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PLAN

Identify an opportunity and plan for improvement.

Area for Improvement

Oral health care and resources were being disseminated to prenatal moms on a limited basis. An important component of a healthy pregnancy includes oral health care.

Target Goal

By October 30, 2012, 3/6 OB/GYN (Obstetrical and Gynecological) providers in Chittenden County will include an oral health component during the initial prenatal visit.

Baseline Data

While data collected from a Spring 2012 survey regarding current oral health practices provided in prenatal care settings indicated that 4/6 providers returning surveys assessed oral health, only 1/7 moms interviewed indicated receiving such information at their visit.

What change ideas (theories) did you have before you started testing changes?

It was unacceptable that expectant moms indicated that they had not received oral health information during an early prenatal visit. This information is vital for pregnant women to receive in order to help delay or prevent the onset of caries in children.

DO

What ideas for improvement did you test?

The change team developed talking points and an informational packet for dissemination to providers and expectant moms. We conducted one PDSA cycle: targeted phone calls and/or e-mails to known staff members of the six Chittenden County OB/GYN offices that were part of the earlier survey. Even though staff were known to change team members, persistent contacts were critical to the success of scheduling the informational meetings.

STUDY

What were the results of your test(s)? What is your final post-change data compared to the baseline data?

- **The goal of meeting with 3/6 OB/GYN providers in Chittenden County was met.**
- Presentations were made to change leaders in the three respective sites.
- These leaders included a pediatrician, nurses, social workers and residents from FAHC.

ACT

What lessons did you learn from the process? How will this change be sustained?

Keys to the success of this project included the collaboration of staff from the District and Central Office levels. Also, change team members had established relationships with key staff from the OB/GYN practices which facilitated invitations to their sites in order to present oral health information and promotion strategies. One team member commented, **"This was an example of how working together is more powerful than working alone, and how local connections make all the difference."**

We will sustain these efforts by following-up with the three sites in January 2013 in order to check in with the success of the dissemination of oral health information.

Also, in January we will conduct interviews with 20 expectant moms that receive services from one of the three contacted providers in order to determine if they are receiving the oral health information from their provider. The moms will be interviewed during WIC visits at the Burlington District Office.