

2014 LHIP: Dental Work Group

Final Report 2016

The following accomplishments were shared:

- The accomplishment that stands to us the most is the **opening of the new Dental Clinic**. Though many key players were involved outside of the workgroup it still feels this is something to be incredibly excited about regarding the past few years work on increasing adult dental care in Frederick County
- Bringing the various safety net providers of dental care in the county together on a regular basis was a significant accomplishment as it allowed the various agencies to **share information and best practices** with each other and work towards developing as complete a picture as currently possible of the need for adult dental care in Frederick County
- We had a goal of increasing services for adults without sacrificing services and resources for children. In fact, in CY **2014 66.3% of children with MA were seen by a dentist. In CY14 that percentage increased to 68%**. Good for Frederick County!
- Members of the workgroup worked with a dental hygienist in a graduate program at University of Maryland. As a result of that collaboration, the student (Nancy Stannert) **produced a DVD of proper techniques in providing routine oral care for caregivers of seniors**. This DVD was shared with all local nursing homes and has now been distributed to nursing homes statewide!
- Collaborating monthly has **increased awareness of other issues affecting adult oral health care**. For instance, the cost and availability of dentures for adults and seniors, challenges with Medical Assistance reimbursement for adult oral health.
- Grants:
 - **Almost all committee members applied for and received grant using data they received or learned about in the workgroup meetings**. Notable among these was a collaboration between the Dept of Aging which received funds it used for the Religious Coalition and Seton Center to provide dental care for seniors.
 - The **United Way of Frederick County has had adult oral care as a funding priority. As a result of its connections through the workgroup, the United Way successfully funded 5 grants to four agencies** participating in the workgroup.
- Knowing what everyone else is doing in the community so was can learn about the intensity of the problem, what is happening in the community, how others are operating to **avoid duplication and gaps in services. We can't do this alone. We aren't meant to do this alone.**

In addition to this discussion, the workgroup addresses strategies and challenges with using language interpreting services. Individual strategies ranged from telephonic interpreting, to bilingual staff, to use of informal interpreters from families and friends. This is an increasing challenge for our community. The new dental clinic has revised its sliding fee scale as of August 1st. So far the clinic has seen 113 patients. It continues to see patients whose incomes are less than 200% of FPL. The biggest demand so far is for extraction and dentures.

The accomplishment that stands out to us the most is the opening of the new Dental Clinic at FMH. Though many key players were involved outside of the workgroup it still feels this is something to be incredibly excited about regarding the past few years work on increasing adult dental care in Frederick

County. I would also add that bringing the various safety net providers of dental care in the county together on a regular basis was a significant accomplishment as it allowed the various agencies to share information and best practices with each other and work towards developing a complete a picture as currently possible of the need for adult dental care in Frederick County.