INTER-PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & EDUCATION

CAN IT REALLY WORK?
CORE COMPETENCIES FOR INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

REPORT OF AN EXPERT PANEL
VISION OF IMPACT

• The vision of inter-professional collaborative practice is to provide safe, high quality, accessible, patient-centered care desired by all.

• Continuously *improving* inter-professional learning experiences for all health professional students is the key to their entering the workforce ready to *practice collaboratively in effective health teams*.

• Working as part of inter-professional *health teams* while a student is another key to becoming effective in a future collaborative health care workforce.
OUR PILOT PROJECT

• Our Primary Partners in this Inter-professional project included:
  • UAB School of Dentistry
  • UAB School of Medicine
  • UAB School of Nursing
  • The DentaQuest Foundation – funder

Other key partners in our Strategic Team were:
• Alabama Kid Check/Sight Savers of AL
• United Way of Central Alabama Success By 6
• Alabama Department of Public Health
• Jefferson County Health Department
• Birmingham District Dental Society
OUR GOALS

• Propose acceptance of the Smiles for Life Curriculum: http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/default.aspx?tut=555&pagekey=62948&s1=2058760 to become part of the regular teaching curriculum for our non-dental health professional school partners at UAB.

• Organize elementary school and child care center-based oral health and general health screenings for training students from the three partnering UAB health schools.

• Enter all health data electronically for tracking purposes and follow-up of children screened.

• Have faculty demonstrate to their students how to screen and what to share with other professionals about the findings – as well as to know when to refer.
Check all of the following that apply:

Dental:
- [ ] Cavities
- [ ] Details of the Abnormal Observation (notes to parents):
  - 2 cavities, verified by I.W.

Notes & Action Taken Today:

- [ ] Missing teeth (other than normal exfoliation)
- [ ] Oral lesions
- [ ] Plaque (tartar)
- [ ] Bleeding gums
- [ ] Red gums
- [ ] Swollen gums (abscess)
- [ ] Red tongue
- [ ] Swollen tongue
- [ ] Tongue abnormalities
- [ ] Child reports dental pain
- [ ] Other observations
- [ ] Unable to screen

Save
OUTCOMES

• We held a successful simulation exercise with students from each of the Schools prior to initiating the pilot.
• We held 2 successful pilot elementary school inter-professional screening events and examined 48 kids for oral health and health needs.
• We also held a successful inter-professional screening event at a child care center and examined another 35 kids for oral and other health needs.
• All kids who were screened had extensive follow-up for referral purposes according to Kid Check protocols.
OUTCOMES

• Surveyed health professional students for impressions and lessons learned.
• Modifications made to the school-based training and screening protocols based on student input.
• 83 children screened for oral health issues and health concerns.
• 29 children needed follow-up and referral.
PLANS FOR TRANSITION

- **New Goals:**
  - *Double* the number of professional school students exposed to *Smiles for Life* curriculum and the inter-professional school-based screening and training project.
  - *Double* the number of health professional schools involved in the project.
  - *Expand* the scope of the inter-professional training project to include a focus on elderly/nursing home patients.
  - *Increase* visibility of the project (oral health coalition involvement).
LONG RANGE GOALS?

• The principle vision of impact for this project is to develop health teams in Alabama that understand how to work collaboratively together and also know when it is appropriate to refer...and to feel comfortable doing so.
• Incorporating the Smiles for Life oral health educational curriculum for non-dental health professionals into the partnering health professional schools at UAB will facilitate this vision.
HOW YOU CAN USE THIS INFORMATION

• National PBRN network involvement
• Working with your state dental school in a collaborative supportive arrangement
• External rotation arrangements for students to your clinics
• Consider inter-professional activities you might engage in at your community health centers...
The National Dental Practice-Based Research Network is a consortium of participating practices and dental organizations committed to advancing knowledge of dental practice and ways to improve it.

Essentially, it is "practical science" done about, in, and for the benefit of "real world" everyday clinical practice.

The major source of funding for the nation's network is the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).
SO, CAN HEALTH TEAMS BE TRAINED TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY?

- Yes - Core Competencies for inter-professional training have been developed.
- Several Health Science Center Universities have already made great strides in developing and implementing inter-professional training programs.
- Smiles for Life oral health educational curriculum has been promoted by many national organizations and is gaining acceptance.
- CODA accreditation standards now mention inter-professional activities.
- Can we all work more collaboratively – you bet!
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