AGENDA

• Overview
  • About the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program & Integrating HIV Innovative Practices (IHIP) Project

• Presentation of Intervention/Model of Care

• Q&A

• Give Us Your Feedback
SPNS reflects

• Changes in the epidemic
• Alignment with HIV national policy strategies
• Changes in the healthcare environment
• Replicable and sustainable care models
Disclaimer

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number #5H97HA07523-05-00, SPNS Oral Health Initiative, awarded at $400,000 per year for five years from 2006 – 2011, with no non-governmental funds used. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.
Presentation Outline

• Overview
• Goals and Target Population
• Program Description
• Implementation
• Successes
• Lessons Learned
• Sustainability
• Key Take-away
Overview

In 2006 the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) listed access to dental care as a top priority and subsequently funded a five-year program under the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program of the Ryan White CARE Act to identify the inequalities regarding access to dental care for patients living with HIV/AIDS.

The primary purpose of HRSA’s grant initiative was to provide funding for independent agencies to develop demonstration models that could design, implement, and deliver a system of care unique to the needs of their targeted and underserved populations.

This webinar is being presented as an introduction for Ryan White agencies to provide dental services to underserved populations. Please take advantage of the learning curve experienced by AIDS Care Group as you embark on providing oral health care services.
Program Description

• AIDS Care Group was one of only 15 projects of this type in the United States.
• South-central Pennsylvania, having 14 of the state’s 67 counties was targeted knowing there were 3,270 patients living with HIV - most having poor access to dental care.
• Having a dental manpower shortage for even the most economically well-off of the population, the ability to access care by those who lived below the poverty line was very desperate.
• Under IRB conditions, project goals were to serve 175 patients in the first year, growing to a cumulative unduplicated total of 750 patients by the end of the fifth year.
Extent of Disparities in Accessing Care
Field Exams
Goals & Target Population

• Establish a new satellite dental office in Coatesville, more than 30 miles from the agency’s principal office.
• Collaborate with other area HIV/AIDS medical and service providers to link their patients into the project.
• Serve patients receiving HIV medical care and case management services from providers receiving Ryan White Program funding, but having little or no access to comprehensive oral health care.
• Target the 954 patients living with HIV in the fourteen targeted counties. The targeted group was primarily adults, all living at or below the local and federal poverty levels.
Implementation
Year 1

- Secured location in Coatesville, PA. The site served as a pediatric facility with a local hospital and was equipped with:
  - one-chair dental operatory
  - waiting area
  - laboratory and storage
  - equipment and furnishings needing upgrades
- Established linkages to two of the largest targeted case management agencies.
- Coordinated group meeting of leadership from nine additional county agencies.
- Outreach to consumer groups to introduce the project and project staff.
Capacity to Implement Project

A prerequisite to dental outreach is to have a pre-existing dental program. This serves the following functions:

- Administrative support
- Facility support
- Financial support
- Key stakeholder buy-in

Within the satellite facility, will need:

- Clinical staff:
  - 2 Part time dentists
  - 2 Part time dental assistants
  - 1 full time dental case manager/transportation expert

- Administrative staff:
  - Project Coordinator
Pediatric Facility Staff in Coatesville
Success

Barriers to care were removed:

• Proximity to care was reduced.
• Transportation was provided where required.
• There was no discrimination.
• Dental case manager acted as intermediary to find, link, and retain patients in care.
• There was minimal waiting time for appointments.
• Dental care was tailored to patient’s perceptions of wants, needs and desires; along with diagnostic criteria of comprehensive oral health care.
Target Population in Pennsylvania
Continued Success

• The dental office is warm and friendly.
• Food is available in the reception area and the hospital cafeteria.
• There are incentives for good free oral health and hygiene reminders:
  • toothbrush
  • toothpaste
  • denture boxes
  • soap, and
  • shampoo samples
• Pre and post-operative medications are available and dispensed to the patients who have poor access to pharmacies.
• Dentist is on-call daily (helped by the agency infrastructure).
Lessons Learned

• Treatment plans were provided to all patients in the study and the completion of the therapeutics in those treatment plans were achieved in 96.5% of the enrolled patients.

• The dental team marketed to other providers including:
  • known collaborating agencies
  • the general and professional media
  • targeted media such as Spanish radio talk shows

• Dental society meetings, informational gatherings; AIDS ETC lectures; social service agencies; and religious groups were all targeted to disseminate information about the available services.
An Example of Marketing

DENTAL SCREENING DAY

Please come to
6th Floor
Classroom 4
To sign in!
-Cori
Sustainability

As of September 1, 2011, the end of the five year SPNS grant; and continuing now almost six years after that date, AIDS Care Group Oral Health Program has grown very strong:

- Opened and maintained a new satellite dental office at 907 Chester Pike, Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania 19079 (45 miles from Coatesville).
- Three-chair dental operatory for improved efficiencies of care - open five days a week.
- Four dentists, two hygienists, and two dental assistants.
- All of the targeted patients from original study are still offered continuing dental care.
- New patients welcomed from other underserved dental care areas.
- Original incentives such as transportation and dental case management are still provided.
- Third largest provider of dental care to HIV+ patients in Philadelphia; which has two dental schools.
Part C grantee in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; one of the programs that relied on AIDS Care Group activities requested technical assistance from AIDS Care Group for the development of a new dental program. Over the course of a year, this program, Pinnacle Health, established a two-chair dental facility, which is now providing much needed care to the HIV population in South Central Pennsylvania.
Key Takeaways

Underserved populations need targeted outreach and supportive services to find, link, and retain patients in care; whether for medical, dental, or case management services.

Successful development and implementation of the SPNS Oral Health Initiative required outreach and continual marketing of the project to agencies and the clients they served.

On-going communication and supportive services help to gather enthusiasm and continuity of care, leading to comprehensive care and services.
Making a Difference
Making a Difference (cont)

AIDS Care Group
Medical, Dental, and Social Services in Delaware County, PA since 1998
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