



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delta Dental of North Carolina
4242 Six Forks Road
Suite 970
Raleigh, NC 27609

Contact:
Elaine Loyack
ELoyack@DeltaDentalNC.com
(919) 424-1044

Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$4,000 Smiles for Kids Grant to Cabarrus Health Alliance Mobile Dental Clinic to Improve Oral Health of Underserved Children

Kannapolis, NC (May 20, 2019) –The Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County, also known as Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA), received a \$4,000 Smiles for Kids grant from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (DDF) to provide high-quality, comprehensive dental services to approximately 20 students who couldn't otherwise afford them through their mobile dental clinic. The grant will also support an educational component for children who receive services and their parents on the importance of early preventative dental care.

According to the 2016 Cabarrus Community Needs Assessment, local access to dental treatment and preventative services is a persistent, widespread issue for the uninsured and underinsured. Additionally, preventative dental services falls under the top three health services forgone due to cost in Cabarrus County. A 2019 report by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Oral Health Section¹ found that 9.5% of kindergarten children in the Cabarrus County region have untreated tooth decay.

"CHA is thrilled to utilize the Delta Dental Foundation's Smiles for Kids funds to provide dental services to 20 uninsured students in Cabarrus County Schools," said CHA Dental Director Janie Woodie. "These funds will allow us to provide comprehensive preventive care to some of our community's most vulnerable students and to assist them in developing a strong dental home within CHA."

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring children and adults in North Carolina receive high quality oral health education and dental care. The grant received by Cabarrus Health Alliance is one of 19 grants totaling \$70,000 awarded to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs in 2019. This is the fifth year that Cabarrus Health Alliance has been awarded a Smiles for Kids grant, totaling \$15,000. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement and the ability to measure results.

"Tooth decay is the most common, chronic childhood disease today, and children miss 51 million hours of school every year due dental issues," said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. "The Delta Dental Foundation's grant to Cabarrus Health Alliance will help provide quality

¹ North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. (2019, January 07). NC Oral Health Regional Snapshot. Retrieved from <https://publichealth.nc.gov/oralhealth/docs/OralHealthSnapshots-REGION-3-120718.pdf>

access to dental care that underserved children need in order to be healthy and show up for school ready to learn.”

About Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County

Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County, also known as Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA), is committed to addressing the comprehensive oral health needs of the underserved community through collaborative and innovative approaches. CHA is the largest provider of dental services for the indigent in Cabarrus County. CHA’s dental program provides oral health education, preventive and restorative dentistry services for children and adults in order to promote oral health throughout our community. For more information, visit www.cabarrushealth.org.

About the Delta Dental Foundation

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The foundation’s goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit <http://www.deltadentalnc.com>.

About Delta Dental of North Carolina

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a nonprofit dental service corporation created in 1970 to provide dental benefits throughout the state. Its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. It does so by providing affordable access to oral health care with the largest network of providers, including two out of every three dentists, in North Carolina.

###