Innovation and Collaboration to Improve Oral Health Care

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This Presentation

- Oral health care in America – historical challenges
- Changes in the health care system create opportunities for oral health
- An “oral health movement”
- HRSA's work and opportunities for collaboration
Factors that Impact Oral Health Access

• Oral health – peripheral to health care and health care policy
• Financially out of reach for many
• Dental providers – distribution and potential shortages
• Health care workforce receives little training in oral health
Factors that Impact Oral Health Access (cont.)

• Low oral health literacy; most vulnerable suffer the most significant oral problems
• Lack of advocates for people with dental problems
• Policy-makers not engaged
Choose Your Metaphor –
The Result is the Same

- Tipping point
- Sea change
- Paradigm shift
- Game changer

New and irreversible developments in how and where we provide oral health care, and how we pay for it.
Drivers in the Health Care System

- Triple Aims
- ACA – access to care for many; and health center expansion, home visiting, quality, innovation
- Mental health parity
- Growth of interprofessional teams
- Focus on Patient Centered Medical Home
Integrating Oral Health

• Efforts to improve coordination between primary care and oral health – co-location, PCMH, EHRs

• Health center expansion

• Getting services to people where they are
Financing Oral Health Care

- Expansions for children through CHIP, Medicaid and ACA
- Health centers
Addressing Provider Shortages

• National Health Service Corps
• Title VII workforce programs
• State Oral Health Workforce Programs
• Teaching Health Center GME
• Expanding the types of dental providers
Non-dental Providers and Oral Health Training

- Interprofessional Oral Health Core Clinical Competencies
- AAMC curriculum
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physicians, nurse midwives, pharmacists
Low Oral Health Literacy

• A problem for the health care delivery system in general – building evidence about the relationship between oral and physical health – science to drive practice and policy.

• Perinatal health
Need for Oral Health Advocates

- US National Oral Health Alliance
- National Network for Oral Health Access
- Programs like Missions of Mercy
- Medicare beneficiaries
- Newly insured
Engaging Policy Makers

- IOM Reports
- Quality measures
- Foundations
- Congress
- Administration
- States, state government and legislatures
Contact Information

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