Integrating Dental Hygienists into Community Health Centers

Jayne Klett, BA, RDH, EFDA
May 10, 2014
OHIO

Oral Health Isn’t Optional
Professional Roles of the Dental Hygienist

- Educator
- Researcher
- Clinician
- Advocate
- Administrator / Manager

Dental Hygienist

Public Health
Practice of Dental Hygiene in Ohio

- Administration & monitoring of nitrous oxide
- 1999 Indirect Supervision
- 2007 Local Anesthesia
- 2010 OHASP: Oral Health Access Supervision Program
  - Both RDH and supervising DDS hold OHASP permit. RDH works in a specified facility w/o DDS after HHx is approved by DDS
  - Current permit holders: 35 Dentists, 62 RDH
- 2013 Sealant placement: Exam by dentist not required when sealant is the only procedure
Ohio Hygienists are employed by

- VA, military bases
- Nursing homes
- Hospitals
- Prisons
- Colleges
- Private dental practices
- Safety net clinics
- Ohio Department of Health - Bureau of Community Health Services and Patient Centered Primary Care
  - 1986 – 30 RDHs on staff (non-clinical)
  - 1997 - 18 on staff
  - 2014 – 10 on staff
Mission: Impossible

- Primary oral health services
  - Underserved people of all ages
- Promote the value of good oral health
  - Education, outreach, care management
- Advocate for those with limited access
Mission: Possible

- 4 practices
  - 32 operators
  - Toledo – adult
  - Toledo - children
  - Findlay – family
  - Smile Express – mobile van
    - 10 counties
- On site dental lab
- Community Outreach
  - Dental OPTIONS
  - Community Outreach Coordinator
  - Dental Resource Center

2013
22,507 Patients
  - 9,828 under 18
  - 12,679 adults
Appointments:
  - 31,440 Preventive
  - 17,414 Restorative
  - 16,381 Oral surgery
  - 5,958 Prosthodontic
RDHs at DCNWO

- 4 clinical hygienists
  - Practice operations
  - Mobile operations
- 2 outreach hygienists
  - Educator
    - Children
    - Parents
    - Non-dental professionals
    - Emerging professionals
  - Advocate
    - Social Worker
      - 0-5, medically frail, non-compliant
      - Community networking
  - Administrator
    - Development
    - Marketing/ media interviews
    - Grant writing & reports
- Researcher
  - Grant data
It isn’t that they can’t see the solution.
It’s that they can’t see the problem.

G.K. Chesterton
Reality of Poverty
Community outreach

Access
- Insurance
- Cost
- Providers
  - Location
  - Hours
- Transportation
- Perception of need
  - Awareness/education

Utilization
- Perception of need
  - Value/priority
- Fear
- Literacy
- Culture of crisis
- Spendowns
- Classism
Utilization Problem

....A true story
Increasing Access and Productivity in CHC

Where do we start?
Skills/Training: 80 credit hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science Courses</th>
<th>Oral Health Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</td>
<td>Oral Anatomy / Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Oral Pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>Dental Radiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Pathology</td>
<td>Dental Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inorganic and Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>Oral Disease Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology and Immunology</td>
<td>Clinic (hand skills)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Mathematics</td>
<td>Restorative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Periodontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Community oral health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition Public Speaking</td>
<td>Trends (ethics, jurisprudence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Literacy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RDH
Registered Dental Hygienist
Private Practice vs. Public Health

Different issues, different paradigms
Integrating Hygienists Knowledge into the CHC

- Dietetics: Diabetes, WIC
- Pharmacy
- Health Education
- Case Management
- Quality Assurance
- Infection control / safety protocols
- Systemic – oral health education materials
- Primary care
  - OH Assessments, Anticipatory Guidance,
  - Some Day?: preventive services (OHASP)
Oral Health via Teamwork

Roles of Non-dental Professionals
Medical / Dental Collaborations

- They don’t know what they don’t know
- Promote self-care among professionals

- Lunch and learns
- Emerging professionals
- Support Groups: dialysis, lupus, diabetes
- Emergency department: referral collaboration
Non-Dental Professionals Make a Difference!

• Provide oral health risk assessments
• Provide oral health anticipatory guidance
  • Proper nutrition supports healthy gums & teeth
• Make referrals for dental care
  • Network with dental professionals
• Non-dental professionals:
  • Social workers, teachers,
  • Nurses, doctors, nurse practitioners
  • Dieticians, dialysis techs, …
Look! Refer!
Change

To get something you never had,
You have to do something you have never done.
Oral Health Isn’t Optional in OHIO!