Medical-Dental Collaboration in ECC Control

Andrew Terranella, MD, MPH
Heshmat Mortezavi, DDS
Rodrigo Villar, MD

Tohono O’odham Nation Healthcare
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Vision

Creation of a unified medical-dental home where dental caries is identified early in children and treated as a chronic disease through team-based care.
Our Journey

• First attempt at a small IHS clinic – Dental Department resistance

• Second attempt at a small tribal FQHC – CEO Resistance

• Third attempt at Tohona O’Odham Nation Health Care (TONHC). . . TBD 😊
Potential Barriers

• Dental Providers
  • Competition with medicine
  • Reduction in revenue
  • Lack of knowledge of SDF, safety and benefits

• Medical Providers
  • Lack of knowledge/training – SDF, oral health
  • No PCMH infrastructure
  • Lack of time
Potential Barriers

• Administrators
  • Revenue
  • Revenue
  • Revenue
  • Revenue
• Tribal leaders
  • Research?
  • Fear of the unknown
• Patients
  • Fear of the new or unknown
  • Cosmetic concerns
Stakeholders

• Medical Staff
• Dental Staff
• Tribal leaders
• Community members
• Patients and their parents
Key Players for Success

• Medical/Clinical Director
• Public Health Officer
• Dental Director
• CEO
• Tribal Chairman and Health Board Chair
Components of our Program

• Patient Centered Medical Home
• Chronic Disease model of caries
• Dental hygienist embedment
• Early screening
• Case management and care coordination
• Medical Management of ECC with SDF when appropriate
Well Child Clinic Visit

Oral Screening by hygienist

ECC present?

Immediate Referral (Same day?)

Formal Dental Eval and assessment for SDF

2, 4, 6 mo f/u, etc

Case Manager/Care Coordinator Referral

At risk?

Fluoride Varnish and Routine Dental F/U

Y

N

Y

N
Where are we now?

• Assembled our improvement team
• Creating promotional materials including PSAs
• Identified dental hygienist with plan for utilization
• Medical and dental staff education and engagement
• Plan for small TOC in mid-winter
Steps still needed . . .

- Community and tribal engagement
- Development of screening protocol and screening tool
- Staff training
- Development of follow up/case management plan and database
- Data collection plan to evaluate safety and efficacy