

NECON Prevention Panel

October 23rd, 2009



A Time of Opportunity for Prevention

- Growing understanding of the role of healthy communities
- Trust for America's Health – Wellness and Prevention in Health Reform; Advocates for a Healthier America
- Nationally health and health care have emerged as economic issues and top priorities of the Administration and Congress
- \$650 Million of the Recovery Act in Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative
- HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius – “This initiative will make disease prevention and health promotion top priorities in states and communities across the country.”



President Barack Obama :

“Simply put, in the absence of a radical shift towards prevention and public health, we will not be successful in containing medical costs or improving the health of the American people.”



What will it take?

- The systems that exist are set up perfectly to deliver the outcomes that they do.
- IOM – “It is unreasonable to expect that people will change their behavior easily when so many forces in the social, cultural, and physical environment conspire against such change.”
- All social advances come from social movements (suffrage, civil rights, labor movements). Not something that individuals can do for themselves.



Systems Change Prevention Institute

- Enhance leadership and strategy development to reduce equities
- Enhance information about the problem and solutions at the state and local levels
- Establish sustainable funding mechanisms to support community health and prevention
- Collaborate with multiple fields to ensure that health, safety, and health equity are considered in every relevant decision, action, and policy
- Provide the technical assistance and tools to support community–level efforts



*Children's oral health cannot be addressed without considering the fundamental social determinants of health – the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, including the health system – that are shaped by the distribution of resources at the global, national and local levels and are mostly responsible for health inequities, according to the **World Health Organization**.*



Core Values of DentaQuest Foundation

- We believe that as a funder focused solely on oral health, we have the opportunity and a profound responsibility to provide leadership in improving oral health.
- We hold ourselves accountable for effective management of our resources in order to fulfill our mission.
- We are committed to maintaining a diverse, motivated and high performance staff and Board.
- **We encourage community involvement. We believe that all communities have assets, knowledge, culture and the power to define and solve their problems**
- **We believe that collaborations and partnerships are fundamental to enabling organizations and institutions to pursue sustainable oral health improvements.**



“Foundations play a critical role in addressing the oral health needs of children by helping to define policy problems; identifying possible solutions; building political support through research and policy work; convening; investing in innovative models and the evaluation of them; and education and consensus building efforts.”

Shelly Gehshan, Director,
Advancing Children’s Dental Health Initiative,
Pew Center on the States, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Oral health is an integral part of overall health. Good oral health is influenced by a number of factors including beliefs, culture, social and economic conditions, and the physical environment. In collaboration with local, state and national partners, the DentaQuest Foundation works to reduce health inequities, highlight prevention, foster civic engagement, and influence systems that promote oral health beyond the clinical setting.



Oral Health

(silent and hidden epidemic)

Surgeon General's Call to Action

1. Change Perceptions
2. Replicate Effective Programs
3. Diversify the Workforce
4. Engage Powerful Constituencies
5. Build the Science

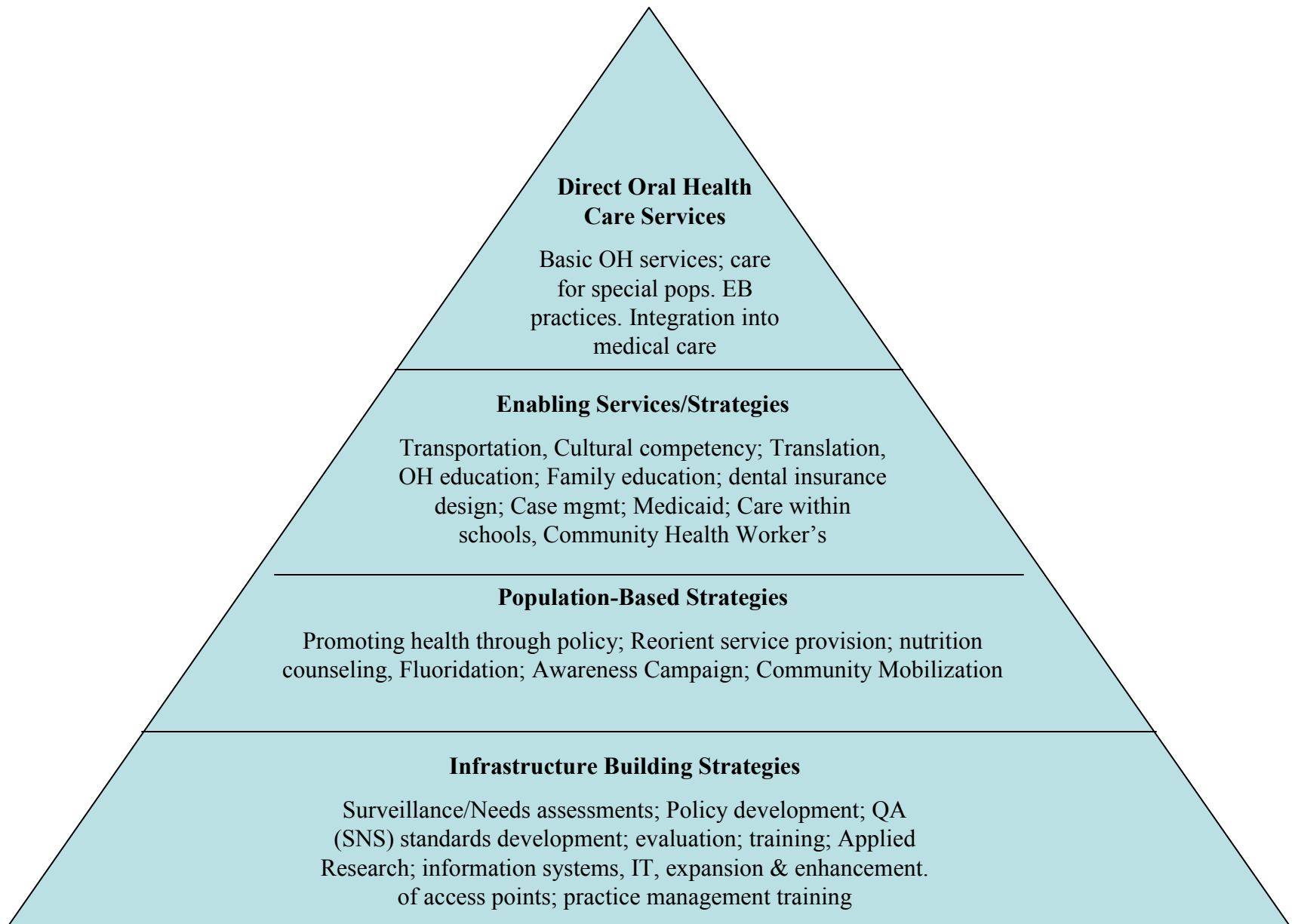


A Time to Prioritize Prevention is Now

Martin Luther King :

We're confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life in history, there is such a thing as being too late. We may cry out desperately for time to pause and have passage, but time is deaf to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words: "Too late."





Oral Health Pyramid