

# DDS DENTAL NEWS

## *Special Olympics and CTMOM Addressing Oral Health*

Special Olympics and Connecticut Mission of Mercy (CTMOM) are joining forces to provide dental care to the Olympians who do not have access to dental services. On February 28 and March 1 the dental team that organized



CTMOM and representatives from Special Olympics, including Kathryn Femiak, Volunteer Manager and Michael Mason, Senior Vice President & CFO facilitated a dental screening for the participants.

Any Olympian who was interested had an oral exam by the dental team and received a toothbrush, toothpaste and hand warmers. Athletes that require dental services were given an admission pass to the CTMOM clinic that will take place in April 2009. This pass will grant the individuals free dental care without waiting in long lines and will eliminate several stations for screening.

*Kathryn Femiak, Special Olympics Volunteer Manager, Michael Mason, CPA, Senior Vice President & CFO, Dental team from CTMOM and Special Olympians.*

In order to provide dental, care every person must fill out a comprehensive medical history. Izabella Pulvermacher, Dental Coordinator from DDS will be in contact with the athletes and their families or case managers to assure that the

proper forms are completed prior to arrival. This will help facilitate a smoother delivery of dental care.

This year the CTMOM event will be from April 16 through April 18. It will take place in New Haven Public Field House on 460 Sherman Parkway in New Haven. For more information contact the Connecticut Dental Society at (860) 378-1800.

The concept of CTMOM is to create a multi-day dental clinic in a large facility and then open the clinic door to the community. Dental services will be provided to anyone who is without dental insurance and has low-income. Individuals are treated based on their most urgent needs. All of the treatment that is provided is free and is delivered by volunteer dentists, UCONN dental students, dental hygienists and dental assistants. Treatments that are delivered are dental cleanings, fillings or extractions.

**CT MOM April 16 through April 18  
New Haven Public House  
460 Sherman Parkway  
New Haven, CT**

## ~Dental Services at Hill Health ~

Hill Health Corporation Richard O. Belden Dental Clinic in Derby is able to provide preventative and restorative dental services to DDS consumers. The brand new state-of-the-art facility is fully handicapped accessible and their staff are very knowledgeable in treating individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. They provide general dental services that include oral exams, dental cleanings, dental hygiene and oral health education, prevention, fillings, extractions, dentures, gum treatment and emergency dental care. Currently they accept Medicaid, Husky, SAGA and private insurance.

The clinic is located on 30 Elizabeth Street in Derby, and they can be reached at 203-736-5460. If you need more information, please contact Izabella Pulvermacher at [izabella.pulvermacher@ct.gov](mailto:izabella.pulvermacher@ct.gov) or 860-418-6099. Indoor garage and street parking are available for a nominal fee.



*“The fields of dentistry and medicine have traditionally been worlds apart. But in light of the growing evidence pointing to links between oral and whole body health, this separation of disciplines is slowly beginning to change”*

*Sharon Guynup  
Scientific American Oral and Whole Body Health*

### *Who should perform Oral exams?*

It has come to the attention of the dental coordinator that some DDS consumers receive their oral exams by their medical physicians during route physical examinations. A medical doctor is qualified to do such an exam. However, this is not the best practice for several reasons. A dentist is more familiar with the anatomy of the mouth and is specifically trained to identify abnormalities in the mouth, including oral cancer. Therefore, an oral exam by a dentist is still the preferred approach.



According to Dr. Paul Vankevich, Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, most oral cancers are essentially preventable and with early diagnosis and timely treatment have a good prognosis. The key element is early diagnosis!

More than 90% of oral cancers occur in individuals older than 45 years. According to the American Cancer Society, cigarette smoking is the major single cause of cancer mortality in this country. Smoking is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths in the United States. Men are twice as likely to be affected as women, with the average age at diagnosis of 60 years. DDS consumers are living longer and therefore oral exams performed by dental professionals should be part of their overall health maintenance.