

When Hygiene Comes Home

Dana Yumul, RDHAP, brings dental hygiene directly into patients' homes—meeting people where they are, literally and emotionally. Through mobile care rooted in compassion and realism, she's reaching patients who have long been left out of traditional dental systems.



Dana Yumul was packing up after a routine mobile hygiene appointment when the patient, an elderly, homebound woman, reached for her hand and said something she'll never forget. "I didn't think anyone would come for me anymore." The patient hadn't received dental care in years because leaving home wasn't possible. Dana treated her right where she was, and in that moment, the impact went far beyond scaling and polishing.

"Oral health is never just about teeth," Dana said. "It's about dignity, comfort, and being seen."

As the owner and operator of a mobile hygiene practice in California's Bay Area, Dana sees patients who often fall through the cracks of traditional care. But the decision to take hygiene out of the operatory and into patients' homes was deeply personal.

A PERSONAL MISSION

"I opened my mobile practice because I couldn't take my own mom, who is disabled and a two-time cancer survivor, into a dental office without it being physically

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and emotionally exhausting for her," she recalled. "I realized that if it was that hard for my family, it had to be even harder for families without medical knowledge or support. Mobile hygiene removes barriers. It brings care to people who would otherwise go without—not because they don't care, but because the system wasn't built for them."

With an RDHEF II restorative license and more than 60,000 hours of restorative experience, Dana brings deep clinical judgment to her work—even as her mobile practice focuses on hygiene services, delivered on her own terms.

"When I'm in someone's home, I'm a guest first and a clinician second," she said. "I slow down. I listen more. I pay attention to how they live, how they're cared for, and what support systems are actually in place."

This approach leads to more realistic, collaborative care. "Instead

of ideal plans that only work in a perfect world, we focus on what's sustainable for this person, this family, this caregiver," Dana explained. "The care becomes more human."

REALITIES & REWARDS

Running a mobile practice requires Dana to be a clinician, business owner, advocate, and problem-solver, but the rewards outweigh the challenges. "When families, caregivers, and facilities invite me back, refer others, or tell me they finally feel supported, that's everything."

Balancing that work with life at home as a mom of four isn't easy, but ultimately, the same principle guides everything she does. "At the end of the day, everything I do both at work and at home is rooted in care," she said. "That's the common thread that makes it all work."