

Dental Solutions for Children: Creating and sustaining a dental safety net for school-aged children

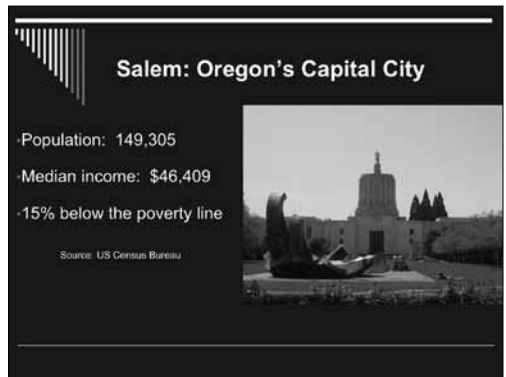
Jessica Minahan, co-founder, Dental Solutions for Children
Catherine Pederson, co-founder, Dental Solutions for Children

Breakout Session Description:

Learn about the Dental Solutions for Children Program and how to develop and maintain a dental health safety-net for children in your community. The Dental Solutions for Children Program was created and launched ten years ago in the Salem-Keizer (Oregon) community to protect children from experiencing the painful effects of dental disease. Embedded in the school district, this Program provides:

- Dental health education for students and parents,
- School-based dental screenings and prevention services, and
- Access to treatment for low-income, uninsured students.


Coordination is essential to program sustainability. Program coordination involves developing and building a network of participating dentists and agencies, managing the referral process, promoting program awareness and visibility, collecting program data, and resource development. Thanks to the Dental Solutions for Children Program, Salem-Keizer School District's 40,000 students never miss class due to dental pain!



Dental Solutions for Children: Creating and sustaining a dental safety net for school-aged children (continued)

Jessica Minahan, co-founder, Dental Solutions for Children
 Catherine Pederson, co-founder, Dental Solutions for Children

2007 Oregon Smile Survey



Oregon Department of Human Services, Oral Health Program, Office of Family Health

Oregon children grades 1 through 3:

- Nearly 2 in 3 have a cavity
- 1 in 5 have rampant decay
- 1 in 6 have permanent tooth decay


(All statistics worsened from 2002 Oregon Smile Survey)

Daily in Oregon:

- Nearly 1 in 20 children need dental urgent care due to pain or infection
- 5,000 children are suffering from dental pain or infection while in school

2007 Oregon Smile Survey

Salem Keizer School District



- 40,000 Students
- 56.4% enrolled in free/reduced meal program
- 64 Schools
- 27 "low-income" schools
- 17% Limited English Proficiency
- 30 Languages spoken

Stand for Children



1999 : Community-needs survey

2000 : Community "Action"

2001: *Dental Solutions for Children* formed

Dental Solutions for Children
 "Three Pronged Approach"

1. DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION
2. PREVENTION SERVICES
3. ACCESS TO TREATMENT



DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Parents



Students



Dental Solutions for Children: Creating and sustaining a dental safety net for school-aged children *(continued)*

Jessica Minahan, co-founder, Dental Solutions for Children
Catherine Pederson, co-founder, Dental Solutions for Children

PREVENTION SERVICES



- School-Wide Dental Screenings
- Dental Sealant Project
- Fluoride Varnish Project

ACCESS TO TREATMENT

- Neighborhood Dentist Program
- Medical Teams International Dental Van
- Give Kids a Smile clinics
- Boys & Girls Club Health Services Center

Neighborhood Dentist Program



- All 64 schools paired with dentists
- Nearly 70 volunteer dentists

Neighborhood Dentist Program Commitment and Guidelines

- Referrals
- One appointment per dentist/month
- Parent must attend appointment
- District provides interpretation

Treatment Services

Medical Teams International



Treatment Services

Give Kids a Smile Clinics



Dental Solutions for Children: Creating and sustaining a dental safety net for school-aged children *(continued)*

Jessica Minahan, co-founder, Dental Solutions for Children
 Catherine Pederson, co-founder, Dental Solutions for Children

Treatment Services


Boys & Girls Club Health Services Center



Program Successes

(from 2000 to present)

- 6,466 Parents educated
- 30,590 Students educated
- 39,876 Students screened (1,393 students identified w/urgent needs)
- 4,078 Donated appointments
- **\$1,257,480** = Value of donated appointments



Dental Health Coordinator

Roles and Responsibilities :

- Maintaining providers and partners
- Scheduling
- Training
- Tracking treatment referrals
- Securing funds

Broad-based Community Support!



Keys to Success

- Networking
- Input from local providers
- Connect providers with schools
- Recruit and maintain participants
- Track data

Grassroots !