



DuPage Community Clinic

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Dear Dental Clinic Volunteers and Supporters:

As the Board has been laboring to meet the challenges of the future of the DuPage Community Clinic, we have had some tough decisions to make.

As some of you may have already heard, after much thought and consideration the Board has made the difficult decision to discontinue dental services effective June 30th, 2011.

As the level of poverty of DuPage County grows, in part due to economic conditions, the need for our medical services has increased exponentially. Last year we provided 19,000 patient visits for over 5,000 unduplicated patients that are assigned to our clinic. This dramatic increase in our patient population has prompted us to take a look at how we can better utilize the minimal resources we have in more efficient ways. Despite constant efforts to aggressively fundraise and look for additional sources of revenue, we continue to struggle.

Over the past year, the dental clinic has provided services to an average of 100 patients per month. Lately we have struggled to find funding sources for the dental program. Earlier this year the situation came to a head when the program lost a portion of its dedicated funding. In general, funding sources are scarce for clinics like ours as economic times have been changing and funding for the dental program has been hit the hardest.

Fortunately, DCC is a part of a countywide health safety net of medical and dental providers and subsequently contributed to the development of the county's comprehensive Oral Health Plan. Amy Gugel and I have met with representatives from DuPage County's Health Department. The Health Department already provides an array of dental service which includes free care by some volunteer dentists.

We felt that by dovetailing our dental program into theirs, we would still provide an outlet for both indigent dental patients and an opportunity for volunteer dentists. The equipment and supplies at the clinic will be used to support the needs of the community as identified by the DuPage County Oral Health Plan.

The reality of the situation is that we were not able to obtain the resources to make the program work. Our hope is that by working with the Health Department and the County's Oral Health Plan, we can sustain a program that meets the needs of the community.

On behalf of the DuPage Community Clinic Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for your volunteerism and dedication to DCC's Dental clinic. We appreciate your understanding care for our patients as we continue to work through these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Nelson
Board President

Mission: To provide free primary medical care, specialty care, dental care and mental health services to low income, medically uninsured residents of DuPage County.