

**MICHIGAN DONATED DENTAL SERVICES (DDS) PROGRAM
PROGRESS REPORT FOR FY 2003**

In compliance with section 1109(2) of Public Act 159 of 2003, the Michigan Dental Association is providing the following report on the Michigan Donated Dental Services Program.

FY 2003 SUMMARY OF SERVICES

In 1995, the Michigan Dental Association (MDA) and the Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (FDH) launched the Michigan Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program. The purpose of DDS is to provide dental treatment to persons with developmental disabilities and to the aging. Since the inception of DDS in 1995, 727 volunteer dentists and 173 volunteer laboratories have contributed \$4 million worth of comprehensive dental treatment for 2,348 disabled or aged individuals.

DDS set forth two goals for FY 2003. The Program's first goal was to provide \$675,000 worth of treatment to 400 individuals in the target population. DDS came quite close to these targets: 305 individuals received a total of 3,097 dental procedures, valued at \$651,474. Individuals required more care per person (10.19 procedures per person) than has been the case in the past. As such, fewer people completed treatment and 269 individuals were in active care at the end of the year (a 23% increase from the same period last year).

DDS's second objective was to raise \$57,000 in donated laboratory fabrications. DDS exceeded this goal by generating \$58,079 worth of fabrications from 173 volunteer laboratories.

VOLUNTEERS & STAFFING

During FY 2003, DDS services were donated by 173 dental laboratories and 727 dentists, 297 from Metro Detroit and 430 from the rest of the State. DDS also successfully recruited 77 new volunteer dentists during the fiscal year. Dr. John Buchheister, past President of the MDA, was largely responsible for this recruitment campaign. His personal efforts resulted in a 23% increase in referrals and actives cases in the second half of the year from the previous year.

DDS services were managed by two coordinators. Judith Berry, based out of a Farmington Hills office donated by Delta Dental Plan of Michigan, coordinated services in Metro Detroit. Services in the rest of the State were managed by Karyn Jewell (from October-January), staff from the national affiliate (interim) and Michele Baldwin (May-September).

CHALLENGES

DDS had strong staff and volunteer support during FY 2003. Yet, for two main reasons, it was not sufficient to help the 706 pending/waiting-to-be-referred applicants. First, most DDS applicants required comprehensive care that could only be provided by oral

surgeons, endodontists and periodontists, while 25% of the volunteers had a different specialization.

Second, there was a discrepancy between the geographic distributions of DDS applicants and volunteers. Many applicant requests came from Detroit, Jackson, Lansing, Bay City, Flint, Saginaw and the Thumb area; while the majority of volunteer dentists were based in the suburbs of Metro Detroit. For instance, DDS had 122 Detroit applicants, though there were only 10 volunteer dentists in the City. In contrast, there were 287 volunteer dentists based in the suburbs of Detroit. At end, though DDS was successful in obtaining services for many people who could not otherwise access treatment, some volunteer dentist services went unused.

CONCLUSIONS

FY 2003 was a successful year for the Michigan Donated Dental Services Program overall. DDS hopes to repeat this success in the coming fiscal year: in FY 2004, DDS will strive to provide \$725,000 worth of donated treatment for 360 individuals and generate \$60,000 worth of donated laboratory fabrications. In the long-term, DDS would also like to have a corps of 1,000 volunteer dentists throughout the State. In support of this initiative, MDA has made a commitment to continue to encourage more of its members to participate in DDS.