Objectives

1. Increase knowledge of risk factors associated with oral diseases to at least 90% of detention facility residents, their parents, and employees.

2. Compile and distribute a list of dental care providers to the residents, their parents, and employees for residents’ referrals.

3. Substitute healthy alternatives to decay promoting snacks at least one day per week at the detention cafeteria.

Program Plan

Objectives

Objective One: Activities

- A full educational session will be dedicated to dental decay, periodontal disease, and tobacco use for three consecutive weeks for the facility residents and employees. The overall program length is seven weeks. The parents will be educated on these topics separately during the third week of the program.
- The residents will attend oral health promotion sessions as part of their educational curriculum at the detention facility. The youth specialists will attend the sessions as part of their job responsibility to supervise the residents during classroom activities. The parents will be informed about the oral health promotion program via phone and recruited by explaining the benefits of the program.
- Each educational session will follow the residents’ classroom schedule, as outlined by the facility. Each session will be provided once a week and will last one hour. There will be four educational sessions offered per day to accommodate four residential units at the detention facility.

Objective Two: Activities

- Information on any local dental care providers who accept new patients with state sponsored insurance plans will be collected.
- A list of dental providers in Greater West Michigan area will be composed.
- A list will be distributed to the nurses, other detention staff, and residents’ parents.
- Detention staff will be instructed to provide referral forms to the residents and their parents.

Objective Three: Activities

- Diet related caries prevention information will be distributed to the caretakers.
- Healthy alternatives versus decay promoting snacks will be discussed with Detention Superintendent and the meal planner.
- Samples of healthier alternatives will be offered.

Activities

- Dental Care Week
  - Healthy alternatives versus decay promoting snacks
  - Samples of healthier alternatives will be offered.
- Periodontal Disease Week
  - Establishing good oral hygiene early in life
- Oral Cancer Week
  - Risk-taking behaviors and their negative consequences
  - Early intervention.

Program Evaluation/Results

Figure 1. Comparison of pre-test and post-test results amongst the detention residents.

Table 1. Number of correct responses.

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