Your New BFF, Your State Oral Health Program
October 3, 2012

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Iowa Primary Care Association
Iowa Primary Care Association

• 14 Federal Qualifies Health Center members.
• 12 of the centers provide onsite oral health services.
• In 2011 Iowa FQHC dental clinics employed 34 dentists, 22 dental hygienists and 82 auxiliary staff.
• Iowa FQHC dental clinics provided oral health services to more then 57,000 patients and had over 132,000 encounters.
Iowa Primary Care Association

• The Iowa PCA’s mission is to provide leadership by promoting, supporting, and developing quality health care for underserved populations in Iowa.

• Recently hired a full time staff person dedicated to supporting the members oral health programs and strengthening the oral health safety net in the state.

• The state Oral Health Director provided input in designing this position
State Oral Health Programs

• In Iowa the mission of SOHP is protecting the health and wellness of every Iowan through the prevention and early detection of dental disease and through the promotion of optimal oral health.

• Research has shown that untreated dental disease is more prevalent in vulnerable populations.
State Oral Health Programs

• Since poor oral health is found most commonly in vulnerable populations and PCAs strive to provide access to health care to these populations, it is beneficial that SOHP and PCAs have strong relationships.
Iowa PCA and SOHP

• The Iowa PCA has gained much from working with the State Dental Director.

• State Dental Director has an extensive background in managing FQHC dental programs and advocating for oral health at the state level.

• Bob Russell, DDS has been the State of Iowa Dental Director since 2005
Iowa PCA and SOHP

• In 2005, with funds from the Iowa Health Foundation grant, the Iowa PCA contracted with Dr. Russell and the Iowa Department of Public Health to develop a FQHC Dental Director Training Manual.

• Along with this manual, several group training sessions for FQHC oral health providers were also developed.

• This filled a gap that had not previously been available from the federal funding agency (HRSA) or the FQHC national association (NACHC), despite similar training programs for new medical directors.
New Dental Director Training Manual

For Federally Qualified Health Center and other Safety Net Dental Programs

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Trainings

• Dr. Russell’s comprehensive training manual covers all aspects of managing a FQHC dental clinic.

• The most relevant lesson learned was the difference between public health dentistry and a private dental practice. Understanding that the needs of the community served determine how the FQHC should develop their programs was a new concept for the Iowa PCA and the FQHC dental directors.
• Dr. Russell has provided additional training to our dental directors and dental clinic managers over the years, the most recent being in January and February, 2011. These trainings brought information on how the ACA may impact oral health care in the future.

• Dr Russell and the PCA have teamed up to make site visits to most Iowa FQHC dental programs, and he has become a ‘go to’ resource for dental directors and Executive Directors/CEOs.
• Dr. Russell has also been supportive of the development of the Oral Health Manager position at the Iowa PCA and has been a great mentor.

• The state oral health bureau staff and the Oral Health Manager have met to exchange information and consider collaboration opportunities.
Recommendations

• Primary Care Associations (PCAs) should collaborate with state and local oral health programs and initiatives.
• PCAs should be involved in the hiring process of State Oral Health Directors.
• PCAs should monitor proceedings of dental licensing boards.
• PCAs should encourage their oral health providers to be involved in community oral health programs and bring issues to the attention of the SOHP and more importantly the legislature.
Thank You