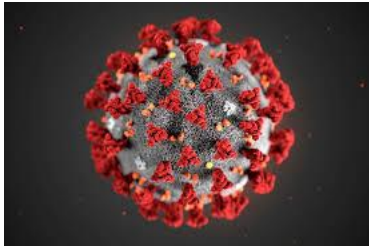




It occurred to us that only the most recent issues of *Roundup* and the *ASTDD Annual Reports* are posted on the website, so Chris has uploaded all the *Roundup* issues since the first one from March/April 2019 and *Annual Reports* since 2006. They are available on the [ASTDD Publications webpage](#).

State Dental Director Calls and COVID Related Workgroups and Partnerships



ASTDD continues to participate in calls and emails of the COVID-19 Public-Private Partner Dental Coordination Group comprised of federal agencies and almost 30 national organizations to share information about activities. Several organizations mentioned how helpful ASTDD has been in collecting and sharing information. ASTDD also participates in the DentaQuest Partnership Oral Health System: Pandemic Response Workgroup. The January 21 call focused on COVID-19 updates and presentations regarding Medicaid. The COVID-19 School-Based Programs Workgroup activities are reported under the School Health section.

Dental directors continue to meet, usually biweekly. Here are a few issues from the January 7 and 21 and February 18 calls.

- On the January 7 call, Admiral Tim Ricks joined the group to provide COVID-19 updates and acquire feedback on several issues including: 1) states that allow dentists to give influenza vaccinations, 2) states that allow dentists to give COVID-19 vaccinations, 3) states that allow dentists to test or order testing for COVID 19, 4) states that do not have dental office staff classified in Group 1-A for getting vaccines. Dr Ricks shared this information on a webinar and via other venues.
- The January 21 call featured Dr. Jim Crall speaking about the Los Angeles Dental Registry and Referral System (LADRRS). The California Medi-Cal Dental Program supported the UCLA-led More LA Smiles, a Dental Transformation Initiative to improve oral health care for Los Angeles County children by implementing practice-level and system-level initiatives. The goal of this presentation was to explore the use of an electronic platform such as LADRRS for improving linkages, care coordination and communication among providers in settings such as primary care and schools. This allows state and local programs to reach more children, avoid the use of aerosol-generating procedures, and make progress toward achieving Healthy People 2030 objectives.
- The February 4 call featured Matt Jacob providing an overview of the Head Start National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety's new social media campaign. He will be providing information about the campaign on a March 24 all member ASTDD Spotlight. Read about the campaign later in this newsletter.
- On the February 18 call, Dr. Jay Kumar discussed the history and current issues surrounding the National Toxicology Program's Review of the *Revised NTP Monograph on the Systematic Review of Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopmental and Cognitive Health Effects*, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) process to ensure unbiased reporting, and what the NASEM review says and doesn't say.

ASTDD Peer and Member Support Program

We currently have five dental directors/program managers in the mentoring program. Kimberlie Payne contacted 12 new associate members during the past two months for orientation. To better document its diverse membership, ASTDD has started to collect race/ethnicity data for dental directors/program managers, and work setting information for associate members.



Data Committee and National Oral Health Data Portal

Kathy Phipps and Mike Manz continue to help states and territories plan for surveys or other surveillance assistance despite many Basic Screening Surveys (BSS) being on hold. We acquire feedback each year on their technical assistance, and all nine states that received TA responded. The most frequent type of TA was for BSS: 1) development of survey design, 2) sample design including the determination of sampling frame and stratifications, 3) sample selection including the selection of specific schools and replacement schools, 4) data analysis, and 5) assistance on statistical issues or interpretation of results. All rated their TA quality as “excellent” and each state noted outcomes from the TA as well as any suggestions for improvement. The 2021 State Synopses forms have been distributed to states for completion. Look for updates on the National Oral Health Data Portal in the next *Roundup* issue.

Communications Committee



The January 20 Spotlight on *Engaging the Media during Children’s Dental Health Month* featured Jay Kumar DDS, MPH and Maritza Cabezas DDS, MPH presenting efforts in Los Angeles County to promote healthy behavior and early dental visit. The [Recording](#) is available on the website. There will be a Part Two sometime in the future, which will show all the resources California had for Children’s Dental Health Month. We are busily writing the ASTDD Annual Report; look for it to be posted on the website in April.

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

Work continues on the new Data Dissemination Best Practice Approach Report (BPAR), the update to the *Oral Health of Children, Adolescents and Adults with Special Health Care Needs BPAR*, and an update to the *School-Based Dental Sealant Programs BPAR*. The policy statement on [Promoting Nutrition and Healthy Eating in Schools: An Important Strategy for Preventing Dental Caries](#) has been posted to the website. The Descriptive Report Form has recently been revised. Check out the [Best Practices Resources](#) for forms, definitions, processes for submission of state activities and more. Judy Feinstein provided comments for an ASTHO policy paper, “Achieving Optimal Health for All by Eliminating Structural Racism” and participated in discussion during a Population Health and Informatics Policy Committee meeting.

School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC) and Dental Sealant Subject Matter Expert

SAOH committee is in the process of reviewing some new and updated policy statements; look for links in the next *Roundup* issue. A Sealant Community of Practice (CoP) on January 25 was held for CDC staff to discuss the Communication Plan that CDC-funded states must complete by the end of August. Sandy Tesch added [new CDC Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) documents](#) to ASTDD’s dental sealant resources webpage. ASTDD and the DentaQuest Partnership funded Workgroup on COVID-19 and School-based Oral Health Programs has been meeting and launched a follow-up survey in February with dental directors about their school-based program experiences during the pandemic.

ASTDD Fluorides Committee (FC)

Committee meetings were held in January and February. The Community Water Fluoridation Community of Practice met on January 21 facilitated by Judy Feinstein. The group discussed processes and procedures in their states that water systems use to notify consumers when changes are planned, particularly cessation of fluoridation. They also shared ideas for framing the benefits of CWF for water operators, focusing on the operators’ role in improving the public’s health, and also contributing to an economic benefit within the community because people are ultimately healthier, economically productive and may have more disposable income. The next webinar will be on March 29 with the developers of the New Wave Fluoridation Tablet and Feeder System. The committee provided updates to ASTDD lists and to oral health coalitions on the revised peer review of the National Toxicology Program’s report on fluoride and neurotoxicity (discussed under the dental director calls). Judy has developed reports including Google Alerts information and from Curate, a data-mining company that provides a searchable database of local government meeting agendas and minutes, to send to state dental directors and other interested parties regularly. This is intended to supplement and not replace the *Fluoridation Rollback Catalog*. The process of confirming awards for achievements in water fluoridation

during 2020 was initiated for the awards to be presented at ASTDD's business meeting. The committee will soon be fielding an assessment of Community Water Fluoridation reporting in CDC WFRS.

Healthy Aging Committee (HAC)

The workgroup continued to discuss potential topic areas for the Older Adult Oral Health Promotion Toolkit. State Oral Health Programs and State Units on Aging (SUA) participating on the workgroup include Alabama, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Virginia and Wisconsin.

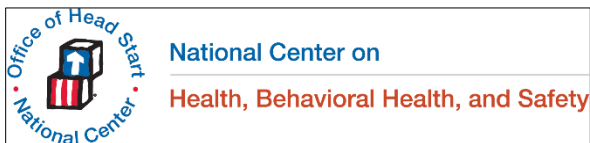
Evaluation Activities

JoAnna Hillman and Mary Davis continue to provide general assistance and TA to CDC-funded evaluators through their listserv and emails and review of states' evaluation reports, and to ASTDD committees on specific projects. On February 26 they held a webinar on [Planning and Designing Qualitative Data Collection Methods](#) for 20 participants. They will hold Part II of the series on *Implementing, Analyzing and Reporting from Qualitative Data Collection Methods* on March 12. To help S/TOHP evaluate their partnerships, Janelle Gowgiel, an evaluation intern at Emory University, finished updating the [Handbook on Planning, Evaluating, and Improving Collaboration for Oral Health Programs](#) with associated worksheets and a workbook and updated language to be compliant with CDC Health Equity Language Guidelines.

2021 Virtual National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) Planning



The ASTDD business meeting and Awards ceremony will be presented virtually on April 9. The call for abstracts for 60 minute seminars for the 2021 virtual NOHC resulted in 49 abstract submissions with the top 11 being chosen for the available live streaming time slots on three consecutive Fridays starting April 16, 2021. Roundtables will be held on April 17; 31 abstracts were received and 20 were selected; 62 abstracts for posters were received and 56 were selected to be presented on April 24. Available time slots are much reduced from the number of presentations during in-person NOHC years. All sessions will be pre-recorded, with speakers available for questions during their appointed times. There will be no oral presentation sessions as the poster presentations will be pre-recorded. See the [2021 NOHC website](#) for more details. Registration should be open in March.



National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted oral health activities that are a key part of Head Start programs. In recent months, the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS) has been part of a team working to produce social media messages and graphics to reach Head Start parents and caregivers. These messages encourage them to instill good oral health habits at home during this stressful time. This content can be posted on social media throughout National Children's Dental Health Month and far beyond February. All of the content is accessible at <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/SK64dZcum9/files>. Visitors are encouraged to start by downloading the Social Media Toolkit, which contains all the sample messages and instructions for using the videos/graphics that are stored on this web portal. ASTDD asks that users not delete any of the hashtags that are included in these messages. As of February 28, these messages posted through multiple pathways generated 993,416 potential impressions on Facebook and 288,380 potential impressions on Twitter. Importantly, this content was posted on Facebook by Head Start associations, local HS/EHS programs and/or educators/staff in at least 27 states, plus Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Those who have questions about the content should contact Matt Jacob at mattlivesindc@gmail.com.

ASTDD also co-hosted a Twitter chat in observance of National Children's Dental Health Month February 24. The chat generated nearly 313,000 Twitter impressions, and more than 20 health stakeholders participated. ASTDD is leveraging events like this to promote the videos and graphics from the social media campaign offering fun and helpful tips for parents. In addition, the NCHBHS held a webinar, *Promoting Children's Oral Health*, for a broad audience interested in Head Start on February 22, 2021, featuring Gina Sharps (Region 3 DHL coordinator and national co-project lead) and Heather Blair (Region 2 DHL coordinator). Topics focused on strategies and resources to promote toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and good eating practices as well as what to expect when visiting the dentist during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can access the webinar at <http://edc.adobeconnect.com/pclufggsbl8t>. Resources available on these topics are also available in multiple languages at <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/headstart/index.php>.

We are pleased to announce a new state DHL in Wisconsin; Jenna Linden is replacing Diane Flanagan there. We now have our first DHL for the US Virgin Islands, Liz Karmasek, who lives on St. Thomas. We are expecting a few more vacancies and will announce replacements as they occur.



Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement
ASTDD | DQA | OHRC

Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII)

Integrating oral health care into primary care is a key strategy for improving access to oral health care and oral health, especially for vulnerable and underserved groups that face barriers to accessing the oral health care system.

In response to this need, COHSII, with assistance from colleagues from across the country, developed *Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care: A Resource Guide*. The guide features materials such as briefs, curricular, guidelines, manuals, papers, reports, and videos, and lists agencies and organizations that may serve as resources.

<https://www.mchoralhealth.org/announcements/integrating-oral-health-care-feb2021.php>

The COHSII funding ends in June so the OHRC just submitted a proposal in response to a HRSA MCHB for a new round of COHSII funding.

Meetings and Webinars (links aren't available if they were a member only or pre-registration event)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS
Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

5th Annual Virtual Program Showcase. National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. February 5, 2021. *Barbara Park reporting.*

NACDD hosted its fifth Program Success Showcase to feature projects and programs that demonstrate innovation in chronic disease prevention and health promotion. The showcase featured opening and closing sessions and 10 breakout sessions that were repeated three times. The Opening Keynote Panel Discussion was *How State Health Departments Can Help Build Trust in Public Health and Promote Health Equity during COVID and Beyond*, and the Closing Panel was *Mental Health and Combating Burnout for Public Health Staff during COVID and other National Emergencies*. NACDD's oral health portfolio was one of the featured breakout sessions and included an overview of three oral health projects: 1) Documenting promising approaches to medical-dental interaction in states to improve health through models of collaboration; 2) Creating a National Framework for medical-dental integration; and 3) Conducting the first ever oral health state engagement meeting to improve availability and access to oral health services for Medicaid-eligible children and adults in North Dakota. State dental directors and staff were invited to attend. About 65 people attended the oral health breakouts, including many ASTDD members.

Look for the next issue of *Roundup* in May 2021. Send any questions or comments to Bev Isman at bev.isman@comcast.net