



Dedicated to providing high-quality, compassionate, and affordable healthcare services to all adults

MCC Medical Clinic

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Dear Members of County Council

I am writing to bring to your attention the financial challenges we are facing due to the growing need for dental care services among the underserved residents of Montgomery County. As an organization committed to providing comprehensive healthcare solutions, we have observed a significant increase in the demand for affordable dental care in our community. Despite this encouraging trend, our annual contract for dental care services has remained at \$168,052.00 since the grant's inception in 2014. While the medical encounter reimbursement rate has been revised upward three times during the same period, the dental reimbursement rate has not received the same consideration from Montgomery County.

Based on available data, our Dental Department recorded 4,499 visits in prior year, with 80% of patients residing in Montgomery County. Furthermore, 93% of our patient population consisted of minorities, with a majority residing in East Montgomery County. The unique population served under this program exceeds 1,000 unduplicated Montgomery County patients, accounting for over 2,500 encounters. Dividing the contract amount by patient encounters results in a reimbursement rate of just over \$67 per encounter. In comparison, the primary care per-encounter rate has increased from approximately \$65 in 2014 to over \$113.00 in the last 20 years. While the cost of providing dental care has risen in line with medical healthcare services, no increase in dental care reimbursement has ever been considered.

To attract experienced and qualified dentists, we must offer competitive market rates, which underscores the pressing need for accessible and affordable dental care options, especially for East County residents.

At MCC Medical Clinic, we recognize the critical role our dental health clinic plays in the overall well-being of our patients. That is why we are dedicated to expanding our dental care services to meet the growing needs of our community. Our preventive and comprehensive dental care services address a wide range of oral health concerns, ensuring individuals receive the care they need to maintain healthy smiles, which is directly connected to their quality of life.

In addition to dental care, we offer a comprehensive range of healthcare services under one roof, including primary care, specialty care, behavioral health, transportation assistance, and food support. We are the only safety net clinic in the Montgomery County Healthcare network that operates seven days a week and offers over 10 different specialty treatments in addition to primary care. Our integrated approach to healthcare delivery allows us to address the diverse needs of our patients and promote holistic well-being.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider increasing our dental support to at least **\$282,500** (2500 x 113) per year or merging the dental grant with our primary care contract with the County for reimbursement and contractual purposes. Oral health is an integral part of general health, a principle advocated by the WHO 7th Global Conference in 2009, which emphasized the integration of dental care into primary healthcare services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss potential strategies and partnerships to enhance access to dental care services in our community.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Azad Ejaz', written over a horizontal line.

Azad Ejaz, Ph.D., PMP
Executive Director