# AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

**AgendaTitle:**
Correspondence; University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine Dean, Dr. Denise Kassebaum; Appreciation for University of Colorado Denver, School of Dental Medicine Dental Van (Smile Makers)

**Action Requested:** Board of County Commissioners' Signature

**Parties to the Agreement:** BOCC & CU Denver, School of Dental Medicine

**Term Begins:** n/a **Term Ends:** 8/20/2014 **Grant Contract #:**

**Summary:**
"Smile Maker" Dental Van from CU School of Dental Medicine provided free dental care for children for a 2 week visit in June.

**Fiscal Impact:** n/a

**Submitted by:** C Worrall **Submitter's Email Address:** cworrall@gunnisoncounty.org

**Finance Review:** ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

**County Attorney Review:** ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required Yes ○ No ○

**County Manager Review:**

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 8/4/2014

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted:

Agenda Date: 8/19/2014 Follow Up Agenda Date:

*Revised April 2013*

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**
Human Services Phone: (970) 641-3244 Fax: (970) 641-3738
Public Health Phone: (970) 641-0209 Fax: (970) 641-8346
**Multicultural Resource Services (970) 641-7999** Fax: (970) 641-8346
225 N Pine St, Gunnison, CO 81230
epedersen@gunnisoncounty.org Website: www.GunnisonCounty.org

Dr. Denise Kassebaum, DDS, MS
Dean, University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine
Mail Stop F-833
13065 E. 17th Avenue
Aurora, CO 80045

Gunnison, 6-26-14

Dear Dr. Kassebaum

We appreciate this summer's visit of the University of Colorado Denver, School of Dental Medicine Dental Van (Smile Makers) to Gunnison. This is the third year and we hope to be able to make this an annual event.

Gunnison County Multicultural Resources Services (MRS) coordinated the visit and served as the host agency to the Dental Van staff. This year the Dental van was located at our Rodeo Grounds, which was convenient for parking, waiting, and access to photocopy, phone, and office supplies.

Staff time for the MRS Coordinator was made possible by grants from Caring for Colorado Foundation and El Pomar Foundation. Rotary Club provided a grant that was used for on-site logistics. Five volunteers provided over 70 hours of work manning the waiting area, making copies of files, and communicating with the dental van and the MRS coordinator who was located 3 blocks away and could jump on the bike and be on site when needed.

The visit was announced in the Shopper (our free local paper). Schools and day care centers in Gunnison and Crested Butte received fliers through MRS and the Early Childhood Council in English and Spanish to send home with the children. Because MRS clients don't have emails and may not read the notes from school, they were mailed a postcard.

In past years we contacted all dental offices prior to the visit to clarify any potential negative response of competing with their local business. The response was very positive and they all welcomed the Dental Van. For 2014 only those dental offices that have provided a high volume of work for clients of the MRS were notified of the visit. This included Dr. Bichon (Gunnison Family Dentistry, the only Medicaid Dentist in the County) who welcomed some relief; Dr. Anderson (Gentle Dental provides services for low income, uninsured children) who referred one of his patients with severe decay to the Dental Van, and Leslie Hearne, hygienist (Healthy Smiles accepts Children's Medicaid) referred an adult patient with an emergency.

During the visit the Dental Van was featured in the local paper Gunnison Times and a satisfied costumer wrote a letter to the editor.

The Dental Van was in Gunnison for 2 weeks and served 75 people. All scheduling for the first 2 days for exams and x-rays was done by the MRS Coordinator, Ellen Pedersen. Volunteers were on site at all times (2 blocks away from the MRS). The dentists and the volunteers scheduled further follow-up appointments for a variety of dental treatments.

A total of 75 patients were seen. The dental van provided services for children, however 6 adults with dental emergencies received care. 41 of the patients did not have dental insurance whereas 33 had Medicaid or CHP+.

Of the 75 patients screened, 15% did not need follow up appointments (some were referred to specialists, a few did not cooperate, others got the work done in the first appointment); 55% came back for 1 restoration appointment, 12% came back 3 times, 5% 4 times, 5% 5 times, and 1 patient with severe dental issues came back 6 times to see the dentists.

Lacking any pediatric dentists in our county as well as our public drinking water lacking fluoride, a visit from the Smile Makers is greatly appreciated and fills a tremendous community need. The "pediatric appropriateness" of staff and accommodations of the dental van was evident by how happy (most) of the children were as they left the van. On behalf of Gunnison County we appreciate the work of Smile Makers and the services of UC Denver to our community.

Sincerely,

Gunnison County Commissioners

Paula Swenson Jonathan Houck Phil Chamberland