



These past few months have been busy reviewing and closing out grant and contract budgets, establishing a carryover request and revising our year 02 CDC budget, and writing new contracts for our consultants. The evaluation team reviewed CDC workplans and the 5-year evaluation plan to determine progress on activities and the need for member surveys or other types of evaluation to inform the progress report and continuation application in the spring. We decided to do selected focused queries rather than an annual member survey. All committees have updated their logic models and workplans.

Four ASTDD members and Chris Wood and Bev Isman serve on the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) Planning Committee along with an equal number of AAPHD members as well as ASI meeting planning staff. The Committee issued calls for abstracts for the various types of sessions and then reviewed the 65 abstracts for concurrent and plenary sessions and abstracts for weekend workshops. Final decisions about sessions and a review of abstracts for roundtables and oral presentations will be done in November and December. ASTDD consultants and committees submitted several abstracts that will be discussed in the next issue of Roundup. We hope everyone is looking forward to an exciting meeting in San Diego at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina April 6-8, 2020 with weekend sessions on April 4-5.

New Project with the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP)

ASTDD is partnering with OSAP to create and disseminate infection prevention and control (IPC) resources for school sealant programs using existing CDC resources as a foundation for development. IPC resource guides exist for dental settings, however there are no IPC resources dedicated to school sealant programs. School sealant programs can face unique IPC concerns due to many factors, including use of mobile equipment, provision of care in non-traditional settings, and differing state and local policies. Experts in the field have indicated the need for resources and evaluation materials specific to school sealant programs. Creation of targeted IPC resources are necessary to help improve adherence to basic IPC practices during provision of care in school sealant programs. A workgroup has begun the project by reviewing two CDC documents – the *Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings*, and the *Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings*. They will abstract all the information that pertains to school sealant programs and then use this information to create resources to help increase adherence to IPC recommendations in school sealant programs. These resources will include a Guide to Infection Prevention Practices in School Sealant Programs, and an Infection Prevention Checklist for School Sealant programs. ASTDD's primary role is to convene a focus group of School Sealant Coordinators to gather qualitative data to identify resource needs and gaps on how programs currently translate existing CDC guidance into practice and summarize the focus groups recommendations. The first focus group call was the end of October.

School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC) and Dental Sealant Consultant

The SAOHC welcomed four new members to the committee. Some members attended a SEALS training hosted by CDC on August 5th; there were 75 attendees. The SAOHC hosted their third webinar - Successfully Partnering with Students to Improve School Oral Health on September 27th with 40 total participants. The School Sealant CoP held their inaugural webinar on September 11th with Donna Behrens presenting an Introduction to Community of Practices. Sandy Tesch facilitated another sealant CoP call on October 18; the topic was sealant calibration. Sandy, Chris Wood, and Donna Behrens held a conference call with the CDC Healthy Schools team to discuss common areas we could offer TA to both CDC 1810 CA recipients and the five chronic disease CDC-funded states/recipients. Sandy provided TA to states regarding additional sealant retention checks questions, a dental sealant program communications plan, multiple questions about SEALS, and HRSA posting of proposed changes to UDS clinical sealant measures. Donna Behrens was invited to meet with two members of the University of California San Francisco Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences Department at the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center to talk about school sealants and school oral health programs on September 24th while she was in San Francisco. Sandy posted messages on the CDC sealant groups listserv on several topics and posted IPC and other resources on the ASTDD Dental Sealant Resources webpage.

ASTDD Fluorides Committee

Judy Feinstein conducted the fourth webinar via Zoom for the CWF Community of Practice on August 13 with a continued focus on developing state CWF plans. The fifth webinar was held on September 18 with a focus on using the ASTDD/CDC template for fluoridation equipment inventories. The Fluorides Committee held calls in September and October. A query to the dental directors' listserv regarding availability of fluoride mouthrinse for school programs resulted in a conference call involving representatives from nine states. As a result, the New Jersey dental director has contacted Colgate about the possibility of producing an appropriate product but there is much more information needed and a follow-up call is not yet scheduled. LeeAnn Hoaglin-Cooper continues to research and submit additions to the ASTDD Fluoridation Rollback Catalog; additions are noted in the *Weekly Digest*.

Best Practices Committee (BPC) and Dental Public Health Policy Committee (DPHPC)

Both committees serve major roles in developing seminal reports and policy statements. In collaboration with the Perinatal Oral Health Committee (POHC), an update to the *Perinatal Oral Health Best Practice Approach Report* was posted on the ASTDD website in mid-October. A new Perinatal Oral Health policy statement is in the early stages of conceptualization through the DPHPC. A BPAR on Collaborative Partnerships is in process and there is a call out for state/territorial descriptive reports. A new BPAR on *Data Dissemination*, a collaboration of the Best Practices, Communication and Data Committees, is in the process of development. Arelle Franklin, a University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio (UTHSCSA) DPH resident will be the primary author. Two new policy statements are in process, one on Emergency Department Utilization for Nontraumatic Dental Conditions authored by Dane McClurg, DMD, MPH at the College of Graduate Health Studies, AT Still University, and the other on Antibiotic Stewardship, being authored by Cara Ortega, DDS, MPH, a DPH resident at Texas A & M College of Dentistry and Kobie Gordon, DDS, DPH Resident/MMSc Candidate at Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

Communications Committee

The committee held a call on September 19. Quarterly "Spotlight" Webinars are being planned to highlight other ASTDD committee successes and challenges. The first webinar targeted for November will highlight the Head Start Dental Hygiene Liaison program showcasing successful collaboration with state oral health programs. The Social Media work group will be hosting a webinar in November highlighting the Virginia and Missouri Oral Health Coalitions and how they use social media. The Communications Committee will be in charge of the ASTDD exhibit booth at the NOHC.

Data Committee

During the past three months, Kathy Phipps and Mike Manz provided Basic Screening Survey (BSS) TA to the following states – Connecticut, Kansas, Missouri, North Dakota, Illinois, Rhode Island and Virginia and Arizona. They discussed oral health surveillance systems with Michigan and revised BSS data entry worksheet for Guam. Mike had numerous communications about research for updating Emergency Department surveillance methods, code comparisons to the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) / other sources. Kathy worked with CDC on BSS and Synopses revisions for OMB clearance.

ASTDD Peer Support Program

We currently have nine dental directors/program managers in the mentoring program: Russell Dunkel (WI), Tommy Johnson (AL), Cheri Kiefer (ND), Dayna Brinckman (KS), Maryanne Goss (CT), Darwin Hayes (NJ), Misty Robertson (ID), Katie Glueckert (MT), and Frances Wise (AK). In addition, Kimberlie Payne has contacted 17 new associate members for orientation during the past three months. Angie Bailey (ID) & Adam Barefoot (GA) received certificates for completing their year-long peer support pairing.

Coordination with NACDD on Chronic Disease Medical/Dental Integration

Chris Wood and a five ASTDD consultants had a joint call with three National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) consultants on September 17 to exchange information about the status of activities for Component 1 and Component 2 of the CDC grants to states. NACDD is the recipient of the Component 2 portion that provides TA to five

states also funded for Component 1: CO, CT, ND, SC and VA. The main performance measure for Component 2 is documentation of promising and evidence-based practices for medical/dental integration. NACDD is doing site visits to each state to gather information and meet with stakeholders. The discussion focused on ways to keep each other informed or to collaborate about state activities and needs; pathways for communication; needs assessment and evaluation methods and results, plans and progress for webinars, Communities of Practice, NOHC presentations; and sharing of new resources and success stories/best practices.

ASTDD Evaluation Consultants

Recently, ASTDD and CDC partnered on two evaluation webinars for evaluation and program staff in CDC funded states. On September 23, CDC staff presented ideas and guidance for disseminating evaluation results to different audiences. And on October 2nd, ASTDD evaluation consultants Mary Davis and JoAnna Hillman provided insights on successful evaluation implementation approaches. Both webinars featured opportunities for participants to ask questions and share insights from their own programs. The webinar materials are available through Mary Davis. ASTDD evaluation consultants are continuing to provide support to funded states through the evaluation listserv and will be offering additional professional development opportunities at the NOHC.

ASTDD Territorial Oral Health Needs Assessment and Technical Assistance Project

CDC has agreed to let us use some Year 02 funds to finalize the Needs Assessment reports, disseminate the information, provide some limited TA, and continue communication and sharing of information. On August 28 drafts of three documents pertaining to the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI) including *Overview of the Project*, *Overview of the USAPI*, and *The Oral Health Environment in the USAPIs: Infrastructure Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities*, which is a composite from all the nine USAPI jurisdictions/states, were sent for review and comment to a small group of informed stakeholders from national and federal agency partners. Their comments were incorporated into final versions along with an *Executive Summary* and individual *Oral Health Environment Tables* completed by each USAPI and will be sent to each of the dental chiefs and to the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA) and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) for a PIHOA meeting in Hawaii in November. The final report will then be sent to CDC. Magda de la Torre is drafting the two reports for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, which will also be sent for review and turned into final reports to submit to CDC.

Dr. Tut continues to provide TA to American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Pohnpei re: completing descriptive report forms for Collaboration BPAR; application of FV at well-baby clinics on Pohnpei; CNMI: wraparound program at well-baby clinics in Rota and Tinian, review of presentation on Oral Cancer Screening for an upcoming mtg, and BSS training; and with Guam on the interactive BSS workbook to be ready for their September screening.

Center on Oral Health Systems Integration Initiative (COHSII)

As part of the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center's cooperative agreement for COHSII, ASTDD continues to provide TA and training to state/territorial Maternal and Child Health (MCH) agencies to make improvements in oral health systems integration and workforce development. The FY 2020 Block Grant applications will be released late November 2019 and will indicate which states/territories will be addressing NPM 13 for FY 2020; for FY 2019, 32 states are addressing NPM 13.

The COHSII team worked with the Association of Maternal and Child Programs (AMCHP) to sponsor a webinar on NPM 13, *Building Partnerships Between State Maternal and Child Health Directors and State Dental Directors to Improve Oral Health*, which was held September 19, 2019. The target audience was state Title V programs and the state dental directors. Speakers were state MCH directors and state dental directors from Georgia and Iowa. An archive of the presentation is available at <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/cohsii/quality.php>. The COHSII team also presented during the Title V Maternal and Child Health Federal-State Partnership Meeting, Evidence-Informed Five-Year Action Planning session on October 21, 2019, and participated in Facilitated Networking with Resource Centers session on October 22, 2019, Arlington, VA.

COHSII's formal activities related to the National Oral Health Initiative (NOHI) within the MCH Safety Network cooperative agreement commenced September 1, 2019. The purpose of NOHI is to improve access to and delivery of comprehensive, quality oral health care for infants and children by testing and establishing models of care. Activities include check-in calls, buddy system with consultants, individualized TA, monthly webinars with a kickoff webinar held October 10, 2019, and an annual meeting. For more information, go to <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/projects/nohi.php>.

COHSII's Quality Indicator Advisory Team has identified a set of MCH quality indicators to monitor oral health services delivered in public health programs and systems of care at the national, state, and local levels. The following state oral health programs are piloting implementation of the indicators: Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Rhode Island. For more information, go to <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/cohsii/quality.php>.

National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW)

A Regional Dental Hygienist Liaison Coordinators meeting was held at the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) offices in Chicago, August 5, 2019. Accomplishments from the past year, current activities and recommendations from the Oral Health Workgroup meeting and from a recent DHL survey were reviewed and follow up steps developed. The group also reviewed workplan strategies for year 5. Updates from the Office of Head Start included an update on opioids. OHS, with assistance from NCECHW, worked with five regional offices to host trainings for HS staff and state teams focusing on opioids and their impact on families and to identify program- and community-based strategies to support families seeking and staying in recovery. A national webinar was held this summer to provide information to staff who couldn't participate in the trainings. Another update of note to state oral health programs and dental practices, in response to feedback from the recent notice of proposed rulemaking, "dental home" is not included in the 2020-2021 Head Start Program Information Report (PIR).



State DHLs submitted their quarterly reports for the grant period ending September 29; Gina Sharps and Michelle Landrum create a summary report every quarter that is shared with the ASTDD, NCECHW and Office of Head Start leadership. The Oral Health Team just learned that their abstract submission, Oral Health Literacy: A Wide Open Discussion, to the 2020 ADHA annual session was accepted.

Recent Meetings

2019 Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) National Convening, Baltimore, MD, October 21-25, 2019; Reporting: Mona Van Kanegan, Kimberlie Payne, Julia Wacloff, John Welby, Christine Wood

The purpose of the 2019 OPEN national convening was to provide members with an opportunity to re-connect with one another and re-ground themselves in their commitment to health equity and racial justice. They also gathered to raise their collective voices with policymakers in Washington, DC and to formally transition to a new backbone organization, OPEN, Inc. OPEN now has more than 2500 "members" (people who have created an account on Socius).

Approximately 270 OPEN members completed more than 125 visits with state Senators, Congressmen, and Congresswomen. The three "asks" were:

- *Medicare Coverage.* Congress should add oral health coverage to be included under Medicare Part B covered services
- *Pregnant Women's Medicaid Coverage.* Congress should address the link between oral health and maternal health by making pregnant women's oral health coverage a mandatory service in Medicaid
- *CDC Oral Health Funding for States.* Congress should appropriate an additional \$17.5 million, for a total of \$36.5 million, to fully fund the CDC Division of Oral Health to support an oral health program in every state

Some ASTDD members participated in the OPEN Baltimore Day. They provided more than 20 gallons of spaghetti and also gave out 300 oral hygiene kits and 600 health flyers. According to Mona, “We experienced an absolutely unforgettable day of outreach made possible by Laurie Norris, JobsPlus and Safe Streets staff. Together, they grounded us with a presentation, discussion and welcomed our learning about the history and present place that is Baltimore. After this we went out into the Sandtown neighborhood. We saw the passion, care and love of JobsPlus and Safe Streets staff have for Sandtown. As we served food, played, shared stories and provided information on oral health care and services in the area, we saw how the people respected the Safe Streets staff. We were able to share love for people in the neighborhood and glimpsed the possibilities for its healthy and safe future.”



Twenty-one individuals (7 grasstops, 7 grassmiddles, and 7 grassroots), including Christine Wood, ASTDD ED, were elected to the National Oral Health Connection Team (NOHCT). Once OPEN, Inc. establishes its 501 (c) 3 status, the NOHCT members will become the OPEN Board. A new Executive Director was hired--Ifetayo Johnson. Moving forward, strategic areas of focus for OPEN include:

- Grow their commitment to health equity;
- Advance OPEN’s mission, goals, policy priorities, and messages;
- Build and weave the Network for greater impact;
- Connect OPEN in person and virtually;
- Define OPEN’s formal leadership in 2020 and beyond;
- Align with emerging public health efforts;
- Clarify and maximize the relationship between OPEN and OPEN, Inc.

National Network for Oral Health Access Annual Conference, Las Vegas, November 13-16, 2019; Reporting: Christine Wood



This is NNOHA’s annual business meeting and continuing education conference; attendance was the highest it has ever been for NNOHA and the sessions I attended were excellent. There is great interest in teledentistry and the opportunities it offers, especially for reducing the use of emergency departments for non-traumatic dental procedures, in rural communities, in assisted living/long-term-care facilities, and in schools. Marko Vujicic presented compelling evidence about changes in how dentistry will be delivered. Currently, dentistry is targeting very complex, expensive procedures to the wealthy elite but due to disruptive innovation, the market is starting to offer less expensive alternatives. Policy makers, payers, and providers need to be ready to address these disruptive innovators as they will not be going away due to consumer demand. The Oral Health Resource Center displayed information about ASTDD’s Best Practice Approach Reports and the Executive Summary of the new Perinatal BPAR at their exhibit booth; there was much interest in the information.

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