

Cheryl H. Terpak, RDH, MS



Cheryl H. Terpak, RDH, MS received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed her Masters in Health Science at California State University, San Francisco. Cheryl has worked for a number of years in private practices in the Northern California. Cheryl has also taught basic dental skills to students in the Dentistry and Oral Surgery Service of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at UC Davis for over ten years. Currently, Cheryl is currently employed by the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) as an oral health consultant. She also advises other MCAH programs on the promotion of dental preventive and treatment activities for pregnant women, mothers and children.

“Education is an investment in yourself.”

Education

Master of Science: Health Science, California State University, San Francisco

Bachelor of Science – Dental Hygiene, University of California, San Francisco

Personal/Program Awards and Recognitions

Employee of the Month - School of Veterinary Medicine
Citation of Excellence - General Contributions - UCD Staff Assembly

What experiences prepared you for your work in public health?

UC Davis helped me to grow well beyond my years in private practice. Teaching sharpened my communication skills. I had to develop a way to describe my life-long clinical skills in instrumentation and radiography, and to help students acquire and develop these same skills. I also became experienced at public speaking, having developed a number of continuing education courses over the years.

What is the most enjoyable aspect of dental public health?

Meeting and consulting with the wonderful nurses and dental coordinators across this state who are truly dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their clients. These public health professionals are committed to helping children find relief and treatment. It is my hope that the State will continue to develop and spread dental prevention programs to younger children through fluoridation, fluoride varnish and sealant applications, plaque control and nutritional guidance.

Proudest public health accomplishment

Writing an article for the latest *Perinatal Care Matters* publication entitled “Oral Health Link to Preterm and Low Birth Weight Births. And the opportunity to become involved in legislative bill analysis through writing briefs that describe how impending legislation on oral health will impact the California Department of Health Services.

Public Health employer/branch/department and official job title

Oral Health Consultant to the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Branch of the California Department of Health Services.

Contact Information

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