



HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010 CHAPTER GRANT PROGRAM
CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH
FINAL REPORT
Due: May 31, 2009

Chapter: Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Program Name: Oral Health Screening Project

Primary Contact: Knox Brewer, TNAAP Program Director; email:
knox.tnaap@gmail.com; phone: 615-730-6568

Project Director: Jessica Tuberty, MD
Email: jptube@charter.net; phone: 423-741-0551

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

As noted in our November 30, 2007 report, oral screenings took place on March 29, 2008 at the office of Frank Alden, DDS and on April 12, 2008 at a Wal-Mart store in Johnson City, TN where Magnolia Mobile Dental provided a mobile dental unit equipped with child size dental chairs for the screenings.

As of the date of this report, a total of 128 patients have participated in the two screenings. All of the patients were accompanied by at least one parent. All of the screenings took place in Johnson City, TN, in the heart of Appalachia. The people in this region have typically experienced poorer health outcomes and more difficulty with access to care than the nation as a whole.

As part of the oral screenings project, we provided children with backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, dental floss, as well as information on healthy snacks and proper dental care. A total of 1,000 backpacks were distributed to children - 875 were handed out at the East Tennessee State University Physicians and Associates Pediatrics clinic to children at the time of their medical visit. One hundred twenty-five (125) were handed out during the screenings held at Wal-Mart as an incentive to get children and their parents to participate.

In addition to the patient screenings, another positive effect of the project was that many of the parents who accompanied their children to the screenings made dental care appointments after receiving the backpack and information about proper dental care.

COLLABORATION

In collaborating on the Oral Screening Project, we were assisted by the office of Frank Alden, DDS; a Wal-Mart store located in Johnson City, TN; Mountain States Health Alliance, and volunteers from the East Tennessee State University.

Mountain States Health Alliance (MSHA) was a sponsor of the project and held a media event on December 10, 2007 at 10:00 am in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Magnolia Mobile Dental had a mobile dental unit on site that day as well. The goal of this media event was to inform the Johnson City community about this upcoming opportunity. We purchased the toothpaste and mouthwash with funds provided by the grant.

Dawn Tuell, MD, Associate Program Director for East Tennessee State University's Pediatric Residency Program, had the following comment about the conference: "Dr. Alden kindly gave of his time to educate future pediatricians about the importance of prevention of dental caries. He stressed the importance of never taking a bottle to bed and not carrying around a sippy cup of juice all day. All of the [pediatric] residents realized the importance of talking about prevention of caries during well child checks. All of our patients were thrilled to receive the dental backpacks and it was a great tool to use to stress the importance of dental health."

EVALUATION/MEASUREMENT

Each child who took part in the oral screening had a sticker placed on his or her chart and we were able to track those children who continued to observe proper, good oral hygiene.

PROGRAM/CHILD HEALTH OUTCOMES

Saturday, March 29, 2008: Dental office screening day at the Office of Frank Alden, DDS, Johnson City, TN

The March 29 screening had fewer patients participate than expected based in part on inclement weather and unfamiliarity with the dentist's office, as opposed to the mobile clinic at Wal-Mart. Of the patients who were screened that day, all of them made a follow up appointment, indicating a success.

Saturday, April 12, 2008: Mobile Dental Clinic Screening Day at Wal-Mart, Johnson City, TN

On the day of the April 12 screening, a total of 125 patients were screened.

As previously mentioned, a total of 1,000 backpacks were distributed to children. The backpacks were universally loved by the children who received them. They immediately threw them over their shoulders and then took a peek inside.

The backpack assembly in January 2008 was very rewarding. It only took twenty minutes to assemble them because of a tremendous volunteer team including Doug Taylor, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Records, and Dr. Kwasigroch, Associate Dean

of Student Affairs, from East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine who stood in line and helped.

Child Health Outcomes

Overall, the project was a great success. For the children who were found to have dental caries, the screening had enormous value because parents heard from a dentist that dental caries in tiny children is not OK and must be taken care of. One mother said that her family had been telling her that it did not matter if her two year-old's teeth were rotting because those baby teeth would eventually fall out anyway.

Finally, a predominately indigent population served by a project such as this one has many challenges to receiving appropriate dental care. Acquiring raw materials and access to care are two of them that we successfully addressed.

The details of the Oral Health Grant are available on our website so that our members and supporters can stay informed on the progress of this project.

UNANTICIPATED BARRIERS

The only barrier that we experienced initially in rolling out our program was in determining the best way of reaching the children who needed the oral screenings the most. As most of these children come from low-income homes, there was a challenge in finding an effective way to reach them.

FUTURE PLANS

We are seeking additional funding to possibly expand this program to a state-wide initiative once funding has been secured.

FINANCIAL RECORDS

The AAP grant funds were spent in their entirety. Please see attached Budget.