PROJECT NAME: Making Milwaukee Smile

HWPP PROJECT NUMBER: 2008-28

Without exceeding this one page, briefly describe the project.

PURPOSE - Highlight the need for the project.
The goal of this project is to improve the oral health of children in Milwaukee. Too many children living in Milwaukee suffer from dental caries and the adverse effects of this preventable disease. Sixty-three percent of the children in the Columbia St. Mary’s (CSM) School-Based Oral Health Program were found to have untreated dental decay, indicative of the lack of access to dental care and burden of dental caries. This implementation project calls for a coordinated effort to manage children that have untreated decay and their connection to a dental home.

PLAN - Describe the project's implementation plan, methods to be utilized, and involvement of affected communities.
CSM will administer the clinical preventive portion of this project in select schools and hire an Oral Health Care Coordinator (OHCC). The OHCC will work to coordinate secondary and tertiary care with private providers. In order to better understand the needs of the community and to foster greater participation, members of the community will be engaged throughout implementation. The OHCC will work with community advocates to increase participation in the school-based program and in increasing enrollment in the Medicaid program. Partners will provide technical assistance and training for health professionals to integrate oral health risk assessments into the medical community.

PARTNERSHIP - Describe how the project will capitalize on the strengths and skills of all partners.
Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin will use their experience in bringing people together to convene the partners from the original development grant along with new partners who play a role in oral health care delivery in Milwaukee. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Dental Center, Marquette University School of Dentistry, and Milwaukee Health Services Inc will train health care providers to increase their knowledge of pediatric oral health. CSM has a strong partnership with local schools through their school-based oral health program which complement the project goals. Southeast Dental Associates will collaborate with the OHCC and CSM to ensure needed care for Medicaid recipients is obtained. Medical College of Wisconsin will provide expertise on program evaluation and play an instrumental role in the program's ability to be replicated in other Milwaukee schools and communities across the state.

EVALUATION - Describe the evaluation method that will be used to measure quantifiable and significant outcomes.
Baseline oral health indicators and accomplishments of meeting the stated goals and objectives will be documented and monitored. To show the effect of oral health disease on school attendance and performance, a cohort of high risk children will be followed for compliance in applying proper home care and nutritional habits. System measures of efficiency will be assessed for waiting times to obtain appointments for secondary and tertiary care as we explore other opportunities to increase accessibility to quality dental services.

SUSTAINABILITY - Explain how the partnership will be financially and programmatically sustained.
This program will confirm the merit found in school-based programs, increase the number of children with a dental home, and show the value of coordinated care. This project can sustain itself from accrued funds from patient care after the three year period of the HWPP grant. Additionally, the involvement of community and grassroots members allows for community ownership and thereby increases project sustainability and continuity. The project will provide evidence to persuade policy makers and philanthropists to allocate sustainable resources for the expansion and replication of the project in other communities in Milwaukee, the state, and elsewhere.

DISSEMINATION - Describe how the project results will be shared.
The project results are replicable and the project outcomes will be widely disseminated to other communities in Milwaukee and statewide. Information will be disseminated to HMO's, state and local legislators and governmental agencies. Findings will be published for community partners, oral health stakeholders, and policy makers as well as to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.