NJ Oral Health Initiative: Building Medical & Dental Collaborations

“What Role Can You Play to Improve Pediatric Oral Health?”

Presenters:
Cathy Ballance MD, FAAP; Irvin Sherman, DDS, MscD;
Nilay Baxi, MD, and Juliana David, MEd Psych

American Academy of Pediatrics
New Jersey Chapter

DentaQuest Foundation

New Jersey Dental Association
New Jersey Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Oral Health 2014
Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the NJ Oral Health Initiative goals and activities during 2013 and plans for 2014
- Find out how you can get involved to improve pediatric oral health outcomes in your community
- Understand the impact of cross-sector collaboration (collective impact) to address the pediatric oral health needs of children birth to 3 years old
“To increase access to preventive oral health services for children birth to 3 through collaborative impact of medical and dental partnerships and improved utilization of payers and community resources”
NJAAP Oral Health Advocate

Cathleen Ballance, MD, FAAP
Pediatric Academic Hospitalist
Jersey Shore Family Health Center
Neptune, NJ

- NJAAP Oral Health Advocate
- Designed EPIC Oral Health Curriculum along with Yasmi Crystal, DMD, FAAPD
- Implementing Oral Health examinations in her practice for last 3 years
The Surgeon General declared dental caries the “Silent Epidemic”

Majority of children enrolled in NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid are in one or more categories which put them at a higher risk for Early Childhood Caries (ECC) and poor oral health.

Low rates of early detection and preventive care for 3 year old and younger children eligible for Medicaid due to lack of access to providers (pediatric dentists)

June 2013 Pew Center on the States Report found more than half (51%) of NJFC Children received no dental services during 2011

We have made some progress: 2013 Kids Count Report shows 59% increase in number of children covered by NJFC receiving preventive oral health care
Dental Caries: Why do we care?

- Dental caries is the most common chronic disease affecting children in the United States
  - 5 times more common than asthma
  - 7 times more common than hay fever

- Research indicates that the prevalence rate of caries increases steadily across the human life span. The frequency of caries in children is:
  - 18% in children aged 2 to 4 years
  - 52% in children aged 6 to 8 years
  - 67% in children aged 12 to 17 years

- 2012 Pew Center on the States Report
  - NJ Score: F on School Based Dental Sealant Program
NJ Pediatric Oral Health Policy

- Medicaid/NJ Family Care (NJFC) Policy on Oral Health: Effective July 2012, State Medicaid Office approved reimbursement to pediatricians for oral health fluoride varnish applications

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) & the Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommend that all children have an identified dental home within 6 months after the first tooth erupts or by 1 year of age, whichever is earlier

- NJFC Preventive Dental Visits include checkup, cleaning, fluoride and X-rays

- Oral health care for children is an essential health benefit under the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
It takes a whole community to raise a “Cavity free Child”

- State Medicaid- Bureau of Dental Services
- NJ Dental Association- Oral Health Coalition
- NJ Association of Pediatric Dentistry
- Monmouth-Ocean Dental Society
- Allied Dental
- United Healthcare Community Plan
- Horizon NJ Health
- Amerigroup
- Health First NJ
- Rutgers Dental School
- Advocates for Children of NJ
- Monmouth County Mental Health Association
- Early Head Start Program/ Acelero Learning Center
- Meridian Health
- Red Bank Resource Network
- Brookdale Community College
- VNA of CJ
- Monmouth University
- Division of Child Protection & Permanency and more

Initiative Funded by DentaQuest Foundation
“It takes a whole community to raise a cavity free child”
3 Focus areas

- Medical-Dental Collaboration
- Community Outreach
- Financing Pediatric Oral Health
Dental disease and medical health problems are interrelated

Safety net population has a higher level of dental disease

Service gap for dental disease is big and getting bigger!

Oral Health is enhanced when provided in primary care settings

Oral Health prevention and disease management is cost effective when provided in primary care settings

Outcomes for children receiving preventive and disease management protocols in Primary care settings are good
MEDICAL-DENTAL COLLABORATION

SUCCESES:

- Alignment with NJDA & NJAPD
- Trained 8 Pediatric Practices (total: 17 Pediatricians) on EPIC Oral Health and how to incorporate Oral Health examinations into well care visits
- Engaged 4 Pediatric Dentists servicing children birth to 3 under NJFC

CHALLENGES:

- Medicaid- HMO ‘s reimbursement & claim processing
- Incorporating Oral Health examinations as routine protocol in Pediatrics takes time
Pediatric Training - Evaluation Results

- Implemented EPIC Curriculum Pre-Post Test
  - Results: Provider knowledge increased in the following areas:
    - Identifying risk factors for dental caries
    - Fluoride varnish application
    - Anticipatory guidance

- Implemented Practice Oral Health Readiness Assessment tool
  - Results: Practices do not use a formalized tool to assess oral health risk. Before training: Only 3 practices refer to Pediatric Dentist by age 1. After training: 60% of Pediatric Practices are implementing oral health screenings
NJFC Practice participating in Monmouth County pilot since May 2013

Provides EPIC Oral Health training to Pediatricians & Hands on Fluoride Varnishing application in Pediatric practices

Irvin Sherman, DDS, MScD
Avon by the Sea, NJ
NJFC Practice participating in Monmouth Pilot since May 2013
Implementing Oral Health examinations as a result of participating in pilot program

Nilay M. Baxi, MD
Asbury Park, NJ
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SUCCESSES:
• Designed a resource list containing bilingual educational materials based on content/literacy level/cost
• Implemented Community Education programs with focus on Latino population and staff at Child Care Resources

CHALLENGES:
• Agreement on oral health unifying messages
• To build a stakeholder network at state and local level
FINANCING PEDIATRIC ORAL HEALTH

SUCCESSES:
• State Medicaid and HMO’s aligned and supporting Oral Health initiative
• Medicaid- HMO agreement to pay Providers for fluoride varnish application after certifying completion of Smiles for Life (Online training ) or EPIC face to face training

CHALLENGES
• Leadership changes within Medicaid- HMO’s
• To keep Pediatric Oral Health benefits as a priority
2014 Activities – State & Monmouth

• **Medical Dental Collaboration**
  • Expand Monmouth County Pilot and build network hubs of medical and dental champions throughout NJ
  • Identify and train 5 MD Oral Health Champions in NJ

• **Community Outreach**
  • Provide Community Oral Health Advocate training and build partnerships to improve preventive pediatric oral health for all children
  • Provide technical assistance & resources to organizations and community health workers to increase pediatric oral health awareness

• **Pediatric Oral Health Financing**
  • NJAAP to advocate through State Medicaid Office for policy recommendations on oral health reimbursement strategies for Pediatricians & Strengthen relationships with Medicaid- Managed Care organizations
What can you do to help?
MCO’s Involvement

• Promote Preventive Oral Health screening for children birth to 3 by:
  
  • Providing provider network resources to NJAAP in order to identify Pediatric and Dental Champions in our state
  
  • Promoting Pediatric Oral Health & Fluoride varnishing program through venues geared to Providers and Members
  
  • Advocating along with NJDA Oral Health Coalition to increase access to oral health screening and reimbursement procedures to Pediatricians
Primary Care Provider Involvement

Obtain training through:

✓ NJAAP EPIC Oral Health (office based)
✓ Online Smiles for Life website – [www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org](http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org)

- Schedule Hands on fluoride varnish application with one of NJAAP’s Champions
- Implement Oral Health screenings in your practice and obtain reimbursement for fluoride varnishing applications

OR

- Become a Pediatric Oral Health Champion in your community
- Reach out to Pediatricians in your service area and schedule EPIC Oral Health training along with a Pediatric Dental Champion
- NJAAP will provide TA and limited training materials through funding (NJ Oral Health letter to Pediatrician, reimbursement guide, etc)
Role of the Primary Care Provider

- Assess for risk factors
  - Cultural
  - Parental
  - Medical

- Protective factors

- Educate parents, caregivers and children

- Provide access to a dentist or dental home
Pediatric and General Dentists Involvement

- Opportunity to increase your patient referrals from participating Pediatricians

- Promote your practice through NJAAP website and newsletter, NJ Smiles Directory to distribute to local community organizations

- Deliver onsite oral health training in at least 3 forums during 2014 (practice in-service functions or one-on-one guidance, and/or community, county, state groups)

- NJAAP will provide TA and limited training materials through funding (NJ Oral Health letter to Pediatrician, reimbursement guide, etc)

- If desired, the NJAAP will formally acknowledge your service by sending a letter to your academic institution or organization
Community Oral Health Advocates Involvement

- Build collaboration with NJ Oral Health Initiative by hosting a Community Oral Health Advocate training for your staff

Training Objectives:

- Understand oral health risks factors affecting children age 0 to 3 and the importance of referring children to a dentist by age 1
- Learn about available tools and resources to Community Health Workers to inform parents so they can advocate for their children’s oral health needs
- Build partnership with key community stakeholders to address oral health prevention from a holistic approach
Discuss with parents:

- The importance of oral health and the potential risk factors
- When to make a first time appointment to a Pediatric Dentists and when children were last taken
- Recommend and assist parents in making Dental appointment for children at age 1
- Medical and Dental Benefits offered through NJFC & ACA marketplace
- Host an Oral Health Presentation for parents of children birth to 3. Invite NJAAP Dental Champions and Managed Care organizations
- Provide parents with the NJ Smiles resource list of dentists
For more information, contact
Juliana David, Program Director
P: 609-842-0014 ext. 103
e-mail: jdavid@aapnj.org

Thank you!