Why Does Oral Health Matter?
10:15-11:05

– Sue Yoon, DMD, Community Health Center of Snohomish County
– Glenn Puckett, MPA, Arcora, The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington
The Oral Health Connection
Why Dental Care Matters

Sue Yoon, DMD
Director of Dental Services
Community Health Center of Snohomish County
March 12, 2018
Why are teeth important?

- Chewing our food
- Smiling
- Talking
Beyond the basics

• Oral health is directly related to systemic health
  – Significant link between periodontitis (gum disease) and diabetes
  – Significant link between periodontitis and adverse pregnancy outcomes
Diabetes

- Less controlled blood sugar levels result in more severe periodontitis
- AND vice versa
- Patients with less controlled diabetes often have slower healing rates after dental treatment, such as an extraction
Pregnancy

• Periodontitis can lead to pre-term, low birth weight babies
• Hormonal changes can contribute to onset of periodontitis
Early Childhood Caries (ECC)

• Research shows that a child’s primary caregiver can transmit cavity-causing bacteria via saliva
• Treating cavities in pregnant patients → reduces bacteria load → minimizes risk of exposure to child → lowers rate of decay
Medical – Dental Integration

• Focused patient populations
• More referrals from medical providers to dental providers, and vice versa
Examples of integration

• V.I.P.P Program –
  – Very Important Pregnant Patient

• Group visits with nutritionists for patients with diabetes
Back to the basics

• Teeth are important for: chewing food, smiling, and talking
Patient stories

- “Amy”
- 36 year old Caucasian female
- Health history:
  - Former drug abuser (heroin and methamphetamine) but now clean
- No current dental pain, but multiple non-restorable decayed and fractured teeth
- Most notable: significant sense of shame and low self-worth
- Supported by her adult mother
Patient stories

- “Amy” has since come in for over 20 dental appointments in the past year, completed her treatment plan, and now has no active dental disease
- She wears partial dentures, and now smiles confidently
- She has an entry level job in food services
- She comes to her check-up appointments independently now, and reports pride in being able to help payback her mom
Patient stories

• “Devon”
• 6 year old Hispanic male
• Recently moved to WA state
• Has been living with multiple different family members in the past few years
• His school is concerned with his attendance and multiple unexcused absences
Patient stories

• Dental screening done at his school
• Rampant decay noted with multiple abscesses
• “Devon’s” family was contacted to sign up for Apple Health insurance
Patient stories

• “Devon’s” dental treatment was completed
• He is now thriving at school, and has a much improved attendance record
Today’s takeaways

• Oral health is much more than just teeth and gums
• Oral health significantly impacts systemic, overall health
• Oral health significantly impacts a person’s self-worth, ability to contribute to society, and ability to function for daily responsibilities
Thank you!

Sue Yoon, DMD
syoon@chcsno.org
(425) 382-4069
Putting the Mouth Back in the Body

Glenn Puckett
Director, Health Systems Integration
Our Mission
Bending the arc of oral health toward equity

Our Vision
All people enjoy good oral and overall health with no one left behind
> Smile Survey Data for Snohomish County

> Oral Health Integration

> Oral Health Connections Pilot

> DentistLink

> Call to Action!
Untreated Decay Increased Among Young Children

Head Start Preschoolers: 11%
Kindergarteners: 36%

Caries Experience among children 6-9 years old in Snohomish County is HIGHER than that in Washington State.

Washington: 49%
Snohomish: 58%
The 2015 Snohomish County Smile Survey used the same methodology as Washington State Department of Health Smile Survey. The survey is conducted every five years to assess the oral health of children. For this survey, licensed dental examiners screened 2,863 preschool, kindergarten, second and third grade students in 11 elementary schools and 24 Head Start/ECEAP preschool sites.

Children of color in Snohomish County have **Significantly Higher** rates of decay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Decay Experience</th>
<th>Untreated Decay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the problem we are trying to solve?

A Prevention Gap

- Caries and periodontal disease are preventable, chronic, infectious diseases
- Dental care is the most common unmet health need
- Our current healthcare system is failing to reach the populations with the highest burden of disease, resulting in pervasive health disparities
We need an *upstream* solution…

a way to intervene *earlier* in the course of disease

The proposal?

Expand the oral disease prevention workforce by engaging primary care teams in the fight against oral disease.
Why enlist primary care teams?

Access:
Frequent contact with high-risk groups:
Children, pregnant women, adults with diabetes

Skills:
> Disease prevention
> Risk assessment, screening, case-finding
> Help patients navigate the healthcare system
> Engage patients in behavior change
“We chose to start small (with two clinicians) in case the need and volume was significant, but now that we’ve seen that it’s very manageable, we’re ready to spread to other clinicians”

Deborah Nalty, MD
Providence Medical Group
Monroe WA

http://www.safetynetmedicalhome.org/resources-tools/white-papers
Did You Know?

Apple Health includes a Dental Benefit for Children AND Adults?
Oral Health Connections

> Legislative Directive to WA Health Care Authority
> Pilot Projects in Spokane, Thurston, Cowlitz
> Focus on two populations: pregnant women, patients with diabetes
> Use new referral tools (e.g. DentistLink)
A technology platform that facilitates connections (with a limited set of patient data sharing for referrals) among:

- Dentists
- Physicians/Health Systems
- Community Care workers
- Patients
DentistLink.org

Do you have Apple Health?
It's Never Been Easier to Get a Dental Appointment.

Get Started Now

Call or text us to get connected with a dental appointment.
844-888-5465
Step 1
Tell us about your dental needs: Preferred location, reason for the visit and insurance type

Step 2
Our Referral Specialists will match you with a local dentist based on your specific needs

Step 3
Get a DentistLink notification about local dentists and their available appointment times

Step 4
Choose an appointment that best suits you and remember it with the help of our personalized reminder service.
2018 Patient Metrics

Patients, Jan 1 - Feb 15, 2018

- Full Service: 48
- Referral Partner: 96
- Self-Referral: 216
- Web User: 512
Call to Action!

> Address Oral Health with Patients/Clients/Neighbors:
  > Integrate oral health preventive services into medical care
  > Promote brushing/flossing & tooth healthy snacking – it works!

> Contact Arcora Foundation for Resources and Support Integrating Oral Health in Medical Care

> Take & Share DentistLink Cards
Thank you!

Glenn Puckett

gpuckett@arcorafoundation.org
206.528.5328
Questions & Answers