



National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW)

- State Dental Hygienist Liaisons (DHLs) attending the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) were honored at the ADHA reception (see photo). ADHA’s Access magazine also honored them in an article, *Dental Hygienist Liaisons Improve Oral Health for Pregnant Women and Children*, in their May/June issue. All DHLs received a certificate of appreciation and letter from the Office of Head Start for their volunteer efforts.
- Eight of the nine DHLs serving as regional coordinators participated in the Head Start Health Care Institute in Albuquerque, NM on April 23. Two representatives from 30 Head Start programs attended. The DHLs presented the following sessions during the Institute:
 - *Overview of the Oral Health Training and NCECHW’s Oral Health Team*, Katrina Holt,
 - *Oral Health Messages*, Linda Mann, OR DHL and Julie Stage-Rosenberg, NV DHL
 - *Hands-on Applications for Sharing Key Oral Health Messages* (10 stations), regional DHL coordinators
 - *Achieving Head Start Oral Health-Related Program Performance Standards*, Michelle Landrum.



Center on Oral Health Systems Integration Initiative (COHSII)

Several ASTDD consultants and leaders participate in the projects that fall under our contract with Georgetown Univ. for COHSII.

- Consultants planned the NOHC panel session, “*Overview of the Title V Needs Assessment and Tips for Strengthening the Oral Health Content for Inclusion in the State MCH State Action Plan.*” The panel session focused on the MCH Title V Block grant process including development of priorities, strategies, and strategy measures, and planning for oral health needs assessments.
- Information about the final Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Initiative (PIOHQI) Learning Session from May 7-8 in Arlington, VA was reported in the Weekly Digest.
- Reg Louie, Katrina Holt and Kathy Phipps planned and conducted an oral health session for the MCHB Title V Technical Assistance meeting for MCH directors/staff in the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPIs) on April 25th in Honolulu. The session focused on surveillance systems, data collection and analyses, Title V five-year needs assessments, integrating oral health into Title V and oral health preventive measures for children. Reg also provided a description and progress to date of the ASTDD territorial oral health infrastructure assessment project funded by CDC Division of Oral Health (DOH).



ASTDD Territorial Oral Health Needs Assessment and Technical Assistance Project

- Magda de la Torre met with the Puerto Rico State Dental Officer, Elaine Pagan during the American Dental Education Association meeting in Chicago, IL to discuss the needs assessment project and a subsequent meeting on the island. Puerto Rico’s Working Group meeting was held at the Hospital Centro Comprensivo de Cancer in San Juan, Puerto Rico on March 29th. Eleven people attended representing nine different affiliations including not-for profits, academia, national organizations, local professional organizations, health department, and federally qualified health centers. Magda was able to follow up with Dr. Pagan and Mr. Antonio Cases Rosario, Director, Tobacco and Chronic Disease of Puerto Rico, at the NOHC and working on the needs assessment report. She is also working to solicit more contacts and assistance for the US Virgin Islands needs assessment but the USVI offices and staff are still displaced from the hurricanes and Internet and cell phone connections are sporadic.
- Consultants Ohnmar Tut, Reg Louie and Magda de la Torre planned and conducted the NOHC concurrent session: *Forming Partnerships to Overcome Challenges and Barriers in Promoting Oral Health: United States Territorial Oral*

Health Programs. The panel featured dental directors from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Republic of Palau, Puerto Rico, and ASTDD.

- Kathy Phipps and Ohnmar Tut conducted Basic Screening Survey training for dental professionals in America Samoa (AS) May 28-30. All dental staff (dentists, hygienists and assistants) at the LBJ Hospital, Department of Health and the Community Health Centers attended the didactic trainings. Ten dentists participated in the clinical practice session. A one-hour CME session was held for all health professional staff. During the 2019-2020 school year, the LBJ Hospital and DOH staff will screen Head Start and 3rd grade children at all 25 public elementary schools in AS. The Pacific Islands Primary Care Association supplemented our CDC-funded contract through the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association to provide this much needed training.
- Ohnmar Tut also helped the Republic of the Marshall Islands with their five-year OH Surveillance Plan and CNMI with the upcoming staff training on SDF in June.



ASTDD Fluorides Committee

- The committee collaborated with the CDC DOH to plan a half-day preconference session, *Building Robust State Fluoridation Programs*, at the NOHC; consultant Judy Feinstein presented an overview of ASTDD Best Practices for Community Water Fluoridation as part of the workshop.
- The Committee completed compilation of annual fluoridation awards, constructed a [virtual brochure](#), presented the awards at the NOHC, created 312 award certificates, updated a toolkit for SDDs to use for mailing, and distributed/mailed certificates at and after the NOHC.
- The Fluorides Committee submitted its annual report to the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee.
- Judy Feinstein conducted a webinar for our Community Water Fluoridation Community of Practice for CDC-funded states, *Communicating Your Messages about Community Water Fluoridation*, on May 17, with Hollis Russinof of the American Academy of Pediatrics. It will be repeated on June 17.

ASTDD Dental Public Health Policy Committee (previously DPH Resources Committee)

- Scott Howell completed the white paper, [Teledentistry: How Technology Can Facilitate Access To Care](#), that was posted in March. Scott will complete his residency this year at UTHSCSA. He is a faculty member at AT Still University (ATSU) Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health and has a HRSA grant to implement a teledentistry project in AZ. Scott also is the Treasurer of the Special Care Dentistry Association.
- Nasgol Gharbi completed the white paper, [Sugar Sweetened Beverages](#), which was posted in April, while doing her MPH and DPH residency at ATSU Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health. Next step for her is finishing up her residency research and then getting ready for two more boards: Western Regional Examining Board and to get her Texas license. In the graduation photo, Don Altman is presenting her with a Certificate of Academic Excellence.



ASTDD Evaluation Consultants

- Carissa Beatty, Mary Davis and Joanna Hillman have reviewed and provided TA on CDC-funded states' evaluation plans and reports, posted messages on Evaluators listservs, and submitted the ASTDD Five-Year Evaluation Plan for our CDC cooperative agreement. Joanna presented a roundtable at the NOHC, *Engaging with a Professional Evaluator: Tips for Success*.

School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee and Dental Sealant Consultant

- The SAOH Sandy Tesch, dental sealant coordinator, and the SAOH co-hosted a webinar for members, *Tool, Tips and Strategies to Increase Consents in School Sealant Programs*, on May 15. This is part 1 of a 3-part webinar series on

improving school consent. Slides & the recording are posted on the ASTDD [dental sealant resources webpage](#). Sandy also has been providing TA to states on their sealant program questions.

- Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) committee participation by Sandy Tesch included review of the final sealant measure report and a conference call.
- Donna Behrens, SAOH consultant, completed the contribution on school-based oral health for the new Surgeon General's report including a description of two programs.

ASTDD Peer Support Program

- There currently are five new dental directors participating in the Mentoring program: Adam Barefoot (GA), Russell Dunkel (WI), Debonny Hughes (MD), Tommy Johnson (AL), and Cheri Kiefer (ND).
- Lori Cofano, Kimberlie Payne and Bob Russell facilitated a well-attended workshop, *Foundation Building for Oral Health Programs*, at the NOHC. Lindy Bollen, John Dane and Chris Farrell participated in an interactive session about partnerships, lack of DPH experience and budget planning.

Communications Committee

- The [2018 ASTDD Annual Report](#) was distributed at the NOHC and is now available on the website.
- Quarterly Webinars are being planned to highlight other ASTDD committee successes and challenges; the first webinar is targeted for September.
- The seasonal newsletter, Oral Health Matters, will no longer be produced. Items that have been included in the newsletter will now be incorporated into the Weekly Digest, the ASTDD Roundup and other timely communication pathways.
- Matt Jacob and John Welby conducted a very interactive workshop at the NOHC, *The Message Matrix: Organizing and Delivering Effective Talks to Promote Prevention*. In addition, they provided feedback to five DPH residents who presented on projects using Plain Language during a luncheon session, the *Five-Minute Masterpiece*. This was a new format for the NOHC; evaluations overwhelmingly suggested offering it again next year.



Best Practices Committee

- Authors are still working on the Collaborative Partnerships Best Practice Approach Report and the Perinatal Oral Health BPAR; state practice activity submissions are being received and reviewed.

Data Committee

- Forty-nine states/DC have returned the 2019 State Synopses questionnaire (data for 2017-18); projected completion of the full report and the summary report is late June or early July.
- Kathy Phipps and Mike Manz continue to provide BSS TA to states. Mike has started research for updating the Emergency Department surveillance methods.

Healthy Aging Committee

- The Committee sponsored a session at the NOHC, *Innovative and Emerging Strategies to Leverage Funding for Programs to Support Oral Health for Older Adults and People with Disabilities*.
- Committee activities have been indefinitely placed on hold due to funding issues. Healthy aging resources, however, will still be posted on the website and announced in the Weekly Digest.

Recent Meetings

OPEN Inc Mid-Year Regional Convening in Houston Texas, May 21-23; Person Reporting: Kimberlie Payne

- The ultimate goal is for OPEN, Inc to be a 501(c)(3) public charity, with an interim fiscal sponsor to handle financial management and organizational operations. In this model, OPEN will maintain decision-making autonomy. OPEN will have an Executive Director and Associate Director, as well as six other staff who will play roles that reflect many of the current functions. When OPEN becomes a 501(c)(3), it will have a board. The number of officers will depend on the laws in the state of incorporation. The board will comprise members of the National Oral Health Connection Team (NOHCT). DentaQuest Partnership will maintain funding through the end of 2019. After 2019, the NOHCT and Regional OHCT will make up the governance structure. The Sustainability and Funder Engagement Group is engaged in conversations with a wide variety of philanthropies. OPEN will have a national convening October 23-25, 2019 in Baltimore, MD. Beyond 2019, decisions about convenings will be based on needs and priorities identified by OPEN as well as available funding.

Exploring Opportunities to Improve Chronic Condition Management in Schools, American Academy of Pediatrics, Itasca, IL, May 8-9; Persons Reporting: Chris Farrell & Mona VanKanegan

- AAP has a cooperative agreement with the CDC School Health Division. Many of the stakeholders at the meeting were school nurses, school nurse consultants and education associations, along with other national organizations. School nurses and consultants are an important piece of managing chronic conditions in school. This meeting was a roadmap to develop a strategic plan for school nurses. AAP developed a very robust environmental scan for chronic conditions, including oral diseases, that covered 1) infrastructure and Systems Impacting School Health Services, 2) State and National Policy Opportunities, 3) Chronic Condition Management, and 4) Stakeholder Concerns and Solutions. Oral health was a priority topic. Discussions during the meeting are informing AAP's future activities that will involve ASTDD.

Engaging Medical & Dental Professionals in Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Prevention and Vaccination, American Academy of Pediatrics, Itasca, IL, May 30; Person Reporting: Mona Van Kanegan

- A detailed environmental scan concluded that there is a clear call to action for medical-dental collaboration in the promotion of HPV, given the vaccine is very safe and effective at preventing cancer and there are still very low uptake rates in many states. Most provider-side barriers to HPV vaccination promotion are based in provider preparation and feasibility, while patient-side barriers seem most likely to be about knowledge, beliefs and/or access to vaccinations. Attendees collectively suggested the creation of a measurable, multi-level strategy of provider education, public education, and policy work. An organization named [Team Maureen](#) presented on some work they are doing with dentists specifically. Resources, strategies and information developed will be helpful to state oral health programs. See [AAP list of resources](#).

Send any questions or comments to Bev Isman at bev.isman@comcast.net