

Project Zero – Women and Infants

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Abstract

Project Zero – Women and Infants' (PZWI) mission is to expand opportunities for access to direct oral health services; increase delivery of best practices for oral healthcare; and enhance statewide data sources. This proposal will address the fragmentation of oral and primary care and ultimately improve the oral health of women and infants in Arizona throughout their lifespan. Northern Arizona University, Department of Dental Hygiene, Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers, American Academy of Pediatrics, Arizona Chapter and Arizona State Office of Oral Health are collaborating on this important project. The goals of PZWI are as follows: 1) provide support and assistance to Federally funded Community Health Centers (CHC) as they plan, implement and assess integration of oral into their maternal/child care 2) deliver education on best practices in oral healthcare delivery and referral for maternal/child healthcare providers and staff at the CHC, 3) collect and conduct data analysis that can be used to develop a model, 4) establish an efficient statewide data collection network that integrates with current Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and, 5) share real time data with external agencies. More specifically, this project will leverage a grant to AACHC by Delta Dental of Arizona to offer in-service training at some CHC. Plan, Do, Check, Act will be used throughout the project to assure quality improvement. The PZWI team will work with staff at the CHC to gather buy in, form a team of champions, develop a strategic communication plan and, identify barriers and solutions prior to integrating oral health to primary care. NAU dental hygiene faculty and students will develop and deliver in-services to train the maternal/child providers at the CHC how to conduct oral health risk assessment, oral screenings, education, referrals and fluoride varnish. Bright Smiles curriculum will be used for part of the training session. A toolkit for the clinicians and pregnant women and their infants will be supplied. A software analyst who is part of the PZWI staff will develop a statewide data collection application. This Internet based network will be shared with external stakeholders including the PIOHQI National Learning Network. Data will feed into a National data network and can be used to plan other interventions. Prenatal Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), which Arizona does not currently support for data collection on pregnant women, will be used as a consistent metric. This could become a model for other states, as process data will be collected to inform future similar projects. PZWI intends to create a Quick Guide for developing a statewide data collection system. Project Zero – Women and Infants holds great potential to transform the lives of pregnant women and infants by improving their oral health through local interventions as well as serving as a resource for those across the country.