Oral Health Matters!

Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Newsletter

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OHNEP Teaches Midwives to Assess Pregnant Women's Oral Health Status

On May 14th, 2014 OHNEP sponsored a breakfast workshop at the 59th American College of Nurse-Midwives Annual Meeting and Exhibition at the Sheraton Denver Hotel.

The workshop "New Clinical Challenge for the Midwifery Profession: Learn to Assess Pregnant Women's Oral Health Status" was attended by 80 midwives who engaged in learning about the interprofessional role of midwives in promoting oral health during pregnancy and preventing Early Childhood Caries (ECC).





During this interactive workshop, clinical competencies related to oral health assessment, oral health literacy, oral health promotion interventions, and collaborative partnerships with interprofessional community colleagues and resources were discussed. Strategies for integrating oral health competencies in midwifery program curricula, including Smiles for Life (smilesforlifeoralhealth.org) were presented.

At the Directors of Midwifery Education (DOME) meeting held the evening before the workshop, Judith Haber, OHNEP's Executive Director, presented "Teeth for Two" about the importance of inclusion of oral health in midwifery programs and clinical practice. The meeting was attended by forty representatives and received very positive feedback.

Silos to Teamwork: Shaping an IP Education and Practice Culture



On April 5, 2014 OHNEP, in collaboration with the University of Washington Center for Health Sciences Interprofessional Education, Research and Practice, represented by Brenda Zierler, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Mayumi Willgerodt, PhD, MPH, MS, RN, presented at the NONPF 40th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

During this four hour workshop, over one hundred of nurse faculty practitioners engaged in learning about importance of interprofessional collaboration. Steps for shaping an interprofessional education and practice culture were introduced. Interprofessional curriculum integration, including collaborative courses, workshops, service learning, and clinical experiences were discussed, as well as successful stories from schools across the country, that already have integrated an interprofessional component into their programs. Options for evaluating interprofessional education were presented. Drs. Mayumi Willgerodt and Brenda Zierler engaged participants in group discussions about IPE. After attending the workshop, 90 percent of participants said that they would begin or expand their involvement in IPE activities when they return to their academic setting.

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Oral Health Virtual Blended Learning Pods:



Dr. Moursi, NYU College of Dentistry, talks about the importance of primary teeth for young children



Dr. Hallas, NYU College of Nursing, talks about nursing interventions to improve oral health care in infants and young children

Judith Haber, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN Editor

Yanina Babukh, MS Associate Editor

National *Interprofessional Initiative* on Oral Health

Initiative activities are made possible as a resul of funding from DentaQuest Foundation, Washington Dental Service Foundation and Connecticut Health Foundation.

Pediatric Oral Health Clerkship Leads the Way to IP Collaboration



As part of the three-year project, Teaching Oral Systemic Health (TOSH), funded by the HRSA, twenty NYU nurse family practitioner students participated in an interprofessional pediatric oral health clerkship with their dental and medical peers. This collaborative learning experience was developed to teach students specific oral health competencies, promote teamwork, and foster interprofessional communication and collaboration. "Historically, physicians and nurse practitioners have looked at the back of throat but ignore the teeth, gums, and tongue," says Erin Hartnett, TOSH program director. "Our goal is to teach primary care providers to perform oral assessment, recognize abnormalities and oral-systemic connections, educate patients and families in oral health promotion and prevention of oral health problems, and refer to a dentist when needed."

During this half-day clerkship at the Bellevue Pediatric Dental Clinic in New York, interprofessional teams of students collaborated on reviewing patients' charts and taking their histories, conducting head, neck, and oral examinations, applying fluoride varnish, and providing oral health anticipatory guidance to parents.

Blended Learning - Technology as a Way to Reach Broader Audience

Following the OHNEP team's presentation at the New York Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program, a chapter of the National Nurse-Family Partnership Program, in October 2013, OHNEP was invited to make presentations for NFP nurses in other states during their professional development conferences. In order to reach as broad an audience as possible, oral health virtual blended learning pods were developed. This teaching strategy allows listeners to access video presentations, that have already been recorded and stored online, at any moment in time. Live Q&As with the speakers allowed questions to be answered in an online format.

Erin Hartnett, OHNEP's Director, Julia Lange-Kessler, NYU Nurse-Midwifery Program Coordinator, Amr Moursi, Chair of Pediatric Dentistry at NYU, and Donna Hallas, NYU Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program Coordinator, collaboratively introduced NFP nurses to the nuts and bolts of oral health care for pregnant women and their babies. Blended learning modules also were presented to the Wyoming, California, Illinois, and Pennsylvania chapters of the National NFP Program. We hope that this is just the beginning of the long term collaboration with the NFP Program and that it will ultimately lead to the **improved oral health of moms and their babies!**

Oral Health Workshop at the Palliative Care Conference

One of the 2012 OHNEP grantees, Rose Anne Indelicato, NP and her colleague Anne Johnston, RN of Montefiore-New Rochelle Hospital in New York led a workshop entitled "Oral Health in the Palliative Care Patient: Throughout the Illness Continuum" at the conference, "The Art and Science of Palliative Care: Where Medicine, Market and Meaning Meet" in White Plains, New York on April 4, 2014. Based on an educational program created and supported by the Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice grant, workshop attendees participated in the interactive patient presentation of "Mrs. Thompson". Through this case based approach, the interprofessional audience was educated about the unique oral care issues of palliative care patients in a variety of settings. The workshop also provided an opportunity to highlight the Smiles for Life website, with its learning modules and continuing education credits for nurses, physicians and physician assistants.

