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### **Marillac Clinic Now Offering Dental Care at its Mesa County Health Department Location**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – November 16, 2015 – Marillac Clinic is now offering a variety of preventive dental health services for patients during regular medical visits and by appointment at its clinic located within the Mesa County Health Department (510 29 ½ Road, Grand Junction).

Under the direction of registered dental hygienist Patrick Andrews, the services provided include oral health education for children and adults, exams, regular cleanings, x-rays, fluoride varnishes and sealants. Two rooms at the clinic are specifically dedicated to dental treatment. Dental care is available for patients of all ages Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the county clinic location.

Integrating dental care into regular medical visits allows Mr. Andrews to work in collaboration with the Marillac medical team to immediately assess children's oral health during well-child checkups or provide education to pregnant women during prenatal visits. If follow up treatment is needed, patients will be referred to Marillac's main dental clinic at 2333 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street for restorative or emergency services. A pediatric dentist and three general dentists staff that clinic.

Over the past 27 years, Marillac has operated as a critical safety net clinic for Colorado's Western Slope community. Marillac opened its Mesa County Health Department clinic in February 2015 to expand its services to more patients. As the only fully integrated medical provider in Mesa County, Marillac provides medical, dental and vision care for the uninsured, underinsured and insured residents of Mesa County. It is the only medical/dental provider in Mesa County to offer sliding scale fees for services delivered to uninsured patients, which are calculated based on income and household size.



Marillac is able to offer the integrated dental care at its Mesa County Health Department clinic through funding it received from Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's (DDCOF) Colorado Medical-Dental Integration (CO MDI) Project. The first initiative of its kind in the U.S., CO MDI will integrate dental hygienists in 16 Colorado primary care clinics over five years in an effort to increase access to preventive dental health services.

"Marillac has provided dental care in Mesa County for more than 20 years," said Tom Lavery, DDS, dental director of the Marillac Clinic. "CO MDI brings a fresh approach to help us take our wide scope of dental services to the next level. By addressing oral health in a well-child check up or providing education during a prenatal visit, we're able to intervene and prevent painful and potentially costly dental problems down the road. This is all part of our efforts to operate as a medical home for patients: medical, dental and vision care provided with an integrated approach in a convenient environment."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among U.S. children ages 6 to 11. CO MDI is designed to improve the dental health of Colorado's youngest residents and reach families who have limited access to dental care due to geographic barriers, lack of insurance or transportation difficulties. DDCOF has awarded approximately \$2.1 million in funding to the CO MDI clinics to hire hygienists, purchase equipment and deliver care.

**To make an appointment at the Marillac Clinic, please call the medical clinic at (970) 298-1782 or dental clinic at (970) 298-6320. For a complete list of the CO MDI clinics as well as more information on the project visit [www.deltadentalcofoundation.org/initiatives](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org/initiatives).**

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#### **About Marillac Clinic**

Marillac Clinic was established as a safety net clinic in 1988 by community health professionals to meet the primary care needs of the increasing uninsured and low-income residents of Mesa County. Over the past 27 years, Marillac Clinic has grown to be a comprehensive, one-stop health care home for many low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents. Marillac provides medical, mental health, dental, optical and medication assistance to thousands of residents each year. Two clinic locations serve Mesa County. The main clinic is situated next to St. Mary's Hospital and a new clinic location was opened in the Mesa County Health Department in early 2015. In May 2015, Marillac was awarded the designation as a Federally Qualified Community Health Center to support the growing demand to provide essential health care to the low-income in our community.



### **About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation**

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's mission is to improve the state's oral health by eradicating childhood tooth decay. Over the past 15 years, the Foundation has been solely funded by Delta Dental of Colorado. Its initiatives have included educational programs targeting low-income, high-risk families; support of dental health education for medical and dental students as well as providers; and opportunities to teach good dental habits and cavity prevention among pregnant women and children. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation works to make good dental health a community priority. A core belief is that, because dental disease is almost 100 percent preventable, efforts to improve oral health will result in a healthier Colorado overall. To learn more about the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, please visit [www.deltadentalcofoundation.org](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org).