

ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT TASK FORCE

Task Force Meeting
February 19, 2025

OralHealthEquity.com

Welcome & Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Progress to Date**
- **Discuss culturally informed community engagement**
- **Which communities have the GREATEST oral health disparities?**
 - Small Group Work
- **What communities are you connected to that we could listen and learn from?**
- **Questions**

*Reminder - meeting is recorded

Purpose & Scope of Task Force

- **Review the findings** of the 2023 Oral Health Equity Assessment
- **Identify Washington communities** experiencing the greatest oral health disparities.
- **Develop recommendations** for how to partner with communities to address oral health disparities, public health trust in tap water, and provide accurate information about prevention programs like community water fluoridation.
- **Compile a report by June 30, 2025** for the state legislature that outlines these findings and recommendations.

Progress to Date

- **Convene Task Force** with members from various agencies, areas and specialties
- **Reviewed findings** of the 2023 Oral Health Equity Assessment
 - Dr. Chi, PhD presentation
- **Identified circumstances** that make a person more vulnerable to health disparities.
 - Communities document (draft for report)
- **Report outline/draft is in progress**

Today's Steps

- **Create a plan for culturally informed community engagement** – trusted messenger, listening circles, focus groups (TODAY)
- **Develop recommendations** for how to partner with communities to address oral health disparities, public health trust in tap water, and provide accurate information about prevention programs like community water fluoridation.
- **Compile a report by June 30, 2025** for the state legislature that outlines these findings and recommendations.

Culturally Informed Community Engagement

What does this mean for you and the communities you work with?

- **Language accessibility**
Translating materials and providing interpreters
- **Community-led initiatives**
Partnering with local leaders and organizations
- **Respectful dialogue and listening**
Actively listening to community members' perspectives and concerns
- **Follow-up and continued relationship/dialogue**

Culturally Informed Community Engagement

- *"Why would I do this?"*
- *"What will I get out of this?"*
- Thoughtful, intentional, engaging invitation
- Acknowledgment of time and energy invested by community members
- What does follow-through look like?

Small Groups: thoughts....

- **Which Washington communities** are experiencing the GREATEST oral health disparities?
 - Confirm Top 6 Vulnerabilities
 - Under the Poverty Level / uninsured
 - Rural
 - Non-Fluoridated
 - Non-White
 - English as a Second Language
 - Youth & Older Adults
- **What communities trust you as a messenger?**

Small Groups – Parker/Heather

- **Which Washington communities** are experiencing the GREATEST oral health disparities?
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Small Groups - Maralise

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Culturally Informed Community Engagement

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- What does follow-through look like?

Next Steps

March/April

- Possible follow-up with Heather
- Outreach plan and approach
- Connect and listen to communities to develop recommendations for the state.

May/June

- Finalize and write report.

Save the Date – Future Task Force Meetings

March

- March 7 - 2-3:30 pm
- March 25 - 3-4:30 pm

April

- April 8 - 3 - 4:30 pm
- April 22 - 2:30-4 pm

May

- May 2 - 1:30 – 3 pm
- May 21 - 1:30-3 pm

Questions?



THANK YOU

- Watch for follow-up emails
 - Please always cc "OralHealth@centerforresolution.org"
- See you at our next meeting, March 7, 2025
- Visit OralHealthEquity.com to find files, resources.
- Thank you for your participation

THANK YOU!



Center for Dialog & Resolution

CenterForResolution.org

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