

Grantmakers in Health Webinar

Measuring Impact

Linda Reiner, MPH
Director, Planning and Evaluation
Caring for Colorado Foundation
lreiner@caringforcolorado.org

Caring for Colorado's Story

- Foundation formed in 1999. Largely responsive grantmaker with only 2 initiatives in oral health and mental health.
- Oral Health Improvement Project
 - Goal 1: Strengthen the oral health safety net
 - Goal 2: Prevent Oral disease in Children
- 10 year, \$10 million effort



What we've funded:

- Development of new safety net dental clinics in rural Colorado
- Capital construction and equipment to support FQHC dental expansions
- Dental teams to expand access to care
- School-based dental sealant programs
- Capacity building within Head Start programs to strengthen their oral health efforts
- Patient navigators to help people access dental care



Evaluation Strategies



- At the end of the first five years of the initiative we hired an outside evaluation firm to see if our goals had been met.
- Major findings: We met our goals in expanding the safety net. We failed in providing prevention programs for children.
- Prevention didn't work because programs started too late in life, and dental clinics were overrun with treatment demands.

Rethinking Prevention



- Convened a group of stakeholders
- Did a LOT of research and consulted experts
- Developed a statewide program called **Cavity Free at Three**
 - It takes prevention out of the dental office and puts it into primary care and public health.

Cavity Free at Three trains medical providers on:



- ECC risk assessment
- Anticipatory guidance education for the parent
- Motivational interviewing of the parent to encourage behavior changes
- Application of fluoride varnish



Cavity Free at Three Evaluation

- Counting number and type of providers trained
- Counting number of physicians who are billing Medicaid for Cavity Free at Three services
- Annual survey of those trained to determine attitudes, beliefs and behaviors associated with Cavity Free at Three program.
 - To date, close to 900 medical providers have been trained – 50,000 children receiving CF₃ services.
 - CF₃ integrated into medical, dental, nursing and PA schools in Colorado

Cavity Free at Three Evaluation

- Following children at Denver Health (our largest safety net system) to determine if CF₃ has reduced the ECC burden. Denver Health was used because CF₃ is integrated into their well child care protocols.
 - Oral health evaluation of 3.5 year olds (baseline, 70% had caries or pre-carious lesions.)
 - 3.5 year olds who have had CF₃ services since birth will receive oral health evaluation this summer. Research team is hypothesizing a 10% reduction in caries.

Cavity Free at Three Evaluation



- When children come for their oral health evaluation, parents / caregivers are surveyed on home behaviors.
- When baseline measurements were taken, the only statistically significant difference between children with caries and those without was the oral health status of the mother.
- Home behavior measures are being taken again this summer.

Foundation Partnerships and Efforts

- CF3 funded jointly by 6 foundations in Colorado.
- Foundation involvement has helped to catalyze other oral health projects in the state
 - School-based sealant programs
 - Co-locating dental hygienists in pediatric practices
 - Early childhood councils – involving early childhood in prevention efforts
 - State oral health coalition –working on policy
 - Colorado Partnership for Children’s Oral Health – working to increase the number of dentists who will provide care to young children and children on Medicaid

Results of our collaboration

- Many foundations working to improve oral health for children.
- Efforts are aligned in a way that we can begin to look at the **collective impact** of our work.



Public health measures we are watching:

- % of 2-5 year olds with caries experience
- % of 2-5 year olds with untreated dental decay
- % of 3rd graders with dental sealants
- % of children on Medicaid who receive an annual dental visit.
- Movement in Medicaid data to show greater utilization for preventive services starting at a younger age; reduction in high end treatment costs (hospital based care)
- The percentage of children in Colorado who receive an age one dental visit
- The percentage of pregnant women in Colorado who receive dental care during or around their pregnancy.

Results that matter the most



Thank you!

If you'd like to talk further:

Linda Reiner

720-524-0770

lreiner@caringforcolorado.org