



### Grant Closeouts

We just ended Year 02 of our CDC Cooperative Agreement on August 31, and September will be our last month of the National Center for Early Childhood Health and Wellness funding. Every year at this time Chris Wood and I have calls with all our consultants and contractors based on self-evaluation forms they complete. Discussions focus mainly on what was accomplished in the previous year, plans for the upcoming year, and how ASTDD can continue to support them both personally and professionally. Touching base was particularly important this year as many activities changed as a result of COVID-19, and we were unable to meet in person at the NOHC. Seeing each other on ZOOM just isn't the same!

### "In Their Own Words"

#### Recent ASTDD Board of Director Member Appointments to Other Groups

##### Adam Barefoot, Georgia State Dental Director



"Over the summer Dentaquest put out calls for applications to be an advisor for their DentaQuest Partnership (DQP) CE Advisory Committee. The Committee provides insight into their continuing dental education activities, which include live webinars, courses, workshops, and online modules offered by the Dentaquest Partnership. These CDE activities are targeted to dentists and dental related personnel interested in improving health outcomes, patient experience, and reducing cost. I was selected along with four others to participate on the committee. Also, I was appointed to the Board for the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC) at their annual Business meeting August 27. ANOHC serves to help promote, grow, network together and assist state level oral health coalitions."

##### Sam Zwetchkenbaum, Rhode Island Dental Director

"I have been elected to the Board of the Medicaid/ Medicare/CHIP Services Dental Association (MSDA). I believe they may hold a virtual conference in December."



##### Chris Farrell, Michigan Dental Director



"I have been asked to participate with the PEW dental therapy campaign on developing model state rules. I was asked as a current dental director with a state dental therapy law and to represent ASTDD too. The public hearing for the rules on dental therapy are on September 18, 2020. The MI State Oral Health Program has been asked to provide comments on the new rules, not only for dental therapy but for the general rules too."

### ASTDD Participation in New Grant

The University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine, together with the American Dental Association (ADA) Science & Research Institute, has received a new grant from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop new ways to manage acute dental pain. Titled *Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Acute Dental Pain: Development, Implementation, and Evaluation Using Data Analytics to Target An Implementation Strategy*, the grant runs from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023. Deborah Polk, PhD, assistant professor of Dental Public Health at Pitt Dental Medicine, and Alonso Carrasco-Labra, DDS, MSc, PhD, senior director of Evidence Synthesis and Translation

Research at the ADA's Science & Research Institute, will serve as the Co-Principal Investigator. ASTDD will provide dental public health expertise to the interdisciplinary team that includes experts in evidence-based guideline development, psychology, dental analgesia, clinical pharmacology, evidence-based healthcare, and implementation science. The objectives of the grant are to develop a clinical practice guideline for the management of acute dental pain, develop and deploy dissemination and implementation strategies, and evaluate the effectiveness of those strategies in changing provider prescribing behavior. Upon completion of the project, it is believed that the field will have an established standard of care, patients will receive safe and effective relief from acute dental pain, and the risk of opioid diversion, opioid use disorder, and overdose will be reduced. ASTDD will provide a public health perspective and actively participated in conceptualizing the project including conducting an online survey of state dental directors to acquire their perspectives and experience in reduction of opioid use in their states and who their partners are. Look to future *Roundup* issues for updates.

### COVID Related Calls, Workgroups and Partnerships

State dental directors continue to have group ZOOM calls every two weeks, most focused on COVID-related issues. Many COVID resources are shared via emails and many are posted on the homepage of the website. Discussions have focused on topics such as stories after dental providers reopened, allowing dentists to write orders for COVID-19 testing, any ongoing issues with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), providing preventive services via "drive up" or outdoors, states cutting adult dental benefits, what clinics are doing to improve their engineering controls, capturing race/ethnicity on Medicaid claims to get a sense of any disparities in use of dental services, adding non-traditional vaccine providers and processing expanded scope of practice of these providers in COVID-19 mass vaccination implementation, complaint-based office inspections-- announced vs unannounced, what it takes for dental offices to be able to do testing in-office. The discussions have been lively and directors appreciate the level of sharing and support.

The **Public Health Emergency Preparedness Workgroup**, chaired by Chris Farrell, with Julie Janssen (previously with the IL State Oral Health Program and the IFLOSS Coalition) serving as the consultant, met twice via ZOOM in July and once in August. They continued to provide feedback from a review of *Emergency Preparedness Protocols for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs Manual* that was developed 10 years ago and our Emergency Preparedness webpage. The workgroup will be creating a section for the manual that will help state dental directors with pandemic specific preparedness and response. They have developed a survey to identify ways that states have been involved in emergency preparedness or response especially related to COVID 19. Results will be reported in the next issue of *Roundup*.

The **State Dental Director COVID-19 School-Based Programs Workgroup** also had calls in July and August. The workgroup sent a survey to dental directors to determine how COVID-19 is impacting their sealant programs. Data from 44 states were compiled into a PowerPoint and shared with the workgroup for discussion. Interview questions were developed for follow-up calls with directors who responded to the survey; calls will begin in September. The intent of the interviews is to gain information that can be used in a "to be developed" toolkit. Lori Cofano, ASTDD consultant who leads the group, also participated in a National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) *Dental Sealants in the COVID-19 World* call, an Organization for Safety Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) listening session, *Infection Prevention Guidance in the Era of COVID-19*, and a School Based Health Alliance (SBHA) *Oral Health in School: Re-Entry Discussion Workgroup* call.

ASTDD and the **National Association of School Nurses** have collaborated to develop resources to encourage school nurses to screen children for oral health problems when oral health partners are unable to see children in schools (links provided below). Both associations are sharing these resources with our members. We encourage you to reach out to your school nurses association to find out if they are aware of the resources and to encourage them to follow the suggestions provided while school-based oral health programs are unable to see children in schools. To obtain information about your own state school nurses association, contact Elizabeth Clark, NSNA Nursing Education and Practice Specialist at [eclark@nasn.org](mailto:eclark@nasn.org).

- [Considerations for School Nurses in Return to School: Dental Screenings](#)
- [School Nurses: The Key to Good Oral Health During COVID-19 Infographic](#)

## Data Committee

Basic Screening Survey (BSS) TA and oral health surveillance TA has been interrupted by COVID-19, with some being provided only to NV, NE, and MS these past two months. Mike Manz continued to update the Emergency Department Surveillance reference document and ICD-10 code materials, while he and Kathy Phipps are still helping John O'Malley with the National Oral Health Data Portal, such as analyzing BRFSS data and including state emergency department data. Kathy also is helping the ASTDD Evaluation consultants plan a webinar on Oral Health Surveillance Evaluation.

## Communications Committee

The committee held one call during July. Jay Kumar, dental director in CA, presented a Spotlight webinar on August 12, *Interim Protocol for Preventive Dental Care in Public Health Settings*, highlighting some evidence-based and innovative techniques during the coronavirus pandemic; 119 people attended. You can view the following:

- [Recording](#)
- [PowerPoint](#)
- [Resources](#)

## State Oral Health Improvement Plan Comparison Tool

Danny A. Kalash, DMD, MPH, has been conducting research and developing a new framework to update the *State Oral Health Plan Comparison Tool* previously developed and periodically updated by Colin Reusch of the Children's Dental Health Project. He presented a poster based on his research during the 2020 virtual American Institute for Dental Public Health symposia, *State Oral Health Improvement Planning (SOHIP) Guidance Tool: A Framework for Design, Implementation, and Evaluation*, and on August 26 he presented a webinar, *State Oral Health Improvement Plan Strategy Indicators: A Conceptual Framework* to an audience of 119 ASTDD members. The *State Oral Health Improvement Plan Comparison Tool* provides a systematic and standardized approach for states to design, implement, and assess individual SOHIPs. This tool incorporates multi-level and multisector engagement to improve population oral health outcomes and maximize impact. Look for it to be posted soon on the ASTDD State Oral Health Planning and Coalition Development webpage. Danny recently finished his Dental Public Health Residency at Columbia University and is just starting a Doctoral Program in Health Policy at Johns Hopkins University. He will continue to build on this research by helping to update a *Best Practice Approach Report on State Oral Health Improvement Plans and Collaborative Planning* and develop additional resource materials. The September issue of *JADA* also featured a wonderful Commentary article by Dr. Kalash, *How COVID-19 Deepens Child Oral Health Inequities*.



## ASTDD Peer and Member Support Program

We currently have six dental directors/program managers in the mentoring program, including Matt Zaborowski, a new director in Idaho. Kimberlie Payne contacted four new associate members in July and another two in August for orientation. *Keeping the Ship Upright for Smooth Sailing: Using Mentoring to Help Steer Your Program*, originally planned as a workshop for the NOHC, will be presented via two Zoom sessions on September 9 and September 16. About 25 participants have registered for the sessions.

## Best Practices Committee (BPC), Dental Public Health Policy Committee (DPHPC)

Authors and workgroups are still working on updating materials mentioned in the last *Roundup*. The DPHPC held calls in July and August. It is revamping the format of policy statements to use with future ones. A new policy statement is being drafted on Health Equity Issues, and the Healthy People 2020 Policy Statement is being updated to address the Healthy People 2030 Objectives. Some ASTDD consultants and members attended the Healthy People 2030 launch on August 18.

## Healthy People 2030

HP2030 features 355 measurable objectives, down from more than 1,000 in HP2020, including new objectives related to opioid use disorder, flavored tobacco and e-cigarette use, and increasing broadband internet access. Greater emphasis is also placed on well-being, social determinants of health and health equity. The American Public Health Association's (APHA) *Nation's Health* newsletter notes that "HP2030 calls out current and historical racism, injustice and other forms of discrimination as root causes of poor health, and recognizes that until those factors are addressed, health disparities will persist." Visit the HP2030 website at [www.healthypeople.gov](http://www.healthypeople.gov). Topics can be searched under five major categories: Health Conditions, Health Behaviors, Populations, Settings and Systems, Social Determinants of Health. Updates to data will occur more often than in the past. The Leading Health Indicators have not yet been released. There are 13 Oral Conditions objectives categorized under General, Adolescents, Healthcare Access and Quality, Health Policy, Nutrition and Healthy Eating, Older Adults, Preventive Care and Public Health Infrastructure (Increase the number of states and DC that have an oral and craniofacial health surveillance system). Dushanka Kleinman, DDS, MSCD, one of our dental public health heroes, served as co-chair of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030. The virtual APHA meeting October 24-28 will feature many sessions related to HP 2030.

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

The SAOHC had a call in July, especially to discuss updates to school oral health policy statements including a newly renamed *Promoting Nutrition and Healthy Eating in Schools: An Important Strategy for Preventing Dental Caries*. Look for it to be posted soon. CDC's Division of Oral Health conducted *SEALS* training (a sealant program reporting software) for sealant coordinators on July 22 and Aug 5 in which Lori Cofano and Sandy Tesch, ASTDD consultants, participated. Sandy also participated in a CDC partners call/listening session on July 22 regarding states' challenges and concerns within their school sealant programs and other grant activities. CDC is revisiting cooperative agreement reporting requirements and will be providing updates to CDC-funded states in September. Several COVID-related emails/resources were posted to the CDC-funded dental sealants listserv. Sandy provided TA to IA, MO, PA, CT, and ND.

### ASTDD Fluorides Committee

The Fluorides Committee had calls in July and August. Judy Feinstein, committee consultant, participated in all four 90-minute sessions of the ADA's Fluoridation Symposium on four days in July, and Committee members Jay Kumar and Howard Pollick were presenters during the Symposium. ASTDD held a conference call with Johnny Johnson of the American Fluoridation Society and Tracy Boehmer from CDC about how ASTDD can work with states to encourage them to report their fluoridation quality data. Judy drafted a communication plan to support this work with states (starting with a short assessment) to encourage more timely participation in the CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS). The committee is also monitoring an EPA court case against community water fluoridation being heard by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court.

### Evaluation Activities

Mary Davis and JoAnna Hillman continue to review CDC progress report submissions from CDC-funded states and provide feedback to the states and to CDC. They attended CDC webinars on *SEALS* and *Lessons Learned from CDC's Models of Collaboration Grant* webinar. Currently Mary is coordinating planning for an *Evaluation of Oral Health Surveillance Systems* webinar planned for September 22, and Joanna is compiling resources and developing a draft of a future webinar on *Survey Methods* for the ASTDD consultants (later to be modified for states). They recently provided TA to MN and ND.

### National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW)

We are patiently awaiting news from the Office of Head Start on the awardee for the National Center on Health, Behavior Health and Safety (NCHBHS) Funding Opportunity, to learn if our Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) program will receive continued funding. If the award is received, some goals for the oral health project portion are to expand our highly successful DHL program and to work more closely with the Head Start regional T/TA specialists. In addition, there will be a focus on homeless groups and home visiting programs with an emphasis on virtual learning.

In the interim, work in the last few months of the current NCECHW grant continues as Kathy Hunt and Diane Flanagan, regional DHL coordinators, are reviewing select oral health resources produced under the NCECHW for scientific accuracy. Updated materials will be posted to ASTDD’s DHL webpage and to the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) webpage. A trio of presentations to launch the new social media campaign promoting the ongoing need for twice a day toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and other key messages during the COVID-19 pandemic is being led by Matt Jacob of Jacob Strategies. The presentations will be provided via the ASTDD Communications Committee Spotlight webinars, DHL webinar series, and during a biweekly state dental director ZOOM call. Lastly, a final five-year report will be forthcoming to chronicle highlights of the NCECHW oral health related grant activities.

Forty three state DHLs completed an annual assessment in August to gauge their level of involvement, confidence, and knowledge of the DHL program. Key findings include:

- ✓ 72% of DHLs are either confident/extremely confident in their DHL role
- ✓ 67% of DHLs reported positive changes in Head Start program practice as a result of their DHL work (e.g., implemented an onsite fluoride varnish program, included oral hygiene practices as part of a staff wellness program)
- ✓ 57% of DHLs reported anywhere from 1-5 Head Start programs they had contacted made practice changes as a result of their DHL work.

The assessment also provided an opportunity for DHLs to share the most rewarding aspect of being a DHL. A few comments from this year’s assessment include:

- “Being of service to others, helping to provide healthier lives for those in need.”
- “Increasing oral health equity.”
- “Seeing children and families being included in all aspects of oral health promotion.”
- “Our goals help to prevent children from unnecessary dental pain and/or treatment.”
- “Networking to improve oral health, increasing awareness of preventive health practices, providing support to health services advisory committees, connecting with others in the community around this work.”
- “Building relationships with other healthcare professionals while working together and sharing ideas to improve oral health.”
- “Helping programs feel confident in supporting families’ oral health needs.”



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### Center on Oral Health Systems Integration Initiative (COHSII)

COHSII’s efforts are led by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) in partnership with the Dental Quality Alliance and ASTDD. ASTDD COHSII consultants Harry Goodman, Kathy Geurink, and Reg Louie assisted OHRC produce three resources to help states implement the Title V national performance measure on oral health (NPM 13) and/or oral-health-related state performance measures.

- [Preventive Dental Visits for Pregnant Women Are Important!](#)
- [Preventive Dental Visits for Children and Adolescents Are Important!](#)



The infographics provide information for oral health professionals about benefits of and barriers to preventive dental visits for pregnant women (NPM 13.1) and children and adolescents ages 1–17 (NPM 13.2). The resources can be shared with program administrators and other stakeholders to raise their awareness about

Title V NPM 13 and the importance of preventive dental visits to reduce oral health problems and unnecessary treatment expenses.

- [Title V National Performance Measure 13 \(Oral Health\): Strategies for Success, second edition](#)

The second edition includes three new strategies for NPM 13.1 and NPM 13.2 focused on a continuum of teledentistry. The strategies can help states develop and implement telecommunication technologies to provide preventive dental visits for pregnant women, children, and adolescents. States contemplating use of teledentistry will find the first strategy useful, and states beginning to implement or implementing teledentistry will find the second and third strategies useful. For all strategies, the report presents sample evidence-based or evidence-informed strategy measures (ESMs), possible data sources for ESMs, and a comprehensive list of resources.



### US Territorial Activities

A part of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's (MCHB) series of technical assistance monthly Zoom calls with the MCH directors/programs in the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI), a session entitled, *Oral Health Technical Assistance 2.0 for MCH Title V Programs in the US Affiliated Pacific Islands*, was held on August 24/25, 2020. In addition to the MCH directors, the jurisdiction/territorial dental chiefs were invited to participate. Reg Louie (ASTDD consultant) and Katrina Holt (Director, OHRC) served as the primary facilitators for the sessions, which featured sharing the past year's MCH-oral health accomplishments/challenges and plans for FY 2021. Sixteen participants spanned from Rockville, MD to Guam. This session was a follow-up to a TA session in 2019 and was in advance of the September submission of the FY2021 Block Grant applications. This was with the intention that oral health would be included as an integral component in their proposed MCH plans. Unfortunately, two jurisdictions (CNMI and FSM) that chose NPM 13.2 (preventive dental visit for children and adolescents in the past year) for FY 2019 will not retain it for FY 2020. However, CNMI will embed oral health into a chosen NPM in 2020. American Samoa will likely select NPM 13 and Republic of the Marshall Islands may as well. This effort is part of a larger partnership effort between ASTDD and the OHRC and supported by its MCHB-funded COHSII project.

Ohnmar Tut continues to provide technical assistance to the USAPI, especially around Basic Screening Survey (BSS) plans, some of which have been interrupted by COVID. We are excited to announce that we are developing new webpages for the ASTDD website for the USAPI, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Look for them later this fall!

### Blast from the Past

Many of you know Jack Dillenburg, former dental director for Arizona and California, and previous Dean of the ATSU Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health. What you might not know is that he was elected Mayor of Jerome AZ, a small (457 residents) artist community in the mountains near Sedona, the other day! Here is an update he shared. "Since I 'retired' as the inaugural dean of the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health after 15 years, I have been doing webinars to different groups around the world on the importance of integrating oral health into primary care, the necessity and safety of visiting the dentist and how the dental team is critical to improving overall health. I started a nonprofit Global Smile, Health that is making a difference in global oral health on issues including access to care to eliminating Infant Oral Mutilation in Africa. I serve as the Global Ambassador for the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry, which focuses on those with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities and as the health advisor to the Special Olympics. Currently I am the Board Vice-Chairman for the Brighterway Institute serving the homeless in Arizona. I was recently selected by the Arizona Supreme Court to serve as a Public Member of their Attorney Discipline Probable Cause Committee. So I am keeping busy." Busy is an understatement!!!



## Meetings

**American Institute of Dental Public Health (AIDPH) Virtual Symposium, *Reimagining Dental Public Health Through Resiliency and Community*. August 4-5, 2020. Bev Isman, Lori Cofano and John Welby reporting with other ASTDD members attending. There were approximately 90 attendees.**

Session formats included:

- Concurrent learning labs, *Exploring Cross-Cutting Inequity and Structural Gaps in the Oral Health Care System*, led by Dr. Emily Fleming and Dr. Sean Boynes
- Breakout room discussing the learning lab issues
- Plenary featuring Dr. Abdul El-Sayed speaking on *Understanding the Insecurity Epidemic*
- Interactive panel addressing the meeting theme,
- Learning labs on designing solutions focused on underserved populations such as people who are homeless, disabled, LGBTQIA, communities of color
- Reporting from the breakouts and discussing calls to action
- Pre-recorded posters where two formats were allowed—a banner as if it were in a regular session, and PowerPoint slides; presenters had about five minutes to discuss their posters.

The ADA sponsored a coffee break coupon for a free \$5 Starbucks gift card for each attendee.

**International Association for Dental Research, *Virtual General Sessions and Symposia*, July 1, 2020 Bev Isman reporting**

The one-day Virtual General Session Day was held on July 1 with two distinguished speakers, Dr. Otis Brawley discussing *Cancer Control in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and Dr. Janine Austin Clayton presenting, *Sex and Gender Influences Across the Biomedical and Dental Research Continuum: A Value Added Proposition*, and Plenary Sessions focusing on *Artificial Intelligence in Research*, and *Genetic Insights into Diagnostics and Therapeutics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Twelve Symposia were also available for viewing such as *Time to Change Dental Education: From Evidence to Action*, *Does Nutritional Path Link Oral Health and Frailty*, and *Areca Nut and Oral Cancer*. Slides and audio recordings are available until July 2023, and presentations can be downloaded as pdf files. In addition, IADR will be hosting the 2020 Behavioral and Social Oral Health Sciences Summit (<https://www.bsosummit2020.com/>) virtually on October 29 and 30. Goals of the Summit include building consensus among health scientists and clinicians about essential focus areas, identifying critical next steps for the field, and fostering transdisciplinary collaboration. A major outcome of the Summit will be a planned consensus statement highlighting the role of behavioral and social sciences in oral health. In addition, meeting proceedings will be published. The 2021 IADR/AADR/CADR General Session will be held in Boston, MA from July 21-24, offering both virtual components and in-person events. Virtual content will be recorded and available afterwards in the IADR CE On Demand library, which will be free for all IADR members and available for purchase by nonmembers.

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