Center for Oral Health

Engagement in Oral Health Work for Vulnerable Populations

June 14, 2016
About Center for Oral Health (COH)

- Over 30 years of experience in working to improve the oral health of vulnerable populations
- **Mission:** to improve oral health, especially of vulnerable populations, through innovation, research, education, and advocacy
State of the State
The Dental Neglect

Prevention Neglect

Medicaid Dental Expenditures by Type of Service

- All Restorative: 69%
- Preventive Care: 14%
- Diagnostic Srvs: 17%
Social Determinants of Health

- Health Behaviors: 30%
- Socioeconomic Factors: 40%
- Health Care: 20%
- Physical Environment: 10%
Who Are the Most Vulnerable Populations?
California’s Children

9.3 million children…that’s 13% of all children in the U.S.
California’s Failing Dental Check-up
Why kids in Denti-Cal are feeling the pain

Number of kids in Denti-Cal, almost 5 million
nearly 1/2 of all the kids in California

How many Denti-Cal dentists for all these kids?
1/700 # Denti-Cal dentists/kids
and only 1 in 2 accept new patients

Rural & poor counties have even fewer
Del Norte 1,076
Fresno 1,102
Merced 2,856
Glenn 3,178
Number of kids for every Denti-Cal dentist by county

4 counties have NO Denti-Cal dentist
Alpine 75
Sierra 176
Mariposa 1,185
Yuba 9,462

a total of 10,898 kids lack access to a Denti-Cal provider in California

Why so few Denti-Cal dentists?
Denti-Cal reimbursement is 1/3 amount of private reimbursement
Which would you choose?

Why?
26 counties have NO pediatric dentist
that's 135,342 little kids
Why?
1/2 these ER Visits were for our littlest kids 1-5 years old
In one year kids had 26,614 ER Visits for dental problems
Costing taxpayers over $4.5 million

California ranks 47th nationally on measures for Good Oral Health

In California over 500,000 kids missed school for a dental problem
Costing schools over $30 million

California is at the VERY BOTTOM for state reimbursements
California’s Older Adults

33% of Older Adults Have Untreated Decay
CA Insurance Coverage 2015

Percentage of Population enrolled in Medi-Cal by Age Group:

- All Age Groups: 33.4%
  - 0-5: 57.0%
  - 0-18: 54.2%
  - 19-44: 30.5%
  - 45 - 64: 23.7%
  - 65+: 20.9%

So...
What Are We Doing About It?
SOLUTIONS

• Oral Health Action Coalition (OHAC)
• Early Smiles Sacramento
• Oral Assessment of Older Adults
Launched in 2001
Collaborative effort of the COH and California Primary Care Association (CPCA)
Membership of 60 associations
Broad-based & unified voice of oral health.

**OHAC Mission**

Improve the oral health of California’s underserved and vulnerable populations.
OHAC Supports policies that:

• Increase access to oral health services
• Eliminate barriers to care
• Acknowledge that oral health is essential to overall health
• Prevent disease
• Increase the public’s awareness of California’s oral health needs and the measures needed to address them effectively
• Reduce disparities
Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Influence Health Reform

• Ensure that any major health care reform that is adopted includes oral health coverage
• Work with newly formed Department of Public Health and legislators to establish a State Dental Director
• Establish a Governor’s Commission on dental access
Strategic Plan

Goal 2: Expand/Maintain Existing Programs

• Increase funding for the dental loan repayment program and improve its effectiveness
• Maintain Denti-Cal and Healthy Families benefits
Strategic Plan

Goal 3: Expand Benefits/Access

• Ensure that Federally Qualified Health Centers are able to receive reimbursement for dental hygienist providers

• Use AB 1433 to educate the public about children’s oral health
Strategic Plan

Goal 4: Infrastructure

Expand the workforce:
• In the safety net
• In shortage areas
• Cultural competencies

Increase facilities:
• Expand the number of clinics that have dental capacity
• Expand dental capacity in existing facilities
Dental Workforce

- Approximately 36,000 Dentists in California
- Reported to be enrolled in DentiCal ≈ 11,400 but only 7,706 active

Ratios:
- All Dentist : General Population ≈ 1:1,050
- DentiCal Dentist : DentiCal Population ≈ 1:2,733
- But only 1 in 6 DentiCal Dentists receive $10,000 or more in Medicaid payment/year
- Therefore, the actual ratio would be ≈ 1:12,000
- 25% of DentiCal dentists serves 80% of all DentiCal children

Strategic Plan

Goal 5: Communication and Leadership Development

• Develop talking points and training for OHAC members to speak with local government boards to support oral health at the local level
• Develop communications strategies for reaching members and other advocacy constituencies
• Expand collaborative efforts
EARLY SMILES
A Center for Oral Health Program
Keeping in mind that...

- **Over half** of CA kids are on Medi-cal
- Dental caries is largely preventable but remains the **most common** chronic disease of children aged 6 to 11 years
- By 3rd grade tooth decay affects **two-thirds** of California children
- **Less than 1 of 3** children enrolled in Medicaid received at least one preventive dental service in a recent year
- Tooth decay is **four times** more common than asthma among adolescents aged 14 to 17 years (15%)
About Sacramento

School Districts

1. Arcohe Union
2. Center Joint
3. Elk-Grove
4. Elverta Joint
5. Folsom-Cordova
6. Galt Joint (ES) Union
7. Galt Joint (HS)
8. Natomas
9. River Delta
10. Sacramento City
11. San Juan
12. Twin Rivers
Early Smiles Components

- Screening
- Fluoride/Sealants
- Navigation
- Dental Home
Screening and Early Prevention

• It is an innovative community-based approach to deliver dental care to the most vulnerable children.
• It will keep children where they belong: their classroom
• It will save school district money by reducing school absenteeism by protecting ADA (Average Daily Attendance) funding
Navigation

Public-private partnership to improve program quality, and performance accountability by:

(1) improving network adequacy,
(2) increasing utilization, and
(3) ensure program integrity.
Medical & Dental Collaboration

The program incorporates a medical-dental collaboration component, as it will also provide training to medical providers to promote dental referrals, establish prevention strategies, and increase fluoride varnish applications.
What is a Dental Home?

Oral health care delivery model that:
• Provides comprehensive,
• Continuous,
• Patient-centered,
oral health care with the goal of obtaining maximized oral health outcomes.
Oral Health Assessment of Older Adults in California

Center for Oral Health

&

THE CALIFORNIA Wellness FOUNDATION
promoting equity, advocacy and access

ARCHSTONE FOUNDATION
Keeping in mind that…

- **Medicare** – No Dental Benefits to speak of
- **Affordable Care Act** – No adult provision for adult dental benefits
- **Whitehouse Conference on Aging** – Oral Health on the agenda or ignored again?
Overview

• Phases:
  – Phase 1: Vulnerable populations served by health care facilities licensed by the CA Department of Public Health (e.g., skilled nursing facilities, long-term care facilities)
Overview

• Phases:
  – Phase 2: Community dwelling individuals (e.g., community living complexes, congregate/home delivered meal sites)
Objective

Goal #1 – Document the Oral Health Needs of Older Adults
• Produce a report on the oral health status of older adults in California

Goal #2 – Educate and Inform Policy and Decision Makers about Oral Health
• Develop policy and administrative recommendations to improve the oral health for older adults.

Goal #3 – Promote Statewide Networking and Interdisciplinary Learning
• Organize a symposium dedicated to the oral health care needs of underserved older adults in California.
## Oral Health of Older Adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>US</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% with no natural teeth</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of adults with who did not use their dentures</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of adults with teeth that have untreated decay</td>
<td>~33%</td>
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Impact

• Expanded coverage for older adults, especially preventative services
• Better access to care within facilities and congregation sites
• Utilization of intermediate level providers (e.g., RDHAP)
Additional information

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