

Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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Oral Health Provider Education Series

The Oral Health Program (Well-Ahead LA - Healthy Smiles) began a launch of various webinars to educate providers on important oral health topics specific to different provider disciplines. Provider materials were pushed to providers through the Well-Ahead Louisiana Provider Education Network (WALPEN). WALPEN, is a provider education series sponsored by the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. WALPEN offers FREE regularly scheduled webinars for clinical and non-clinical professionals at no cost. This network has been developed to provide Louisiana's healthcare professionals with valuable resources that support and implement initiatives that include, but are not limited to the following: clinical innovations, team-based care, and self-monitoring of various chronic diseases. WALPEN's purpose is to keep healthcare professionals up to date on the latest information in healthcare and advance chronic disease prevention and management.

The Healthy Smiles team collaborated with partners in order to produce 2 different Oral Health Webinars:

Webinar #1: A Provider's Guide to Fluoride Varnish Applications

Tooth decay is the most common preventable childhood disease. Medical providers are the first line of defense against illness and disease in our children and play a role in providing early preventative care. Applying fluoride varnish during routine well visits is becoming a standard of care in medical offices nationwide. The purpose of the webinar was to increase the number providers who are Smiles for Life (SFL) certified and qualify for fluoride varnish reimbursement per state Medicaid policy, and to increase the number of eligible children receiving fluoride varnish applications in a medical setting. The webinar was led by a panel of medical and dental providers of the Louisiana Oral Health Coalition.

Webinar #2: Expanding Oral Health Services in Louisiana Health Centers

On June 16, 2016, twelve of Louisiana's Health Centers received a total of \$4.3 million in funding from HRSA to increase access to preventive oral health services and improve patient care outcomes. Overall, this grant opportunity provided \$156 million in funding to support 420 health centers across 47 states, and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Well-Ahead Louisiana Health Smiles, Oral Health Program selected three of the twelve health centers to share grant projects and lessons learned with other health centers statewide in the effort to reduce barriers to quality oral health care for underserved populations. The webinar was held in collaboration with the Louisiana Oral Health Coalition.

Upcoming oral health related webinars and archives can be found on the following site:
<http://www.wellaheadla.com/healthcareprovidertrainings>

Lessons Learned:

To increase the number of participants, the program will need to consider best times of the day. Working to identify best timing for health systems is a challenge. The program has received inquiries regarding when the webinars will be available for viewing from the website which tells us the topics are of interest however the timing of the initial webinar launch may need adjusting.

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