

24 Merced, Ca. Sun-Star
Tuesday, Sept. 18, 1973

Dental Clinic Reopens

The Merced Family Health Center, a community controlled non-profit health care corporation, will re-open its dental clinic at 4:30 today. Henceforth, the clinic will be open every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at that time.

Because of limited time, highest priority will be given children under the age of 16 of farm laborers. Except for emergency treatment, all patients must make an appointment. All charges are based on ability to pay and the Center does accept insurance including Medi-Cal.

A licensed California dentist, Dr. Dan Guettinger, will provide the services for the center. He received his B.S. degree from the University of San Francisco and his DDS degree from the University of the Pacific.

He also worked with the public Health Service as a dentist on an Arizona Indian reservation before moving to the Merced area.

Further information concerning the center and all its medical services may be obtained by calling 723-4361 or 723-2861 extension 501 (after 5 p.m.).

The dental clinic is located at the 13th Street entrance of the Merced General Hospital.



Dental assistant Madalina Martinez, Dr. Dan Guettinger with patient.

Expect Surplus

Because the program became operational late last year, a \$60,000 surplus is expected.

"If the allocated funds are not spent", said Sullivan, "Merced County will lose that money."

The Project Policy Board would like to use the excess funds toward the design, construction and lease of a new family health clinic three blocks from the hospital.

According to present plans, total cost of this project would be approximately \$42,000, well within the \$60,000 available.

In the 1973-74 budget submitted to HEW, the policy board asked that it be made the recipient of the funds, rather than Merced General.

If the change goes into effect, any capital outlay will be the lawful responsibility of the new corporation by July 1, 1973.

Sullivan said "The underlying philosophy of the health center move is "to show that those who are to be served have the right to plan, direct, develop medical and social priorities and generally oversee the health programs created for them."

Officials at the center hope to show that the poor can efficiently operate a program geared to serve low-income families.

They plan to do this by operating independently as a business, partially subsidized by the government, and by charging patients medical fees on a sliding scale according to their income.

The proposal states, "The