

Title of Intervention: OPENWIDE

Website: www.mchoralhealth.org/openwide

Intervention Strategies: Provider Education

Purpose of the Intervention: To engage non-dental professionals and paraprofessionals in oral health promotion and disease prevention

Population: Non-oral health and human service workers

Setting: Connecticut; community/worksite-based

Partners: Connecticut Department of Public Health, Washington's ABCD Program; Massachusetts' physician training program, Advisory committee made up of state agencies, the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, Connecticut State Dental Association, Connecticut Oral Health Initiative, Connecticut Dental Hygiene Association, Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, physicians and allied medical health professionals and outreach and childcare organizations

Intervention Description:

- **Provider Education:** The OPENWIDE program is a comprehensive multimedia modular education program. The curriculum teaches providers how to recognize and understand the implications of oral diseases and conditions, recognize and address risk factors for oral diseases and conditions, provide anticipatory guidance and prevention interventions for oral health and make appropriate referrals for oral diagnosis, definitive treatment and maintenance.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- **Staff/Volunteers:** Trainers
- **Training:** Not mentioned
- **Technology:** Audiovisual equipment, radio and television ads
- **Space:** Not mentioned
- **Budget:** Cost of radio/television ads
- **Intervention:** Brochures, reference guides, audiovisual materials
- **Evaluation:** Printed surveys

Evaluation:

- **Design:** Pre- and post-test
- **Methods and Measures:**
 - Self-report survey to measure oral health awareness and knowledge and the quality of the OPENWIDE materials
 - Telephone interviews to examine the impact of the program

Outcomes:

- **Short Term Impact:** Knowledge and awareness increased following the program.
- **Long Term Impact:** Not measured

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Nearly 20% of the Early Head Start/Head Start (EHS/HS) professionals reported funding, staff and time were barriers to introducing a new program. Additionally, more than half the respondents identified parents as a primary obstacle to improving oral health practices within the program. Training should be scheduled on a repeating cycle to reinforce the principles and goals of the program and offset threats to implementation due to provider turnover and family mobility. The program should be implemented as part of a comprehensive oral health promotion and disease prevention social marketing program.

Citation(s):

Wolfe SH, Huebner CE. OPENWIDE: an innovative oral health program for non-dental health and human services providers. *J Dent Educ.* May 2004;68(5):513-521.