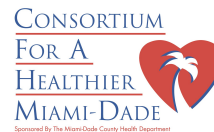


World Café Notes  
from the  
Miami-Dade Oral Health Equity Summit  
October 7, 2015





# Miami-Dade Oral Health Equity Summit

When: October 7, 2015  
Time: 8:30am-4:30pm  
Where: Miami Dade College-North Campus (Science Complex-Bldg A)  
11380 NW 27TH Ave., Miami, FL 33167

## ABOUT THE SUMMIT

The Miami-Dade Oral Health Equity Summit will discuss oral health through an equity lens. Oral health is often regarded as merely an aesthetic issue, which is certainly not the case. Florida ranks 49th in the country for children on Medicaid getting access to dental services. We hope to engage grassroots organizations, community leaders, oral health experts, and other key stakeholders in a discussion to better understand the current state of oral health in Miami-Dade County, the assets available to us, and the potential strategies to improve both access to and utilization of oral health services.

## ABOUT MDOHN

The Miami-Dade Oral Health Network (MDOHN) is a community-centered grassroots initiative working to highlight and address systemic barriers that keep residents from attaining quality oral health care.

RSVP at <http://mdohn.eventbrite.com>

For questions or more information, please call 786-527-2575.



At the Miami-Dade Oral Health Equity Summit you all participated in World Café discussions regarding the current reality of oral health in Miami-Dade County, as well as the strategies that could be used to address the needs of the county in order to ensure oral health equity in the short, medium and long term. Your insight was extremely helpful, and the ideas and thoughts you've shared will be used by the Miami-Dade Oral Health Network (MDOHN) as we move forward with our mission:

*To improve oral health through education, assessment, policy and program development, and collaboration.*

The ideas you shared have been broken down into seven categories:

- Expectations and Habits
- Education and Awareness
- Current Providers
- Lack of Access
- Coordination of Services
- Insurance and Payments
- Questions To Answer

## Current Reality

*What is true about oral health in Miami-Dade County?*

- **Expectations and Habits**
  - Personal dental history can create fear and shame
  - There may be a fear of going to the dentist
  - Generational fear of going to the dentist
  - Various cultures from Latin America and the Caribbean have culture-specific approaches to oral health
  - Oral health does not seem to be a priority in the home
  - Lack of cultural competency among providers
- **Education and Awareness**
  - There is a general need for greater education and awareness about proper oral health practices
  - People are not talking about oral health enough
  - Parents talk to kids
  - There are language and cultural barriers to discussing and participating in oral health activities
  - We don't know the most effective ways of sharing information: (who, what, where, when and why)
  - Need to learn what motivates people to change health behavior

- There is too little of a focus on preventative care
  - There is little focus on childhood prevention
  - Lack of global message around oral health
  - Unclear who the messengers and educators are in Miami-Dade
  - Lack of clarity on what services are available
- **Current Providers**
    - The Children’s Trust and Miami Dade School Board are providing services to students
    - Community health centers provide basic service for uninsured
    - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) are overloaded
  - **Lack of Access**
    - Huge gap for services provided to low wage workers
    - Much of the community is lacking resources and cannot see dentists
    - There are large wait periods to be seen by dentists
    - There are many barriers for the undocumented
    - Few providers for the underserved
    - Affluent communities also neglect their oral health because of provider issues
  - **Coordination of Services**
    - There are many things happening but not enough coordination
    - The services that are occurring are not recorded or documented in easy-to-access, all-inclusive location
  - **Insurance and Payment**
    - Medicaid expansion is needed
    - It is difficult to navigate the healthcare sites as both a provider and a patient
    - Insurance payments/coverage is too low
  - **Questions to Answer**
    - How is oral health currently discussed?
    - Where should you go for oral health information? What are the best local resources?
    - How many pediatric dentists are there in the county?
    - How many Medicaid patients are there in the county?

## Strategies

*What strategies/tactics could be used to engage and serve those who are directly affected by oral health inequities?*

- **Expectations and Habits**
  - We need to develop a plan which allows us to recognize how oral health connects to other issues of equity and also allows us to prioritize oral health
  - Activities we create should focus on the local community
  - Create a plan/program that promotes your “dental home”
  - Reassess and re-evaluate local population that has been served – what services are they receiving, are they satisfied, how do they rate their oral health?
  
- **Education and Awareness**
  - Create a venue where success stories can be shared with the greater community.
  - Miami-Dade Oral Health Educational campaign
  - Couple campaigns with outreach activities
  - Develop a message directed to adults along the lines of: “It’s not too late to see a dentist” or “No shame”
  - Integrate oral health into Primary Care Physician visits and other provider visits
  - Educate physicians assistants/nurses to educate patients about oral health during the screening process before they see the physician
    - Just as they ask, “Are you a smoker?” also ask “How often do you brush your teeth?”
  - Create fact sheets/pamphlets with basic knowledge about oral health
  - Conduct community-based research asking oral health questions
  - Create activities to correlate with National Oral Health Day on March 20
  - Equity education programs for health care providers
  - Oral health education programs for parents and children
  - Create an opportunity for real discussions
  - Tie oral health back to overall health and put an emphasis on prevention education
  - Utilize media, social media and celebrities to champion a coherent and inclusive message on oral health
  - Direct input from community i.e. focus groups – Conduct these in public places, grocery stores, parks, schools

- Use more money for marketing and advertising the message rather than program-specific needs
    - Diversify the channels used to connect with the community
  - Ensure oral health is added in curriculum in all schools as well as all school systems
  - Create an opportunity for nurses to educate patients about oral health
- 
- **Current Providers**
    - Create an opportunity/program for providers to engage with the school system about oral health
- 
- **Lack of Access**
    - Hire/contract buses that are designated for oral health trips from local community points to large health/dental centers
    - Provide free screenings during National Dental Month
    - Create a dentist on-call system for the underserved
    - Lobby for preventative dental care centers in hospitals
    - Create a centralized referral program from hospitals and health centers to dental clinics and dentists
    - Lobby legislators for policy change that reinforces preventative care in policies
    - Create a DENTIST TRUCK that serves as both a mobile clinic and an educational vehicle (pun intended)
- 
- **Coordination of Services**
    - Develop a platform that integrates county-wide services and information
    - Put pressure on the AMA and other dentistry associations to work together and collaborate
- 
- **Insurance and Payment**
    - Create universal health care prevention that is inclusive
- 
- **Questions to Answer**
    - Who are key partners that would/could help fund new strategies?
    - How many networks, collaboratives, coalitions, alliances and associations exist locally? How do we connect them?
    - What inexpensive strategies have worked in other parts of the state?