

Native Community Wellness Fair Offers Dental Screening Thanks to Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures and SAID

COLGATE AND THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN INDIAN DENTISTS COMMITTED TO THEIR PARTNERSHIP MISSION

The Native Community Wellness Fair hosted by the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Health and Mental Health Committee, was held on November 12, 2016. Committee Chair, Mrs. Rebecca Stone (Chickasaw), established the Native Fair and in the process reached out for dental care and health education resources.

Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures (BSBF) and the Society of American Indian Dentists (SAID) are pleased to have fulfilled this need for the indigenous community. Thanks to their partnership, Colgate Palmolive and the SAID are committed to their health mission through these events. Powwows and native health fairs are at the core of their benevolent efforts to help elevate prevention awareness for America's First families.

Piscataway descent and Vice president of the SAID, Dr. Winifred J. Booker, screened kids shoulder to shoulder with Ms. Janyce F. Jefferson, RDH, MPH, throughout the day long event. Jefferson is the Dental Hygiene Coordinator for the Washington, DC BSBF program. The pair provided dental report cards for parents after completing the oral health screening for children visiting the van. Mr. Derrick Warren, Colgate Community Awareness Representative was among the volunteers at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. Mrs. Kerry Hawk Lessard, MAA (Shawnee), Executive Director of Native American LifeLines in Baltimore got the ball rolling when she reached out to Dr. Booker in search of dental health resources. Lessard and Booker both serve on the Maryland Medicaid Advisory Committee. Colgate Coordinator, Mrs. Connie Reid, was immediately contacted and she went about the task of ensuring the BSBF dental van was dispatched to the Native Community Wellness Fair. Her rapid response is credited for the remarkable oral health education exposure afforded the inaugural event.