

Neighborcare Health Dental Check-Up

An interview with Neighborcare Health's Chief Dental Officer

Neighborcare Health's Chief Dental Officer, Sarah Vander Beek has two questions in mind as she looks to the future of dental care for our community: *"How can we say yes more often?" How can our organization remove barriers to dental care and make our clinics as accessible as possible to the patients we serve?"*

Dr. Vander Beek has been with Neighborcare Health since 2010, and is passionate about our core values: social justice, community, cultural sensitivity and excellence. Even in dental school, her plan was always to work at a community health clinic and after an extensive search, Neighborcare Health was her number one choice. Though all of our core values ring true to her, the social justice value connects directly to her passions and helps color how she views our place in the community. In addition to increasing patient access, Sarah is passionate about recruiting providers who look, talk and sound like the patients that we serve.

While dental care is often seen as an extra, or fringe health care component, Dr. Vander Beek is working hard to change that perception. Along with other health care leaders, Dr. Vander Beek is encouraging patients and the greater community to make oral health as important as the health of the rest of the body, and increasing access to dental care is critical to that effort.

Beginning in 2015 Dr. Vander Beek and Neighborcare Health launched a strategy to double our dental capacity and make dental care available to everyone who needs it. Here are some of the key elements of that plan:



Neighborcare Health at Pacific Tower and the Dental Education Clinic

In the summer of 2016, Neighborcare Health will open a 20 dental chair clinic in the Pacific Tower in the Dental Education Clinic which will occupy the entire 4th floor. The Dental Education Clinic is an innovative collaboration of Neighborcare Health, Seattle Central College Hygiene Program and the Seattle Vocational Institute Dental Assisting Program. This patient-centered dental clinic has a dual purpose: to increase affordable dental care access for low-income people, and to provide an experiential education for dental assistant and dental hygiene students. The unique setting provides workforce development for students in a full service dental clinic which does not exist in purely academic settings.

This model also serves to create a direct pipeline of trained professionals who are learning with an organization that is committed to service, making them more likely to be connected to or work for a service organization upon their graduation.

Continued...

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The beauty of the clinic is also important to Sarah. Overlooking the majestic Olympics, the clinic is serene and well appointed. Dr. Vander Beek smiles when she notes *“This space says we care about you and we want you to feel cared for.”*

Dental Care in our School-Based Health Centers

Neighborcare Health’s Specialty Dental program is a shining example of our mission to provide comprehensive health care to families and individuals who have difficulty accessing care. The successful program has two goals; to provide dental screenings and outreach at 45 Elementary Schools and Head Start programs; and to provide comprehensive dental care using portable equipment onsite in Neighborcare Health’s School-Based Clinics.

Dental screenings performed on-site in Seattle schools connect children to a dental home if needed, as well as preventive care, such as fluoride. During the 2014/2015 school year 2,708 students were provided with dental screenings.

On-site comprehensive care is provided at nine Seattle schools. Neighborcare Health’s portable dental unit lets dental teams provide children with full exams, including x-rays, cleanings and fillings if needed. In the 2014/2015 school year 327 students received care during 780 appointments.

“Our SBHCs really strive to address the ‘whole child’ and I’m very proud of all the work the team has done to help alleviate some of the dental disease and disparities in our schools,” says Alison Schumacher, MPH, Dental Manager Specialty Programs.

New Access in North and South Seattle

In December 2015 Neighborcare Health established a new 12-chair dental clinic at the Meridian Center for Health in the Northgate neighborhood, and began work to add two new dental chairs to our Rainier Beach clinic. Both dental clinics are able to provide integrated care with our medical clinics in the same facilities, to treat the whole person. We’re proud to increase dental access in two neighborhoods that although miles apart are both in communities desperate for this crucial service.

Dr. Vander Beek is happy with these increases in access to quality dental care, but not yet content. There is more to do, and more people who need care.

To illustrate why Neighborcare Health needs to meet that need, Dr. Vander Beek recounts one of her favorite stories, about a boy she met when he was just ten years old. With a difficult home life, he was shy and wary of strangers, so Dr. Vander Beek and her team made it his decision how much treatment they would perform and how involved his treatment would be. At his first visits he avoided eye-contact and would only allow minimal treatment. But with every visit he relaxed a little more, and opened up, building trust in his care team. Now a bubbly 12 year old he visits the clinic with confidence, talks about school and other interests, and brought his favorite dental assistant a thank you card on his most recent visit.

“I’m proud that our team was able to provide this little boy with a positive adult relationship and a place where he had a voice and decision making power,” says Dr. Vander Beek. *“I am also inspired by the care team. The patient service representatives, hygienists, and dentists are amazing and keep the wheels turning. I am proud to be a leader here and I’m inspired and impressed every single day.”*



Dear Neighborcare Health friends and partners,

I am pleased to introduce you to Neighborcare Health's new CEO, Michael Erikson.

After a thorough and thoughtful search, Neighborcare Health's Board of Directors voted to appoint Michael as the incoming leader after Mark Secord's retirement, to take this growing organization into its future of providing health care to the most vulnerable in our community. Michael is now on the job, dedicating these early days to meeting our staff and partners.

One of the foremost considerations for the Board and its search committee was ensuring that our next CEO has a deep commitment to Neighborcare Health's fundamental mission and core values of social justice, cultural sensitivity, community and excellence. We understand and hold dear the very special organizational culture that we have. Michael demonstrated a strong commitment to our values and maintaining and enhancing our culture, and confirming these merits was a vital part of the thought process that led to his selection. We felt that Michael was the right leader to take us forward in light of our country's and region's changing health care landscape.

Michael comes to us with over 18 years of executive health care leadership experience. Most recently as the Chief Operations Officer for one of the largest and highest performing multi-specialty integrated care delivery systems in northern California, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Sutter Health. Prior to this, Michael's career involved leading the design and implementation of the well-published and groundbreaking primary patient centered medical home model for Group Health Cooperative and he also served as an executive vice president for Group Health. Michael began his career as a clinical psychotherapist in community health settings while pursuing expanding executive leadership roles.

Michael's extensive experience in health care, his enduring commitment to create value and leading with the patient first care design makes him an outstanding choice to lead Neighborcare Health into its future. Please join me in welcoming Michael to our organization and our community.

Sincerely,

Tony Bozzuti

Tony Bozzuti
Board Chair
Neighborcare Health



Welcoming Our New CEO Michael Erikson

CEO, Michael Erikson

Spring Dinner

Please join us to celebrate the power of fresh starts and renewal at Neighborcare Health's Spring Dinner on Wednesday May 4th, at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI).

Tickets can be reserved online at www.neighborcare.org, and with only 350 seats they sell out quickly – so please register today.

Wednesday, May 4

5:30 Social Hour 6:30 Dinner and Program

Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI)

860 Terry Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109

Register by April 27 at www.neighborcare.org or 206.548.3260

\$100 per person

A donation to patient care will be requested at the event

Thank you to our sponsors!



Neighbors | Spring 2016

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Two great ways to support Neighborcare Health in May: The Spring Dinner on May 4th – see inside and

give
BIG



GiveBIG on May 3rd

The Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG is a one-day, online charitable giving event to inspire people to give generously to nonprofit organizations who make our region a healthier and more vital place to live.

Each donation made on The Seattle Foundation's website between midnight and midnight (Pacific Daylight Time) on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, will receive a prorated portion of the matching funds.

Donors will be eligible for random drawings for Golden Tickets, which include an extra \$1,000 for the recipient of the Golden Ticket winner's contribution!

To Make Your GiveBIG donation on Tuesday May 3rd go to www.neighborcare.org and click the GiveBIG image, or search for Neighborcare Health at www.seattlefoundation.org.

See inside to learn about our fabulous Spring Dinner on May 4th!

To make a gift to provide health care to those who have difficulty accessing care, send your donation in the enclosed envelope, call us at 206.548.3260, or donate online at www.neighborcare.org.