

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Dillenberg, DDS, MPH
Board Chairperson
Dean
AZ School of Dentistry & Oral Health
A. T. Still University. Mesa, AZ

Maritza Cabezas, DDS, MPH
Board Vice-Chairperson
Director, Oral Health
L.A. County Department of Public Health
Los Angeles, CA

Ariane Terlet, DDS
Board Secretary
Chief Dental Officer
La Clínica de La Raza.
Oakland, CA

Randy J. Friedman, MBA
Treasurer
Sogno Group LLC.
Alameda, CA

Joseph Colaneri, PhD
Foley & Lardner, LLP
Washington, DC

Amir Neshat, DDS
CEO
Liberty Dental Plan, Inc.
Irvine, CA

Kathleen Titus
Regional Director
Henry Schein, Inc
Melville, NY

Barbie Vartanian
Executive Director
Pacific Dental Services Foundation
Irvine, CA

Bernard S. Weintraub, REHS, MPH
California Senior Legislature
Los Angeles, CA

Conrado E. Bázaga, MD
Executive Director
Pomona, CA



Center for Oral Health
309 East Second Street | Pomona, CA 91766-1854
t. (909) 469-8300 | f. (510) 380-6637
www.centerfororalhealth.org

May 4, 2017

Dr. Joaquin Arambula,
Chair. Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
State Capitol, Room 5155. Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Arambula,

Thank you for holding an informative hearing on the state's Denti-Cal and Dental Managed Care programs in April.

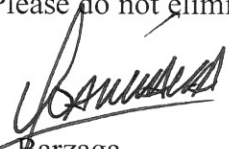
The Center for Oral Health opposes any efforts to eliminate the dental managed care program in Sacramento because it will negatively affect hundreds of thousands of Denti-Cal beneficiaries.

In 2016, Center for Oral Health established **Early Smiles Sacramento**, a program that has reached over 7,000 at-risk children in Sacramento since September. This is an evidence-based program that prevents dental disease and connects children and families to dental care. This program is possible because the local dental managed care plans currently guarantee it.

Also in 2016, and more recently in 2017, we established a **training for Primary Care Providers** to improve access to early preventive care by integrating oral health risk assessment, oral health education, and early prevention with pediatric well-child visits. These evidence-based interventions will be gone if the State decides to eliminate dental managed care.

If the Sacramento GMC program is eliminated, please know that the Early Smiles School-based screening program will go away. It is frustrating to think that the State is not aware of how dramatic, and potentially dangerous replacing managed care with an ineffective fee-for-service system is. Eliminating a Program that has improved with early interventions, preventive dental care, and intensive case management, is a mistake.

I understand that there have been discussions at the State level to cut Sacramento County's GMC program in the upcoming May Budget Revise. I also question how the complex anesthesia cases will be handled. Please do not eliminate this program.


Conrado E. Bázaga
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Dillenberg, DDS, MPH
Board Chairperson
Dean
AZ School of Dentistry & Oral Health
A. T. Still University. Mesa, AZ

Maritza Cabezas, DDS, MPH
Board Vice-Chairperson
Director, Oral Health
L.A. County Department of Public Health
Los Angeles, CA

Ariane Terlet, DDS
Board Secretary
Chief Dental Officer
La Clínica de La Raza.
Oakland, CA

Randy J. Friedman, MBA
Treasurer
Sogno Group LLC.
Alameda, CA

Joseph Colaneri, PhD
Foley & Lardner, LLP
Washington, DC

Amir Neshat, DDS
CEO
Liberty Dental Plan, Inc.
Irvine, CA

Kathleen Titus
Regional Director
Henry Schein, Inc
Melville, NY

Barbie Vartanian
Executive Director
Pacific Dental Services Foundation
Irvine, CA

Bernard S. Weintraub, REHS, MPH
California Senior Legislature
Los Angeles, CA

Conrado E. Bázaga, MD
Executive Director
Pomona, CA



Center for Oral Health
309 East Second Street | Pomona, CA 91766-1854
t. (909) 469-8300 | f. (510) 380-6637
www.centerfororalhealth.org

May 4, 2017

Dr. Richard Pan
Senator
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Pan,

Thank you for your continuous support of the Center for Oral Health's **Early Smiles Sacramento** program.

We learned that there have been discussions at the State level to cut Sacramento County's GMC program in the upcoming May Budget Revise. The Center for Oral Health opposes any efforts to eliminate the dental managed care program in Sacramento because it will negatively affect hundreds of thousands of Denti-Cal beneficiaries.

As you know, in the summer of 2016 Center for Oral Health established **Early Smiles Sacramento**, a program that has reached over 7,000 at-risk children in Sacramento since September. As Dr. Kumar, State Dental Director said at the inaugural event, this is an evidence-based program that prevents dental disease and connects children and families to dental care. This program is possible because the local dental managed care plans currently guarantee it.

Also in 2016, and more recently in 2017, we established a **training for Primary Care Providers** to improve access to early preventive care by integrating oral health risk assessment, oral health education, and early prevention with pediatric well-child visits. These evidence-based interventions will be gone if the State decides to eliminate dental managed care.

If Sacramento GMC program is eliminated, **Early Smiles Sacramento** will go away. It is frustrating to think that the State is not aware of how dramatic, and potentially dangerous replacing managed care with an ineffective fee-for-service system is. Eliminating a Program that has improved with early interventions, preventive dental care, and intensive case management, is a mistake.

Please do not eliminate this program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Conrado E. Barzaga", written over a horizontal line.

Conrado E. Barzaga
Executive Director

**Arash Aghakhani DDS Inc. Dba Crystal Dental
2206 S. Figueroa St
Los Angeles, Ca 90007**

To: Denti-cal

From: Arash Aghakhani

Billing ID: 1316180276

Dear Denti-cal

This letter serves as my 30 day notice of termination of my office contract with Denti-cal. Effective October 1, 2015 I will no longer accept Denti-cal patients in my office.

The reasons for my decision are: 1) very low reimbursement rate which does not justify the cost of doing business these days. 2) Myself and my office are exhausted from resubmitting claims that should have been paid, and yet the excuses used by Denti-cal for delaying or rejecting payments are absurd.

I would appreciate a written confirmation of my contract termination with Denti-cal. Please also remove my office (Los Angeles location only) from the directory. I will soon follow up with this decision in my other locations as well.

Regards

Arash Aghakhani DDS



Crystal Dental Specialists

To whom it may concern:

My name is Dr. Arash Aghakhani. I am a pediatric dentist and anesthesiologist. I operate a group practice with 14 general and specialist dentists and 14 staff members among whom, I have staff members who are fluent and familiar with Russian, Arabic, Spanish and Farsi and their cultures. The languages spoken by most of the patient population in the area. Following is the list of my dentists:

Arash Aghakhani DDS
Charles Landis DDS
Franklin Godfrey DDS
Angela luque DDS
Pablina Dhawan DDS
Ruth Kenworthy DDS
Estella Kim DDS
David Westerhaus DDS
Nolan Korando DDS
Patricia Ramos DDS
Christopher Chiu DDS
Christine Yim DDS
Alexander Moradzadeh DDS
Feras Al Riyabi DDS

I currently serve approximately 20,000 Medi-Cal patients in my dental clinics located at 3315 Alta Arden Express Way, Sacramento, Ca 95825, where hundreds of my patients are special needs children requiring experienced and specialty care. I accept patients from LIBERTY and HealthNet Dental plans. In fact, it was LIBERTY Dental Plan that approached me and assisted me in establishing my Sacramento clinics in response to the urgent need for timely access and quality patient care.

I understand the State is considering the elimination of the SAC GMC / LA PHP program. If the GMC and PHP programs are eliminated, please know that I will shut down my multi-specialty practice to Medi-Cal patients as I will no longer be willing or able to participate in the Denti-Cal Fee For Service Program. It is frustrating to think that the State is not aware of how dramatic and potentially dangerous timely access will be affected by transitioning from a care management program administered by the dental plans to a "you are on your own" Denti-Cal program that by all measures, I've seen, is severely challenged. Eliminating a Program that has improved the quality of care for my patients, through timely and appropriate referrals and case management, and pays me more than Denti-Cal, would be a terrible mistake.

I am available to discuss this at any time and do assure you that I cannot afford to participate in the FFS Denti-Cal program without the added support and financial assistance offered by LIBERTY and Health Net Dental Plans.

Sincerely;

Arash Aghakhani DDS