



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
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April 19, 2024

Our new National Oral Health Task Force of the National Black Nurses Association Inc. (NBNA) was established on September 1, 2023, under the direction of Dr. Sheldon D. Fields, NBNA National President (2023-2025), and the leadership of Dr. Audrey P. Miller (National Chair).

The NBNA Oral Health Task Force (OHTF) has been charged with increasing awareness of ongoing disparities and inequities in oral health among children, adolescents, and adults in black and other communities of color through oral health educational programs (OHEP).

Oral healthcare is the primary preventive method of tooth decay and infection in children and adults. However, the incidence of dental caries remains the most common chronic disease of the underserved and underprivileged communities (CDC, Healthy People 2030). Therefore, the primary function of the OHTF will be to increase the delivery of OHEPs on proper oral healthcare practices and promotion of optimal oral hygiene behaviors. It will also seek to increase educational platforms on oral health-promoting behaviors, preventative oral healthcare habits, and the impact of a healthy diet on oral health with a particular focus on underserved communities. Increasing preventive oral healthcare practices will contribute to reducing the incidence of oral disease as the causal factor of systemic infections, cardiovascular disease, and inflammatory injury.

Some of the goals of the OHTF are to increase access to oral healthcare resources and providers; increase community partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders from the dental profession; positively influence public policy development that supports and advocates for effective oral healthcare provisions; and decrease the incidence of oral disease and healthcare disparities in oral health among communities of color across the lifespan. We are seeking supporters to work with the NBNA OHTF along its journey to educate our communities through oral health programs, webinars, conferences, and institutes. Please contact Dr. Audrey P. Miller at apemille@fiu.edu for follow-up and to express your interest in collaborating with us.

The inaugural members of the NBNA OHTF:

- Dr. Audrey P. Miller, National Chair
- Dr. Yasmine Campbell, Co-Chair
- Dr. Chanadra Young-Whiting, Secretary
- Betty Miller, MSN, RN
- Ebene Burney, Pre-Licensure Nursing Student
- Kim Scott, MSN, MBA, RN
- Michelle Oguh, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC
- Dr. Phyllis Morgan