New Horizons in Community Health: Thriving at the Forefront of Health Transformation

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Objectives

• Background

• Needs and challenges of the populations served

• Community Health Worker (CHW) model

• Results and success stories

• Lessons, opportunities, drivers and challenges for expanding CHW services

• Potential next steps
Mission

• The mission of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) State Oral Health Program is to promote, protect, maintain and improve oral health because it is integral to the health of all Minnesotans.

Vision

• The vision of the MDH Oral Health Unit is to advance optimal oral health for all Minnesotans.
Although Minnesota continues to be one of the healthiest states in the nation, its ranking has slowly been falling.

A major factor behind its decline from No. 1 to its current rank of No. 6 is the growing disparity between the health outcomes of people from different racial/ethnic cohorts, incomes, geographies.

These disparities are not the result of poor medical or dental care.

Rather, they’re driven by the socioeconomic circumstances in which people live.
Needs and Challenges of the Populations Served

Minnesota is in the lowest quarter of percentages of Medicaid eligible children in the U.S. who receive preventive services, FFY 2014.
Less than Half of MN Children (0-5 years) Enrolled in Medicaid Received their Recommended Annual Dental Visit

Dental service use among Child and Teen Checkup (C&TC) eligible children by age group, federal fiscal year 2016

1 in 5 MN children (0-5 years) Enrolled in Medicaid Received their Recommended Annual Preventive Dental Visit

Preventive dental service use among Child and Teen Checkup (C&TC) eligible children by age group, federal fiscal year 2016

- All ages (20 and under): 35.1%
- Less than 1: 0.4%
- 1 to 2: 10.2%
- 3 to 5: 37.7%

Less than 15% of MN Children (0-5 years) Enrolled in Medicaid Received an Oral Health Service from a Non-Dental Provider

Non-dental provider oral health service use among Child and Teen Checkup (C&TC) eligible children by age group, federal fiscal year 2016

2016 Medicaid C&TC Providers
Data Based on Claims Submitted for Children 0-16 years

5,734 Enrolled C&TC Providers

1,314 (23%) Enrolled C&TC Providers Submitted Claims for Fluoride Varnish

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services
• The demographic of older adults (i.e., 65 years of age and older) is growing and likely will be an increasingly large part of dental public health practice in the coming years.
Barriers to Controlling Chronic Disease

- Lack of family support
- Failure to adhere to treatment
- Lack of support for self-management
- Lack of access to care and being uninsured
- Differences in perceptions of health that are culturally based, the complexity of treatment
- Costs of transportation and other expenses
- An insufficient focus on prevention

Source: CDC

Image is used for educational purpose only
Community Health Worker (CHW) Model

• Team-Based Care
  o CHWs increase patient health knowledge and self-sufficiency
  o CHWs facilitate access to services
  o CHWs improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery
  o CHWs perform a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, preventive services, social support and advocacy
Results and Success Stories

• CHWs may positively affect children’s oral health outcomes and result in cost savings:
  o Preventive programs save state Medicaid programs as much as $3.21 for every dollar spent (Source)
  o Motivational interviewing save more than $2 for every dollar invested by Medicaid (Source)

• Healthy Teeth. Health Baby. initiative:
  o Improved prenatal to three oral health
  o Expanded collaboration and partnership
  o Increased awareness and capacity in public health
  o Website
Fluoride Varnish Application (FVA)

• FVA is a part of the C&TC visit every 3 months (high risk) or every 6 months (moderate risk)

• Beginning at the eruption of the 1st tooth (6-12 months), continuing through 5 years

• FVA by a CHW under a physician supervision is reimbursed under the medical code (99188)

• FVA by a CHW under a dentist supervision is reimbursed under the dental code (1206)

• CHW’s cannot be directly reimbursed from Medicaid

Resources:

• Oral Health Risk Assessment Tool (www.aap.org)

• Fluoride varnish in the C&TC setting (www.health.state.mn.us)
Results and Success Stories

• CHWs may positively affect chronic disease management and result in cost savings:
  o 1: $2.30 ROI (cancer) [Source]
  o $2,245 per patient (diabetes) [Source]

• The Healthy Brain Initiative:
  o Development of training modules
  o Training of CHW students
  o Increased competency on aging and oral health (dementia and Alzheimer's Disease)
Results and Success Stories

• **Projects:**
  - Impact through Innovation
  - Models of Collaboration
  - Community water fluoridation
  - School oral health initiative

• **Training:**
  - Oral health for children and adults
  - Health literacy and cultural competency
  - Fluoride varnish application
Lessons, Opportunities, Drivers and Challenges for Expanding CHW Services

• Identify opportunities and policy changes needed for more fully integrating CHWs into dental public health

• Standards and guidelines on common oral health metrics are needed to improve the comparability and generalizability of CHW models

• Document and disseminate the success stories of CHW integration into the Minnesota's dental public health system

• Supplemental resources and training are required to support CHWs and potential employers for true medical-dental integration

• Source: CDC

Source: MN CHW Alliance
• Continue to collaborate with stakeholders including the CHW Alliance

• Share best practices as CHW financing models and oral health initiatives develop

• Strengthen the oral health/workforce data and research on CHW

• Continue to think about which oral health services CHWs will provide, how to integrate CHWs into the dental public health system, and available partnerships within the diverse communities

• Strengthen the evidence that CHWs generate cost savings as well as improve the community’s overall health

• Source: ASTHO

Source: MN CHW Alliance
Questions?

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