



Successful Model: Dental

Project: Community Dental Care

Target Population: Patients with low incomes

Geographic Area: Payne-Phalen area of East St. Paul and Maplewood

Mission: Community Dental Care provides quality dental care and preventive programs in a culturally and linguistically sensitive manner to low income and ethnic minority families to improve the overall health and quality of life for its patients.

Description: Community Dental Care is a nonprofit organization and community dental clinic in an area with a high concentration of ethnic minorities with low incomes. For over 20 years it was Peterson & Peterson Dental Clinic, a successful private practice. It was one of the first private clinics in the Metro that focused primarily on serving ethnic minority patients with low incomes. To ensure continued access to high quality dental care for the 90 percent of their patients enrolled in public programs, the clinic was incorporated into a nonprofit in August 2004 and began serving patients as a nonprofit in January 2005. Over 25 years the office has grown into an efficient, cost-effective clinic with 16 chairs, 15 dentists and 55 auxiliary staff.

Community Projects: Community Dental Care provides outreach and preventive oral health care and education for young children (0-5) and expectant mothers from high-risk populations in St. Paul, primarily immigrants, refugees and families with low incomes. Community Dental Care provides dental health professional students the opportunity to gain dental and cultural competence skills through training and practice in treating patients of ethnically diverse backgrounds.

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The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care Models' Web site is

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/models/index.html>.