Oral Health: Bridging Medicine and Dentistry – A Family Medicine Perspective

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Family Medicine and Community Health
Learning Objectives

By the end of this seminar the participant will:

1) Understand what family medicine is doing about oral health education and service

2) Describe the implementation issues and challenges we have faced and how we have overcome these

3) The financial aspects of making this work
Medical School Education

• Current Survey of all MD/DO schools
• AAMC MSOP document
• Board Exams
• UMASS example
  – Anatomy
  – Inter-clerkship
  – Community Health Clerkship
• Colorado, UWASH
• Created Smiles for Life
Smiles for Life Curriculum
www.smilesforlife2.org

ACGME formatted educational objectives
7 annotated 50 minute PowerPoint modules
1. The relationship of oral to systemic health
2. Child oral health
3. Adult oral health
4. Acute dental problems
5. Oral health in pregnancy
6. Fluoride varnish
7. The oral examination

Test questions
Resources for further learning
Family Med Residency Education

- RRC requirements
- ABFM Board Exam questions
- Survey of all residencies 2008
  - 65% report using Smiles for Life
- UMASS example – 2 year curriculum
Professional Education

- CME
- Smiles for Life – online
- AAFP Annual meeting
- State AAFP meetings
- Articles
Integrated Medical Approach

• Sept 2009 – Meeting of FM, OB, Peds, IM, PA, NP to plan expansion
• ADA – CAPIR – AMA links
• AAP/AAPD
• CMOHI
Service

- Office based – fluoride varnish programs
- Community based – schools, care mobiles, Headstart
- CMOHI
CMOHI Partners

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Legislature
- *Family Health Center of Worcester
- *Great Brook Valley Health Center
- Health Care for All and Health Law Advocates
- Massachusetts Coalition for Oral Health
- Massachusetts Delta Dental Foundation
- Massachusetts Dental Society
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)
- *Oral Health Initiative of North Central Massachusetts
- *Quinsigamond Community College Dental Hygiene School
- Southbridge Public Schools
- Southern Worcester Neighborhood Center
- *The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
- *UMass Medical School's Office of Community Programs
- *UMass Memorial Health Care
- United Way of Webster and Dudley
- *Webster Public Schools
- Worcester City Council
- Worcester Department of Public Health
- *Worcester District Dental Society
- *Worcester District Hygienists' Association
- Worcester Public Schools
- South Worcester Neighborhood Center

* Denotes member on steering committee
CMOHI Methods

Five inter-related approaches:

1) Providing school-based dental services for underserved children
   - Increase the number of children who are screened, receive education, and have fluoride and sealant applications
   - Increase number of schools and add Head Start centers

2) Increasing the amount of oral health care for underserved
   - Recruit private dentists to increase the number and location of providers for uninsured and Mass Health patients
   - Utilize Community Health Centers and a Dental Hygiene School

3) Advocacy for oral health policy
   - Lead efforts to change local legislative, administrative, and regulatory policies and initiatives to increase the oral health services available to Mass Health members and the uninsured
CMOHI Methods (cont.)

4) Establishing a dental residency program
   – Establish a dental residency program using health centers as training sites to create interest in treating the underserved
   – Create a pool of potential future Central Massachusetts dentists

5) Educating health professionals on oral health
   – Increase the knowledge of oral health for medical students, residents and practitioners across specialties using Smiles for Life
   – Educate on oral examinations and build confidence in referrals
Advocacy

- AMA +
- AAFP ++
- ADA +++
- AAP +++++
- STFM ++++
- Oral Health Advocacy Taskforce
- Letters
- Op eds
Challenges

• Med Ed – finding time in curriculum
• Service – finding time in busy practices

• Solution: Find champions
• Change laws, board exams, education requirements, award “stars”
• Make it easy, accessible, worth something
Financial Issues

- Grants for curriculum changes
- Payment by Medicaid for MDs for oral health services?
- A lot of dependency on volunteerism for advocacy