



Innovative Partnerships to Improve the Oral Health of Vulnerable Populations

*Pamela Fraser, MSM
Director, Oral Health Services*

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Kids deserve the best.

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



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

