

Laurie Saunders Perry, RDH, RDHAP



Laurie Perry, RDH, RDHAP, has been a practicing dental hygienist since 1976 when she received her degree from Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California. Her career in public health began when she was one of the dental community members who collaborated to design and prepare the grant proposal creating the Calaveras Children's Dental Project. Originally serving as a volunteer during the first year of operation, Laurie joined the staff in 2000. Since that time she has served as co-director and one of two clinical hygienists for the Project. In 2004, she began as the Clinical Director of the Tuolumne Smile Keepers Dental Disease Prevention program and now serves both County programs. Laurie has worked in a variety of general and specialty dental practices in Hawaii, Nevada and California. She continues to work as a clinical dental hygienist, in addition to her work in public health.

“Our patient’s knowledge of dental health and general health has improved immeasurably.”

Education

AS degree in Dental Hygiene: Foothill College, Los Altos, California
RDHAP: University of Pacific, San Francisco, California

Personal/Program Awards and Recognitions

Calaveras County Board of Supervisors' recognition of contributions of the Calaveras Children's Dental Project

Primary function in public health position

I work as an educator as well as the co-director of two county-wide sealant and fluoride varnish clinics; provide outreach to medical and dental providers through seminars, lectures and workshops; and outreach to parents, parent groups, and educators through lectures, classroom visits, and health fairs. Using my RDHAP license, I plan to expand preventive services to under served families in the future.

What experiences prepared you for your work in public health?

After many years as a hygienist, I was excited to take my skills and expertise into the field to help children and families. Recognizing the value in being able to provide outreach services, I recently completed my RDHAP license.

What is the most enjoyable aspect of dental public health?

So many of the kids I see are in need of serious dental care. I am able to not only provide preventive dental care in the field, but assist in educating the children, parents, and educators on the critical importance of oral health that eventually will improve the quality of life and prevent future disease in the children.

Proudest public health accomplishment

It is extremely rewarding to help children, see their fears of dental care and the dentist evaporate, and see parents and educators understand the importance of oral health care and put forth more effort toward oral health at home and in the classroom.

Public Health employer/branch/department and official job title

Co-director, Clinical Hygienist Calaveras Children's Dental Project
Clinical Director Tuolumne Smile Keepers Dental Disease Prevention Program

Contact Information

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