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Oral Health Impact Project Partners with School District of Philadelphia

Providing Comprehensive in-School Care for At Risk Students

November 7, 2007 – Philadelphia: The Oral Health Impact Project will bring quality oral health care to children at the greatest risk for dental disease in the Philadelphia School District beginning in the 2007/2008 school year. Lack of finances, education, and transportation has led to a dental crisis resulting in 51 million hours of lost school hours per year in the United States. OHIP will provide in-school dental care and a network of accessible dental specialists. The program will also provide fun and educational programs so that children and their families will learn about dental care. Founder and CEO Dr, Lawrence Caplin, DMD said, “We not only plan to have a significant impact in addressing the silent epidemic of dental disease but also make a difference in the future of students in the City of Philadelphia.” To that end - OHIP has made a commitment to work with the School District of Philadelphia to provide internships and externships to inspire teens to pursue careers in dentistry and help dental students find creative and rewarding ways to give back to their communities.

OHIP will work with students in over 100 Philadelphia elementary, middle and high schools making it the largest of the group of comprehensive in-school dental services providers which also include St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and KidSmiles. OHIP will not only provide preventative care – but also a complete range of services that will also offer X-rays, fillings, cleanings, sealants and more complex procedures. All services will be provided without waiting for an appointment. There will be consistent follow-up to make sure every child gets longtime care. Screenings are free and other dental services can be billed to Medicaid, the BCHIP program and private dental insurance.

Brenda Taylor, the School District of Philadelphia’s Associate Superintendent of Specialized Service said, “We’re excited to partner with OHIP to provide comprehensive quality dental care in our District schools. Offering in-school dental services will have a major impact on one of our student’s greatest health issues.” Taylor said, “Because dental visits can be scary for kids - getting care in a familiar place eases that anxiety. Students also miss less class time when their treatments are being coordinated through their school.” For information about the program, consent forms and a list of participating schools - go to www.ohip.us or call

866-916-OHIP (6447). Founder & CEO, Dr. Lawrence Caplin, DMD, is a graduate of the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Dental Medicine, and was presented with the University's Alumni Award of Merit in May 2005. He is also certified in forensic dentistry, and in the aftermath of 9/11, volunteered his time as a member of the Body Identification Team.

He is also the Founder of Caplin Family Charities, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing funding to a variety of oral health causes, including scholarships, internships and externships. Media contact: Loraine B. Morrill at 484-437-0378