Evaluation of Using Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists to Provide Expanded Services in Oregon’s School-based Dental Sealant Program

Dental Sealant Program Evaluation of Using Expanded Practice Public Health Educator Project Coordinator & Oral Health Program Manager Shanie Mason, MPH, CHES

In 2013, the Oregon Public Health Division’s Oral Health Program piloted a workforce development program that allows Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists (EPDHs) to utilize their skills under the current state school-based dental sealant program. The Colonial Workforce Program piloted a workforce development program that allows Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists (EPDHs) to utilize their skills under the current state school-based dental sealant program.

The Oral Health Program is now conducting an evaluation to look at the feasibility, effectiveness, and barriers of the expanded services delivery model compared to the current School-based Dental Sealant Program delivery model in order to inform future program development.

Evaluation Background

In 2013, the Oregon Public Health Division’s Oral Health Program piloted a workforce development program that allows Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists (EPDHs) to utilize their full scope of practice in a school-based setting.

The “EPDH expanded services” delivery model has EPDHs providing children identified as high-risk during the screening process with expanded services over three visits:

- First Visit:
  - Screenings
  - Dental Sealants

- Second Visit:
  - Prophylaxes (teeth cleanings)
  - 1st fluoride varnish application
  - Hands-on education (disclosing solution, flossing, tooth brushing technique)
  - Limited case management

- Third Visit:
  - 2nd fluoride varnish application
  - Hands-on education (disclosing solution, flossing, tooth brushing technique)

Between the second and third visits, the hygienist partners with the school nurse, Medicaid and Medicaid and Medicaid Care Organizations (CCDs) to assist the child in finding a dental home. Data is being collected electronically using iPads.

The Oral Health Program is now conducting an evaluation to look at the feasibility, effectiveness and barriers of the expanded services delivery model compared to the current School-based Dental Sealant Program delivery model in order to inform future program development.

Selection Criteria

- Schools are eligible if at least 50% of the students are eligible for the federal Free-and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Program.
- Students are eligible if they have parental permission.

EDPH Expanded Services Model

- 10 schools participating in the expanded services pilot.
- Baseline & Year 1 Services: Grades 1 & 2
- Current School-based Dental Sealant Program: 10 schools participating in the current School-based Dental Sealant Program.
- Baseline & Year 1 Services: Grades 1 & 2
- Year 2 Services & Final Measurement: Grades 2 & 3: School year 2014-15
- Year 2 Services & Final Measurement: Grades 2 & 3: School year 2014-15

Control Group

- 7 schools not participating in any oral health services program provided by the state or community partner.
- Baseline Screening: Grades 1 & 2:
- Current School-based Dental Sealant Program: Grades 1 & 2:
- Baseline Screening: Grades 1 & 2:
- Final Measurement: Grades 2 & 3: School year 2014-15

Next Steps

- During the 2014-15 school year, we will be providing services and collecting year 2 data.
- Final evaluation results should be available in August 2015.
- Results of the evaluation will be used internally to improve the statewide School-based Dental Sealant Program.
- Community partners may use the different workforce models to inform dental sealant program development.

Anticipated Outcomes

1. Children participating in the EDPH expanded services pilot will have less manifestations of infection and pre-curors of decay than children participating in the current state school-based dental sealant program and those schools that do not receive any school-based oral health services.
2. The cost of providing EDPH expanded services will be similar to the cost of providing services under the current state school-based dental sealant program.
3. The EDPH expanded services delivery model is efficient in reaching a substantial proportion of children qualified for expanded services.

Results

Sample Baseline Data

Child-level baseline data will be compared to service year 2 data. This is an example of the aggregate-level data for the Expanded Services Model Schools during the 2013-14 school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Visit</th>
<th>Number of Children Screened</th>
<th>Number of Children Receiving Expanded Services</th>
<th>Number of Children Receiving No Expanded Services</th>
<th>Average Time for Seals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>1 visit</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
<td>2 visits</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>1 visit</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are potential opportunities to collaborate with partners to leverage and share resources effectively:

- Community Care Organizations (CCOs) that provide services for Oregon’s Medicaid population
- Dental Care Organizations
- Medical Teams International
- Early Learning Council hubs