Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan Progress Report
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center (AIMMC)
December 2014

Priority Area: Dental Health – Special Needs Dentistry
Target Population: Children and adults with developmental disabilities, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cleft palate and Down Syndrome.

Goal: Improve oral health of children and adults with special needs.

Performance Measures:

- Increase access to appointments requiring conscious sedation (as measured by wait time for an appointment).
- Increase financial access to oral health care for adults with special needs (percent of adult patients who have insurance coverage or can access philanthropic dollars to support dental care).

Objective #1: Improve skills of dental providers and staff in caring for these patient populations.

Accomplishments:
- Currently nine dentists who arrived in the summer of 2014 are engaged through lectures and hands on mentoring to enhance their skills in treating persons with developmental disabilities.
- Currently there are enough dental assistants who have completed conscious sedation training to cover the Special Needs Dentistry program’s capacity of cases needing sedation. The next course at UIC will be held in April of 2015.

Objective #2: Improve access to conscious sedation for the special needs population which requires presence of an anesthesiologist.

Accomplishments:
- Over the last year, 286 individuals with special needs accessed care and were screened at Shore Training Center, Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, Shore Lois Lloyd Center, and the Victor C. Neumann Association. Of those screened, 121 required follow-up care and 8 required emergency treatment (i.e., extractions due to extensive decay). The screening process is significant since many of the individuals screened are unable to communicate if they are having a dental problem. A summary of the dentists’ screening findings are provided to the partner facility to be forward to the family or designated caregiver.
- Conscious sedation appointments are consistently booked to capacity. Any expansion of this service would require hiring of an additional anesthesiologist.
- The Dental Anesthesiologist has met with the dental graduate program accrediting body (CODA) to discuss the establishment of a new Dental Anesthesia Fellowship program. The application process will take approximately 18 months to complete and includes a preliminary site visit to evaluate the resources available at AIMMC.
- A final decision has not yet been made about whether or not to proceed with the Dental Anesthesia Fellowship.
Objective #3: Maintain continuity of care for special needs patients.

Accomplishments:

• While clinical outcome data is not tracked for this patient population, when comparing the number of patients screened from the current year to the previous year, the number of individuals requiring follow-up care was approximately 20% lower.

• An Oral Quality of Life tool for use with parents/caregivers of children with special health needs has not currently been identified. Consultation is ongoing with a variety of resources including the president of the Special Care Dentistry Association.

• Strong relationships have been established/cultivated with the residential and day programs that refer patients to the Dental Center. Early in November, the director for Special Patient Dental Care, the Program Chair and the Dental Residency Coordinator met with Miseracordia to establish provision of post-residency dentist opportunities to treat patients at their facility when their new dental wing opens.

• A list of dentists providing care to special needs individuals in the Chicago metro area was obtained from the Humanitarian Foundation of the Grottoes of North America. This foundation is a Masonic Fraternity that provides funds to care for children with special needs. AIMMC will convene an initial meeting of these dentists to explore creating network of providers for the special needs population.

• In 2014, the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) underwent Windows conversion involving only the front office staff. Presently, EMR installation is in progress with training for clinical use scheduled in January 2015.

• Received a $20,000 grant from the AIMMC President’s fund to support the purchase of a panoramic x-ray unit to be used in the special needs program. This modality is critical for patients who cannot tolerate intraoral x-rays.

• Submitted five additional proposals to support funding for panoramic x-ray unit.

Date Range of Data: January 1 – November 30, 2014