

Four Vermont Dentists Benefit from Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program

For four years, Delta Dental Plan of Vermont, which does business jointly with Delta Dental Plan of Maine and Delta Dental Plan of New Hampshire as Northeast Delta Dental, provided funds to support the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists as a community match partner. This program is administered through the University of Vermont Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program, in cooperation with the State of Vermont and the Vermont State Dental Society, with the goal of ensuring a stable and adequate supply of dentists—through recruitment and retention—to meet the oral health care needs of Vermonters and increase access for the Medicaid population. These four dentists received Delta Dental Plan of Vermont funds in 2011-2012.



Jared Rediske, DDS Originally from Minnesota, Dr. Rediske is an Air Force veteran formerly stationed in Montana and England. He moved from Horizon Dental in Brattleboro in early 2010 to partner with another dentist in West River Family Dental in the small town of Townshend, near Putney—a rural and underserved area. Dr. Rediske has a strong commitment to pediatric dentistry through his participation in well baby clinics serving Medicaid families and participating in the Early Education Program through Vermont Head Start. As part of the leadership team for the State of Vermont in the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Head Start Dental Home Initiative, he recruits and monitors dentists in his region who treat children on Medicaid. He also participates in panel discussions and gives presentations to local high school students to encourage an interest in dentistry as a career.



Elicia Thompson, DDS Dr. Thompson, a native of Sacramento, California, attended UCLA as an undergraduate and earned a Masters of Biology at Ohio University. At the University of Washington in Seattle, Dr. Thompson studied Cranial-Facial Bio-Mechanics in a graduate research program and completed a General Practice Residency. The residency provided opportunities to work in trauma dentistry and oral surgery and gave experience with medically compromised patients. During her residency, Dr. Thompson served a significant Medicaid population and worked in a number of local community health centers. Dr. Thompson moved to Winooski, Vermont, in 2009, and she practices dentistry as an associate with Dr. Kevin Brown in offices in Swanton and St. Albans. Over ninety percent of the patients Dr. Thompson sees have Medicaid as their primary source of dental coverage. Receiving loan repayment funding enables her to develop a practice dedicated to Medicaid, rural, and pediatric patients.



Christopher Bevin, DMD, MD A Middlebury College undergraduate, Dr. Bevin earned his DMD from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. He earned his Doctor of Medicine from Mayo School of Medicine, and he also completed his residency and received his Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery certification from Mayo. He immediately returned to Vermont to continue his dental practice, specializing in oral and maxillofacial surgery. He and his many partners, all of whom are committed to serving the Medicaid population, serving patients from Vermont, Western Massachusetts, and eastern and upstate New York. Dr. Bevin primarily divides his practice time between Rutland and Bennington, seeing both private pay and Medicaid patients. His oral surgery practice provides comprehensive specialty care greatly needed in this region.



Brian McLellan, DMD Dr. McLellan attended the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, and continued his studies in his specialty of orthodontics at University of Rochester Eastman Institute for Oral Health in Rochester, New York. Encouraged to go into practice by referring general dentists and specialists, Dr. McLellan purchased an established orthodontic practice last year in downtown St. Johnsbury. The previous owner spent significant time and resources treating Medicaid patients from throughout Northeast Vermont, and Dr. McLellan will continue to offer services in St. Johnsbury and surrounding areas because of the great need for specialty services. Dr. McLellan has maintained the patient base from the previous practice owner and is encouraged by the number of new patients. In addition to his Vermont clientele, he treats some new patients from Littleton and Lancaster, New Hampshire. He is accepting patients who were treated by a Vermont orthodontist who accepted Medicaid in the past but is no longer in practice, and some of his patients drive over 40 miles to receive treatment.