West Cecil Health Center
DENTAL
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 (⅛ 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?