

Medical Miles for Rural Smiles

From April 9-11th the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) in partnership with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) - Oral Health Program (OHP) visited Tonopah, Goldfield, and Pahrump in a combined effort to provide much needed dental services and immunizations to rural communities in Southern Nevada. The team consisted of Antonina Capurro, DMD, MPH, MBA, Nevada State Dental Health Officer, Jessica Woods, RDH, Public Health Dental Hygienist, Sarah Lugo, MSN, RN, Senior Community Health Nurse, and Lizette Enzenauer, Senior Administrative Assistant II.

The trip successfully delivered 115 preventive dental sealants, 51 fluoride varnishes, 52 dental screenings, oral cancer screenings, oral health and nutritional information, Medicaid enrollment paperwork, and oral hygiene supplies. In addition, 33 immunizations were provided to 21 clients.

The program will continue through the summer with two future trips planned through White Pine, Nye, and Esmeralda Counties. After a strong program launch, the partners envision expanding the number and types of services and intend to broaden established service areas.

It is the program's hope that this charter trip will be used as proof of concept to establish funding sources for permanent continuation as well as recruitment of additional licensed dental and medical staff. For inquiries on how to participate/contribute, please contact Dr. Capurro, State Dental Health Officer, in the Nevada Oral Health Program at 702-486-0484.

The SNHD-DHHS, DPBH, OHP rural trips are supported in part by the Esmeralda, Nye, and White Pine Board of County Commissioners, Nye County Stakeholders, NyE Community Coalition, Maureen Budahl, Nye County Health Officer, Beth Ennis, Nye and Esmeralda County Community Health Nurse, Elaine Minges, Nye and Esmeralda County Community Health Worker, and Dr. David Byun, White Pine Public Health Officer.

Photo:

(From left to right) Lizette Enzenauer, Elaine Minges, Sarah Lugo, Beth Ennis, Esmeralda County Commissioner Michele Bates, Dr. Antonina Capurro, and Jessica Woods



(From left to right) Lizette Enzenauer, Jessica Woods, Dr. Antonina Capurro, Maureen Budahl, Sarah, Lugo, Gerrick Brooks, Jess Rosner, Elaine Minges, and Beth Ennis.



(From left to right) Sarah, Lugo, Maureen Budahl, Jessica Woods, and Dr. Antonina Capurro



Photos below: Patients sign consent for treatment forms

