

CARING *for* COLORADO FOUNDATION
A Health Grantmaker

Memorandum

To: The Colorado General Assembly
From: Chris Wiant, President and CEO, Caring for Colorado Foundation
Re: HB15-1309, Interim Therapeutic Restorations by a Dental Hygienist
Date: April 23, 2014

Chris Wiant (ew)

In the spring of 2014, Caring for Colorado Foundation, a statewide health grantmaker, convened a statewide oral health leadership group comprised of public and private sector dentists, health advocates, state government representatives, and health policy experts to discuss current and future oral health workforce needs in Colorado. The leadership group met for two, 2-day retreats with the goal of moving toward practical solutions in addressing workforce shortages in Colorado.

After considering national trends, political realities, infrastructure needs, workforce readiness, and community readiness, the group recommended that Colorado move forward in piloting the Virtual Dental Home.

The Virtual Dental Home creates a community-based oral health delivery system in which people receive preventive and simple therapeutic services in community settings where they live or receive educational, social or general health services. It utilizes the latest technology to link practitioners in the community with dentists at remote office sites.

The goal is to have tele-health connected dental teams working in communities, keeping people healthy by providing education, preventive care, interim therapeutic restorations, triage, and case management. Where more complex dental treatment is needed, the Virtual Dental Home connects patients with dentists in the area. Caring for Colorado is directing \$3.5 million over a 5-year period to pilot the Virtual Dental Home model in 4-6 Colorado communities.

Critical to this new delivery model is the ability for Registered Dental Hygienists to provide Interim Therapeutic Restorations, which is the purpose of HB15-1309.

To help facilitate the implementation of this bill, Caring for Colorado Foundation is willing to offer funding and support, via Gifts, Grants and Donations in the following ways:

1. **Staff the advisory committee that will develop the educational requirements for Registered Dental Hygienists to place interim therapeutic restorations. This will include scheduling the meetings, developing the agendas, facilitating discussions and keeping meeting minutes.**
2. **Produce a written report on the advisory committee's recommendations.**
3. **Present the report recommendation's to the State Dental Board and assist the Board if additional questions emerge.**
4. **Pay for any implementation costs, at the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, up to \$10,000.**

Caring for Colorado is committed to supporting the state's efforts to improve oral health access and outcomes for underserved populations in our state.