Special Olympics South Africa
Africa

19 November 2012
Snapshot of SO South Africa

- 33,484 athletes
- 5 Fulltime staff, 1 part-time, 1 Intern and 9 Provincial Coordinators (volunteers)
- 2-3 HA screening events per year – rotated through provinces
- Roughly 1.5% of athletes screened per year
- All disciplines are offered and screenings usually take place as stand alone event with all disciplines present
- Partnerships: Colgate Palmolive, Genop, universities, Essilor, Dettol, Lions, Professional Associations
- SOSA started HA in 2004 and have slowly increased the number of disciplines and screening frequency
Issues faced regarding ACCESS of athletes to healthcare services

- Culture of late presentation to health services generally
  - Indirect costs
  - Health knowledge and literacy
  - Value
  - Curative focus
- Availability
  - Shortage of health resources generally
  - Specialist and tertiary care limited to big cities
- Knowledge Transfer
  - Screening results to appropriate person
Issues faced regarding health
STATUS/OUTCOMES of athletes

- Family situation – lack of involvement and support
- Poverty - diet
- Variations between provinces
- Prevalence of FAS
- Discipline specific: Epilepsy management, Cerum build up, oral health, some glaucoma, alcohol, tobacco & marijuana use in some urban areas, shoe size & lack of socks, poor overall fitness, diet related weight issues.
- General health issues affecting SA population including athletes: HIV/ AIDS, TB, STI’s, Diabetes & Lifestyle diseases
Challenges facing Program to address issues

- Partnerships are geographically isolated
- Health literacy/ education / attitude needs to change
- Previously unable to address issues requiring invasive screening or treatment appropriately
- HR to implement regular screenings
- Healthy System currently transitioning to NHI
Current HA Initiatives

- HA Screenings – all 7 disciplines
- Family Health Forums – approx 2/3 per year; combined with either HA or YA
- Follow up programs – very poor
- Other Health related initiatives – previous HPCBG
- Success stories – most well attended events, improves credibility and distinguishes us from INAS, attractive to gvt.
Future of HA in SO South Africa

Vision for Healthy Communities
1. Survey to gain understanding of health access issues
2. Partnerships with 3 universities to train their students annually
3. Engagement with DoH Nationally & gain endorsement
4. Localised follow up and treatment interventions
5. Expand HA screenings to 3 x per year per discipline standard
6. Program specifically to address 1 of findings in #1
DISCUSSION TIME...