



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Sharney McLaughlin (619) 409-3252/ Cell (619) 301-7306

**Public Contact:** Share the Care/ Dental Health Initiative 619-692-8858

## **FREE DENTAL EVALUATIONS AND SEALANTS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS** ***New Dental Check-Up Law Requires Oral Evaluations for All Children***

**WHAT:** The Health and Human Services Agency-South Region and the San Diego Dental Society are offering free dental evaluations, sealants, and fluoride varnishes to children with no dental insurance.

60 volunteer dentists and hygienists will provide the services for about 350 children ages 1-18. Furthermore, community organizations will entertain and educate children and parents about the importance of dental health. **To schedule an appointment, call (619) 692-8858.**

Dental sealants are a special coating painted on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth, while fluoride varnish is a special coating painted on all teeth. Both are a safe and painless way to help prevent cavities.

**WHO:** Peggy Yamagata RDH, MEd, Program Manager, San Diego Dental Health Initiative  
Rick Bialick, DDS, Chair, San Diego Dental Society  
Terri Poulos, RDH, MEd., Acting Director, Southwestern College Dental Hygiene Clinic

**WHEN:** **SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2007**  
**9 a.m. 1 p.m.**  
**(10 a.m. media interviews)**

**WHERE:** **Southwestern College Dental Hygiene Clinic**  
**880 National City Blvd., National City**

**WHY:** A new California law (AB-1433), which was sponsored by the California Dental Association, requires all children to have an oral evaluation by May 31 of their first year in public school. Severe dental decay causes many children to miss school in California. The goal of the law is to ensure students are healthy and pain-free, so they can succeed in school.

This free clinic is funded by the San Diego Dental Society, in collaboration with the County Health and Human Services Agency South Region. The event supports the "Something to Smile About" program initiated by San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

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