Palm Beach County’s Interagency Council for People with Developmental Disabilities

Dental Home Initiative - Grant Project Overview

Presented by
Michelle Ryan RDH, MEd
Partners

- Palm Beach County Interagency Council
  - Arc of Palm Beach
  - Arc of the Glades
  - Palm Beach Habilitation Center
  - United Cerebral Palsy
  - FAU CARD
  - Coalition for Independent Living Options
- Allegheny Franciscan Ministries
- Quantum Foundation
- Palm Beach County Health Department
- Palm Beach State College
- Benco Dental
- Arc of Florida
- Local Dental Providers
- Palm Beach County Oral Health Coalition
- Palm Beach County Dental Hygiene Association

Implementation Team

- Cathy Cabanzon, RDH, BASDH, Grant Manger
- Michelle Ryan, RDH, M.Ed. Oral Health Coordinator
- Megan Swaney, RDH, Screener
- Sue Correa, RDH, Screener
- Cindy Clements, RDH, MS, Screener
- Palm Beach State College DH/DA students
How we started

- Palm Beach County Interagency Council initiated the collaborative partnership
- Funding provided by Allegheny Franciscan Ministries and Quantum Foundation
- Project modeled after the Head Start Dental Home Initiative in Orange County
Primary Objective

Establish a system that ensures individuals with developmental disabilities in Palm Beach County have access to and receive oral health services in a “dental home.”

A registered dental hygienist is serving as the liaison for the client, parent/caregiver, center and dental providers through an innovative “systems of care” approach.
Goals

- Identify the oral health needs of persons with developmental disabilities
- Work with community partners to provide preventive and restorative care
- Increase staff, caregiver and client knowledge and skills regarding sound oral health care and nutrition
- Partner with academia to provide an education component for dental providers on how to treat persons with developmental disabilities
- Develop a replicable model
The Dental Home Initiative is currently providing dental services through:

- Oral Health Assessments and Fluoride Varnish
- Dental Referral and Treatment
- Oral Health Education
Findings

- Five centers have been screened to date
- 236 clients have participated in the BSS Older Adult screening and have received a fluoride varnish
- 34 urgent cases identified
- 96 clients require non-urgent dental services
- 55% need restorative care
- Over 80% of those needing care do not have dental homes
- Most clients and staff have received oral health education (in process)
- Five providers have been added to the existing provider list
Interdisciplinary Collaboration Facilitated by a Community Dental Hygienist

- A community Registered Dental Hygienist is serving as a liaison between families, centers, social workers (caseworkers), behavioral therapists, nutritional specialists, dental health professions, and academia to ensure access to care.

- This collaborative methodology is a family centered, client based, systems approach- utilizing a team that knows the client’s need the best.
Discussion

- Yearly exams are working – less urgent cases than expected (meaning client having active pain).
- However, there is a high number of non-urgent services required that can easily turn into urgent cases.
- Dental Homes - not always going to be traditional homes.
- Primary barriers: financial, transportation, consistency in care, available providers willing to treat this population.
By utilizing an innovative systems approach we are able to increase dental services for our most vulnerable populations—this is priceless.
Contact Information

Project Manager- Catherine Cabanzon can be reached at ccabanzon@yahoo.com

Project Coordinator- Michelle Ryan can be reached at Ryanmrdh@gmail.com.