoring device that measures and records the concentration of carbon dioxide in exhaled air during treatment) to monitor oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in the blood during sedation and dental treatment is required, and funding will be used to purchase the equipment and supplies necessary," added Dr. Brown.

Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children: The Foundation of The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (HSHC) is the largest national dentist-led charity dedicated to children's oral health. The charitable giving arm of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), HSHC has given or committed more dollars since 2010, to help children than any other dental charity.

"We're happy to be able to bring these services home here to Red Cliff, which improves the quality of life for our members and the community as a whole," said Chairman Peterson. "I especially would like to thank our Planner Elizabeth Ellis, as well as Dr. Brown and the entire staff who worked to see this grant through."

The Red Cliff Community Health Center's Dental Center offers a wide array of services, including: General dentistry such as Restoration, Root Canal Treatment, Dentures and Partial Plates, Cleanings and Periodontal Treatment, Cosmetic Procedures and Family Dentistry. Their special dentistry offerings include: Infant Oral Health Education, Orthodontic Evaluation, Interceptive Orthodontics, Dentistry with Nitrous Oxide, Full Mouth Dental Rehabilitation In a Hospital, and Dental Care For Children With Special Medical Needs.

The Red Cliff Dental Clinic hours are
Monday – Friday 8 am to 4 pm
(closed for lunch from 12 - 1 pm) and is located
at 36745 Aiken Road, Bayfield, WI, 54814.
Walk-Ins are welcome!
For more information or to schedule an appointment
call 715-779-3707 today!

