

Oral Health Florida

2014 Review

The Medical-Dental Action Team had a successful year sharing ideas and highlighting their own organization's efforts to bridge the gap between the medical and dental community. Action Team meetings were held quarterly. Representation from MORE HEALTH, the Florida Dental Association, University of Florida, Florida Institute for Health Innovation, Hundley Management, the Florida Hygiene Association, public health representatives, school health and others joined the calls. Best practices were shared and new opportunities shared. Highlights from Action Team members are below:

MORE HEALTH, in partnership with the Florida Institute for Health Innovation and funding from the Dentaquest Foundation, promoted and taught oral health education. Dr. Terry Buckenheimer, DMD presented to pediatric residents, nurses, and medical students throughout the Tampa Bay area. Feedback has been very positive from participants and requests for additional educational presentations have been received. Feedback from residents confirmed survey results by the Florida Institute for Health Innovation stating residents receive very little dental education during their training. The Florida Dental Association agreed to be Oral Health Champions throughout Florida and provide oral health education to pediatricians and family medicine physicians as requested. Other members of the Action Team are currently reaching out to local medical groups and hospitals in their communities.

Information regarding the Smiles for Life online curriculum was shared with pediatricians across the state of Florida. Oral health educational presentations were offered to all pediatric residency programs through coordination by MORE HEALTH and the Florida Dental Association.

Collaboration and sharing of ideas to bridge the medical/dental gap will continue through quarterly meetings. The subcommittee members continue to work together to identify new opportunities to promote oral health curriculum and education to the primary care community in both private and public health settings.