UNCHARTED WATERS, THE JOURNEY FOR ORAL HEALTH EQUITY ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA

2019 Virginia Oral Health Summit
Nancy Stern, CEO
Noel Root, DDS
Scott Wolpin, DMD
THE EASTERN SHORE: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Visits

- 63,551
- 49,164

Pop. 45,086

Unmet: 26.87
Current Capacity: 14.67
Private Sector: 12.2
ESRHS: 57%

Legend:
- Red: Unmet
- Orange: Current Capacity
- Yellow: Private Sector
- Green: ESRHS
ESRHS’ DENTAL PROGRAM HAS:

- two 6+ dental chair offices co-located in two medical offices
- two fixed dental units, with two chairs each, on the campuses of two elementary schools
- a Traveling Oral Health Prevention Program (TOPs) that brings oral health care services to local Head Start, public schools and other community agencies
- and is opening an 8 chair dental office, collocated with medical, in 2020, with one treatment room equipped to care for individuals with special health care needs

Increasing dental services to meet the need in the community has been the number one strategic goal of the organization since 2012
• The ESRHS Dental Program is **financially sustainable**

• In 2018, over 2,800 children received quality, convenient oral health care from **TOPs**

• 70% of children ages 6-9 at elevated risk for dental caries have **sealants** on one or more permanent molars (UDS Measure)

• 84% of all patients presenting with **emergent concerns** received definitive care

• 43% patients ages 6-36 months have had an **initial dental visit**

• **Academic partnerships** with A.T. Still Arizona School, VCU, Tufts University Schools of Dentistry and Oral Health, and Eastern Shore Community College
OUR FIVE OVERARCHING GOALS

• Completing dental treatment plans

• Focusing service on high risk populations

• Serving as Patient Centered Health Home/Medical-Dental Integration

• Developing and tracking important outcome metrics (i.e., case completion rate, dental sealant utilization, % children < 3 y/o with dental visit)

• Assuring the dental program is financially sustainable
We simply can not be everything to everybody but we must for some!
CHALLENGES CONTINUE...

• Long wait times

• Inability to complete recommended treatment plans

• High rates of emergency dental visits

• Majority of region lacks fluoridated water

• The Shore’s geographic isolation makes specialty care difficult to access

• Recruitment of support staff (Dental Assistants) is problematic
PIONEERS

In search of oral health equity
ESRHS Transformed Oral Health Program

Disease Prevention/Intervention
Prophylaxis, Dental Sealants, Fluoride, OHI/SMG

Remote Supervision
Dental Hygienists working in community sites

Cloud-based EHR

Disease Treatment
ITR, Restorations, Extractions, Referral to Hospital

Dentists in ESRHS Dental Offices
BUILDING AND SUSTAINING A COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER DENTAL PROGRAM

Through persistence, patience, pioneering, partnerships, perseverance, problem-solving, and passionate people
ESRHS began in the local schools, and has partnered with our schools for nearly 25 years.
Incorporating oral health services into school-based health centers contributes to improved academic performance, positive behavioral outcomes, increased attendance, and better quality of life for students at all grade levels.

School nurses are ideally situated to serve as oral health champions for our school-based dental program.
Former Assistant Surgeon General, Dr. Marilyn Gaston awarded ESRHS School Dental Program a “Best Practice Model” in 1997

Dr. Stephanie Shelley, one of our many dedicated dental providers

Assistant to the U.S. surgeon general to visit Tangier Health Fair

"Dr. Marilyn H. Gaston, a United States assistant surgeon general, will make the early morning journey to Tangier Island on board the Captain Barse Oct. 18. She and 90 additional volunteers will be providing healthcare services at the 17th annual Tangier Health Fair.

"Dr. Gaston," pediatrician, will join Dr. Hans Brehm of Eastern Shore Rural Health in providing hands-on screening and assessments for the kids Health area of the fair. Following her services at the Health Fair, Dr. Gaston will take a golf cart tour of Tangier and partake in a celebratory dinner provided by the island residents.

In her capacity as director of the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Bureau of Health care, Dr. Gaston works to improve access to preventative and primary health care for almost 9 million medically underserved, minority, low-income, and disadvantaged people in the United States."

"We are thrilled to have national level support of Tangier Health Fair," said Anne Crabbe, Health Services coordinator for Eastern Shore Rural Health System Inc. and organizer of the fair. "No one should have to be without medical services simply because of where they choose to live. As a community health organization, we are committed to bringing quality health care to even the most remote areas of our two counties. We are able to provide this care because of professionals like Dr. Gaston who give themselves, their time, their expertise and their hearts to other people."

Providers from Hampton Roads to Salisbury, Md., will join forces to provide the residents of Tangier with much needed, and often inaccessible, health care screenings and education. In cooperation with Tangier Combined School, Eastern Shore Rural Health sponsors this free event each year for the island residents."
Implementing school-based oral health services significantly improves the state of children’s oral health in our community.

Relevant, age-appropriate oral health education combined with preventive oral health services benefits students at all grade levels. Additionally, access to school-based oral health services addresses some of the barriers that parents face when attempting to access oral health care for their children.
ESRHS’ DENTAL PROGRAM ALSO DEVELOPED THROUGH THE MISSION OF MERCY PROJECT
IN 2002, ESRHS RECEIVED EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS - PANOREX AND DENTAL CHAIRS!
Adding dental to our scope of practice began at the Bayview and Franktown CHCs.
Traveling Oral Health Program (TOPs)

- We offer dental services at MES and PES year-round, including over the entire summer and some holidays.

- The ESRHS dental team travels with portable dental chairs to provide dental services to students at school without an onsite dental office.
Some of the many smiling faces embraced by ESRHS’ Dental Program!
We take our care outside the four walls for our migrant and seasonal farmworkers.
Training! A recent class of dental assistants under the tutelage of our dentist, Dr. Randi Wingate, in partnership with Eastern Shore Community College.
ESRHS Dental Program

partnerships
relationships
empathy
compassion
mission-driven
equity
early-adapters
safety
integration
virtual-dental-home

collaborative
pioneers
quality
data