

West Cecil Health Center DENTAL



WCHC

WE CREATE
HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES

WCHC - Who We Are

- Federally Qualified Health Center that has been in operation since 2008
- Three locations:
 - Conowingo
 - Havre de Grace
 - Perryville
- Services include but are not limited to
 - Primary Care
 - Behavioral Health
 - Women's Health
 - Dental
- The mission of West Cecil Health Center is to increase access to comprehensive primary and preventive health care and improve the health care status of underserved, underinsured and non-insured members of the communities we serve.





Our Dental Services

- Comprehensive Care and Emergency Exams
- Preventive
 - Exams
 - X-rays
 - Routine cleanings
 - Fluoride treatment
 - Sealants
- Basic
 - Fillings
 - Extractions
 - Root canals
 - Periodontal scaling and root planing
- Major
 - Crowns and bridges
 - Partial dentures
 - Complete dentures



Oral Health Needs in the Community

- Prevention! Prevention! Prevention!
- Prevention must start at young age
- Education
 - Misconceptions about baby teeth
 - Misconceptions about inherited poor oral health
 - If parent is uneducated, then poor home care for entire family
- Fluoride treatments
 - Only Town of North East has fluoridated water ($\frac{1}{8}$ towns)
 - Pediatricians may be unaware of lack of fluoridated water, so they are not prescribing fluoride
 - Benefits of Fluoride:
 - Prevents tooth decay
 - Strengthens tooth enamel
 - Kills germs that cause decay
 - Fluoridated water is most cost effective of improving community oral health
 - Fluoridated water scientifically proven to be safe, not toxic, and effective!



Gaps in the Community

- Transportation
 - Medical transportation for medical only; not dental
- Cannot afford treatment
 - Most Medicaid dental plans cover limited x-rays and extractions, but not comprehensive x-rays and fillings or root canals
- Patient to Dentist Ratio
 - **Harford County: 1,656:1**
 - **Cecil County: 2,560:1**
 - Maryland average: 1,361:1
 - Harford & Cecil rank in the bottom 3rd of Maryland counties for children receiving dental care
- Emergency Room visits vs. Dentist visit
 - July 2017 - December 2017
 - University of MD Upper Chesapeake and Harford Memorial reported **510** patients presenting with dental related emergencies
 - Union Hospital reported **440** dental related emergencies



How WCHC is Trying to Close the Gaps

- Transportation
 - TAXI SERVICE
 - Free to patient's living in Cecil and Harford counties
 - Since October, we have transported **74 patients** to and from their dental appointments
 - Grant money projected to run out in May
- Affordability
 - SLIDING FEE SCALE
 - Discount based on income and household size
 - Slide 1-Slide 5
 - Lowest slide allows patients to pay a \$50 nominal fee per visit with exception of lab fees
 - SMILES FUND
 - Fundraised money allowing us to cover dental services for those in need
 - Application process → Committee meets once/month to select awardees



How WCHC is Trying to Close the Gaps

- Patient to Dentist Ratio
 - July 2017, took over 26-chair dental office in Perryville, MD
 - Expanded from 4-chair dental office in Conowingo, MD
 - 3 full-time WCHC dentists, 2 part-time WCHC dentists
 - 8 dental students on 2-week rotations with 3 covering faculty
- Emergency Visits vs. Comprehensive Care
 - Dental school was emergency based clinic
 - Now offering comprehensive care
 - Still accepting emergency appointments to attempt to minimize ER visits
- Prevention
 - Cecil County Dental Advisory Committee is looking into a dental exam requirement prior to entering school
 - Other counties in Maryland already implementing this



How Can You Help?

- Help increase awareness of services
 - Referrals
- Connecting us with other organizations
 - Screenings at health fairs
 - Presentations at recovery homes
- Connecting us with ER doctors
 - May help with referrals
- Possible vouchers from ER and/or Health Department



Thank you!

Questions?



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