Innovative Partnerships to Improve the Oral Health of Vulnerable Populations

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Improving Access to Oral Health Care
Training and Education in Special Needs Dentistry
Children’s Dental Center
Marquette University
Motivated to Improve Access
The Population is Growing

- Over 500,000 people living in WI with a disability or special needs
  - 22% of children living in Wisconsin have a disability
    - This represents a 2% higher rate than the national average
    - A 7% increase over a 5 year period

- Children’s Dental Center Practice
  - ~40% of patients have a special needs or disability
  - More than 600 individuals over the age of 18
  - There are very few dentists to transition adult patients to
Barrier to Access

COACHING

TEACHING

KNOWLEDGE

TRAINING

SKILLS

EXPERIENCE

LEARN

DEVELOPMENT
Marquette University
Special Care Dentistry Association

- **Children’s & Marquette Workgroup**
  - Training in Special Needs Dentistry is a very small part of the curriculum in dental schools.
  - Enhance awareness and clinical exposure to “soon to be” providers.
    - Reduce fear and perception, “spark” curiosity and drive interest.
    - Punctuate caring for this population is personally and professionally rewarding.
    - Everyone must play a role in caring for underserved populations.
Where are we now?

– January 2019 – August 2019
  • D2 Orientation lecture and video program on Special Needs Dentistry
  • 95 of 100 students completed 1 ½ day rotation
    – Children’s Hospital of WI
    – Waukesha County Community Dental Clinic
    – For Atkinson Community Clinic
  – Positive results from the observation and the desire to experience more
What’s Next?

— **Reconvene Workgroup (October, 2019)**
  » Delta Dental of WI
  » SCDA MU Student Leaders
  » MU Faculty
  » Children’s
  » Waukesha County Community Dental Clinic
  » Community Dental Clinic - Jefferson
    — Opportunities to expand the Advanced Care Clinic for more exposure for the students to individuals with special needs
    — Collaborate on a Special Needs Externship
    — Participate in legislative and advocacy efforts
  — **Ongoing measurement of results and impact**
    — Effectiveness of the rotation
    — Adoption of special needs dentistry into the practice setting
Prevent More to Treat Less - Start Early

Improving Oral Health Outcomes
Children’s Dental Center
Children’s Community Health Plan
Children’s Health Alliance
The Dilemma: Early childhood caries (ECC)

- ECC is rampant caries in the primary teeth of infants/toddlers
  - It impacts 20% of children from families with low incomes
  - Left untreated dental caries has significant impact on growth and development
  - It dramatically increases a child’s risk of future dental caries
- ECC travels fast, spreads quick and may be life threatening
Preschoolers with ECC in Surgery
Well Baby Day Events ≤ 24 months

- **How many events?**
  - 12 events held

- **How many babies?**
  - 273 babies scheduled
    - 153 completed visits (56%)
    - 120 no-show (44%)

- **What did we find?**
  - Caries free 92.1%
  - Caries present 7.9%
  - 17 babies needed follow up care

- **What treatment was required?**
  - 52.9% general restorative care (9 babies)
  - 47.1% had advanced care
    - General Anesthesia 29.4% (5 babies)
    - Sedation 17.6% (3 babies)

- **Continuum of care?**
  - 75% had a follow up recall
  - 115 babies established a dental home with Children’s
What’s Next?

- Increase the frequency of the Events
- Spread the Events across the Practice
- Continue to Partner with Primary Care
  - Integration of Oral Health
    - Anticipatory Guidance
    - Caries Risk Assessment
    - Diet & Nutrition
    - Brushing
    - “Swapping Spit” – Transmission of caries
    - Fluoride Varnish
- Identify additional Partnerships
- Ongoing measurement of results and impact
  - Families knowledge pre and post visit
  - Continuity of care
    - Restorative care completes
    - Recall visits
  - Caries rate