



Good News & Health

Health Care Services at Their Best

Establishing Health Services through extraordinary Community Partnerships and Collaborations

Head Start requires all children to be up to date on the EPSDT schedule of well child care including dental screenings and dental exams within thirty days of the child's enrollment. Many staff find it difficult to schedule appointments and ensure health services are received before families leave their program. Alabama Direct Services has worked to establish extraordinary partnerships in ensuring health services are received for children.

Brenda Chapman, Health Disability Service Coordinator at the Chandler Mountain Center reached out to Sarrell Dental Center in Attalla, AL, and met with the office manager for recruitment of dental services. Brenda states, "Soon, I was in contact by several employees from Sarrell Dental center offering their assistance to our children." Sarrell is a non-profit organization, which offers dental services for children ages 1-20. This summer, their Mobile Dental Bus visited Chandler Mountain to provide services for the children in the program

Sarrell Dental provides full dental services to our ECMHSP children. The Dental Bus has allowed parents to attend appointments with their children and have worked with the Health Services staff to provide parents with the necessary information to arrange and schedule dental visits for their children. While their Dental Bus completes as much dental work as possible, those children with specific needs such as oral surgery or pedodontist treatment, are referred to Attalla and Boaz offices in to ensure their dental needs are met.

Sarrell Dental has gone above and beyond in providing care for the ECMHSP children. Currently, Sarrell Dental Center has treated 90 of 116 children on the Dental Bus. According to Brenda Chapman, HDSC, "When appointments have been needed for emergency services, our children have been accommodated immediately on more than one occasion."



Innovative collaboration continues in Alabama at the Loxley Center. The Loxley health staff, Dennise Plaza-Melendez and Elaine Rodgers refer to the Bay Pediatric and Adolescent Dentistry located in Fairhope, AL, team with great enthusiasm. "Our subsequent trips have been just as rewarding with the entire dental staff maintaining their caring and enthusiasm for taking care of our children," exclaims Elaine Rodgers, Health Disability Service Worker. Loxley's health staff describes office manager Ms. Candy as amiable. "She listened intently as we spoke to her about the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project. She was keenly interested in the services we provide to migrant and seasonal children during our school year. When she asked about our dental needs, we explained that ideally we needed a one-stop-dental shop, which would provide about 30 children at a time with exams,



cleanings, x-rays and fluoride varnish in one to two trips per season," Dennise Plaza-Melendez, Health Disability Service Coordinator.

After consultation with the dental team, Candy notified the Loxley center that the dentists had agreed East Coast Migrant Head Start was a badly needed and worthwhile program for our area. They wanted to provide all dental services for our children. Services include opening the office on Friday, a normally non-business day, from 9-12pm staffed with 3 dentist, 6 hygienist, and 3 office staff. Most importantly 30 children would be served at each office visit. During the visits, children receive an examination, cleaning, fluoride varnish, and any treatments that can be readily performed. Only children who need sedation are re-scheduled for further treatment.

Bay Pediatric and Adolescent Dentistry provides a child friendly atmosphere. A playroom loaded with colorful toys, reading books, coloring and 1 enormous TV screen. It was even rumored that there are video games and other more exciting toys and adventures in the back.

"This is more than we hoped for and as an added bonus two of the dentists speak Spanish. We are delighted and overwhelmed by their willingness to provide us with these services," proclaims Loxley's Health staff. §

Grantee HSAC

Caring about the Health of Head Start Children and Families

Supporting the vision of wellness by encouraging practices that prevent, identify, treat, and reduce the impact of health problems on migrant families and children, ECMHSP will host Grantee HSAC on September 19, 2011. The Health Services Advisory Committee will explore information on fluoride for children under the age of two, Michelle Obama's Obesity initiative "Let's Move", Hispanic Dental Association conference on access to dental care of the Hispanic community as well as updates from the National Migrant Health Advisory Committee Co-Chair-person.

Presenters include: Andrea Weathers, MD, DrPH, assistant professor at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Dr. Weathers serves as Co-Chair of fifteen appointed members with National Migrant Health Advisory Committee (NMHAC). NMHAC is legislatively mandated to advise, consultant with, and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, on the health and well-being of migrant farmworkers and their families.

Dr. Sara Grossi, East Carolina University faculty, will discuss the Hispanic Dental Association conference panel discussion on access to dental care of the Hispanic community. The North Carolina Oral Health Section's, Kelly Close, will educate the committee on the importance of fluoride toothpaste for children under the age of two. Recently this topic has engaged great discussion, and Grantee HSAC is excited to address it.

Christina McWilliams, with Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health, will spark discussion with the information on Michelle Obama's obesity prevention initiative "Let's Move."[§]



Fun Ways to Celebrate and Learn Health

Health observances are special days, weeks, or months used to raise awareness of important health topics. It is a wonderful opportunity to educate and engage families with health activities. Check out these upcoming health observances:

August

1-31 National Immunization Awareness Month
1-31 Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

September

1 – 30 Fruit and Veggies - More Matters Month
1 – 30 Newborn Screening Awareness Month
18-24 National Farm Safety and Health Week

October

1 – 31 Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month
3 Child Health Day

November

1 – 30 American Diabetes Month
1 – 30 National Healthy Skin Month
14 – 20 Get Smart About Antibiotics Week

December

1 – 31 Safe Toys and Gifts Month
4 – 10 National Handwashing Awareness Week

For more information on health observances or to request educational materials on each month's health topic visit: www.healthfinder.gov

PROMIS

Health Tracking Using TASK

A child needs a lead screening, a well child exam, a referral, immunizations, a dental exam or dental screening. What better way to track these health and dental needs than to use PROMIS. PROMIS To Do List/Task Manager serves as a reminder as well as a method for tracking health and dental needs of children. When should TASK be entered?

- Immunizations
- Chronic or Special Health Care Needs
- Nutrition Referrals

- When reviewing EPSDT well child exams screenings not completed or past due
- Next appointment due
- Referrals to specialist or follow ups
- Lead levels, Hgb/Hct
- Dental screenings, exams, treatment, referrals, preventive care needs
- Mental health individual screenings

For more information on how to enter TASK please refer to the 2011 PROMIS User's Guide[§]

Safe Cribs Standard

Strong New Crib Safety Standards

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is responsible for protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from thousands of types of consumer products. As of December 17, 2010 CPSC has approved new mandatory standards for full-size and non-full-size baby cribs. The new rules prohibit the manufacture or sale of traditional drop-side rail cribs, strengthen crib slats and mattress supports, improve the quality of hardware and require more rigorous testing of all manufactured cribs.

This new standard does apply to cribs used in childcare centers. Beginning on June 28, 2011, all cribs sold in the United States must meet the new federal requirements. All cribs purchased prior to June 28, 2011 must be replaced with newly manufactured cribs that meet the new standard.

It is unlikely that your current crib will meet the new crib standards. The new standards require stronger hardware and rigorous testing to prove a crib's durability. Some compliant cribs were available before June 28, 2011; however, you will not be able to tell if the crib is compliant by looking at the crib. Therefore, you may want to ask the retail store or the manufacturer whether the crib complies with 16 CFR 1219, the new federal standard for full-size cribs or with 16 CFR 1220, the new federal standard for non-full-size cribs. If you purchased a crib prior to the June 28, 2011 effective date and you are unsure it meets the new federal standard, CPSC recommends that you verify the crib meets the standard by asking for proof.

Ask the manufacturer, retailer, importer or distributor to show a Certificate of Compliance. The document must:

- Describe the product
- Give name, full mailing

address and telephone number for importer or domestic manufacturer

- Identify the rule for which it complies (16 CFR 1219 or 1220)
- Give name, full mailing address, email address and telephone number for the records keeper and location of testing lab
- Give date and location of manufacture and testing.

The crib must also have a label attached with the date of manufacture. Childcare centers have until December 28, 2012, to become compliant with the new federal safety standards. Childcare facilities should not resell, donate or give away a crib that does not meet the new crib standards. It is recommended to dispose of older, noncompliant cribs in a manner that the cribs cannot be reassembled and used. §

Reference:
Consumer Product Safety Commission. (April 2011). Crib Information Center. Retrieved from <http://www.cpsc.gov>

HEALTH COMPETENCY DEMONSTRATION TESTING



ECMHSP has implemented a new innovative approach to preservice training. Traditionally staff, new and old were provided training around health policies and procedures during preservice training. To better access the skills and knowledge of all staff, a hands on method was designed; for all staff to demonstrate their competency in health procedures and policies.

The health competency demonstration consists of two components, a written and hands on demonstration. Areas tested include: Safe Sleep, Cleaning, Sanitizing/Disinfecting, Diaper Changing, Bloodborne Pathogens, Exclusion and Medication Administration. Prior to staff demonstrating their competency, all staff has the opportunity to study the five Health Self Study Modules. These modules provide a review of the material staff will be tested and asked to demonstrate. Once staff has shown competency in both written and demonstration, they are awarded a certificate of completion. This certification of completion verifies that the staff person has successfully completed both components of the Health Competency Demonstration. This method of testing has proven to be very effective. Staff are able to identify areas that need more training and are able to continue to build on their skills and knowledge.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

A SAFER GENERATION OF CRIBS

New Federal Requirements



Improve
Slat
Strength

Make
Hardware
Stronger

Improve
Mattress
Support
Durability

Prohibit
Traditional
Drop Sides

Require
Tougher
Testing