

# **COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK AREA 12**

## **FEBRUARY 15, 2001**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Dental Update:**

Kathy stated that she is applying for Federal Designation of a Health Provider Shortage Area (HPSA)--dental health provider shortage. If the CHNA qualifies, the area will receive federal dental personnel to staff the area. The HPSA designation is determined within 90 days of receipt of the application. Kathy feels that the area will meet the criteria required for designation. She also gave statistics from the dental project: 93.2% of those screened require dental treatment. Tufts is not able to keep up with the demand for appointments. Kathy has located an oral surgeon and a general dentist in the Salem, MA area that are willing to work with her regarding treatment for "screenies."

The Dental Project will re-submit an application for funding (2 yrs.) to Delta Dental Foundation: refunding is unlikely, as the project is not self-sustainable, and we have no other funding sources. **ANY ONE WHO KNOWS OF FUNDING SOURCES (foundations, programs, etc.) PLEASE CONTACT THE DENTAL PROJECT!** Kathy has requested an RFP from Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, and has sent a letter to the Wadleigh Foundation.

#### **DPH Presentation: Paul, Jackie, and Tom**

Paul stated that the following are functions of the Dept. of Public Health:

- 1. DPH Programs, Policy and enforcement**
- 2. Reports (info. available to the public)**
- 3. Demographic data**

Almost any information needed, in any area of the state, is available to the public. MassChip is an on-line public health information clearinghouse. For information not attainable through MassChip, contact the Statistics Bureau at DPH.

Jackie's specialty area is Health Coverage through the Bureau of Family and Community Health at DPH. She explained that the Children's Medical Security Plan was transferred to DPH in 1993. Health insurance coverage for children is through the age of 18, and includes preventive and primary care (no hospitalization--they are eligible for either free care for in-patient hospital stays or

partial payment for hospitalization). The Children's Medical Security Plan's 2000 budget is \$17.5 million dollars.

There are currently 22-24,000 children enrolled in the plan. The first step in enrollment is to apply for MassHealth. If coverage is denied, then the application is forwarded to Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP).

Other programs include:

Healthy Start--coverage for pre-natal through delivery

Center Care--free care within Health Centers in MA. Includes comprehensive dental plan up to \$1000.00/year.

F.O.R. Families--Follow-up, Outreach, and Referral.

Growing Up Healthy--booklet new mothers receive in the hospital.

Jackie stressed "THERE SHOULD BE NO CHILD IN MA WITHOUT HEALTH COVERAGE." She also stated that between DMA and DPH, 84 mini-grants worth between \$15-\$18,000 dollars goes toward outreach to enroll people in MassHealth or CMSP.

Anyone denied coverage by MassHealth can request assistance with appeals at their local Community Action Council, or the Pettingill House.

Tom works for the AIDS Bureau of DPH, consisting of the following:

1. Prevention and Education Unit
2. Client Services
3. Policy and Planning
4. Finance and Administration
5. Health Services

He stated that 50% of those requesting AIDS testing are repeat testers, that tend to test negative initially, and request another test 6 months later.

A younger population (20-29 age group) request testing within CHNA-12, compared to statewide (30-39 age group) average age group.

Within correctional facilities, the AIDS program deals with convicts who have multiple diagnoses (i.e. HIV/AIDS, mental health, and substance abuse issues). This program is funded through CDC.

Tom is working in a new program: Transitional Inmate Program (TIP). TIP helps recently released HIV-positive convicts to re-integrate into the community, thus furthering the continuum of care first established within the prison. TIP is a 3-year program funded by CDC and HRSA, involving DPH, universities, regional groups to provide case management work.

There are 5 TIP teams throughout MA, with 138 inmates enrolled in the program since May, 2000.

Chlamydia screening of inmates=7% positive rate.

Office of Community Corrections (alternative sentencing facility for non-violent, 1st-time offenders). Provides information and support groups.

Recently released sex offenders and arsonists, as well as residents of treatment programs, tend to present with more than HIV, such as mental health issues and moderate to severe substance abuse.

Very informative presentation by Paul, Jackie, and Tom at DPH!!!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

April is Public Health Month, Violence Prevention Month.

Early Intervention: children should be seen before the age of 3.

Community Health Education Center: certificate program for outreach.

Community Action: FEMA \$ money \$ available to prevent eviction, utility shut-off.

Lawrence YWCA: provides rape crisis training.

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 15**