



This issue includes a brief overview of the ASTDD Virtual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony held on May 13, as well as a two messages from our new president and updates to consultant and committee activities. Links to the various presentation PowerPoints and videos can be accessed via the Members Only section of the ASTDD website. The awards brochures and Powerpoint are posted on the ASTDD Homepage.

NOHC Awards



Distinguished Service Award (Nominee may be a member, associate member or non-member or organization who has made a significant contribution to ASTDD programs, initiatives, or dental public health). A native of Myanmar in Southeast Asia, Dr. Ohnmar Tut has been dedicated to dental public health for more than 45 years and distinguished herself from Southeast Asia, across the Pacific from New Zealand to Micronesia/Polynesia and from Seattle to Washington, DC. Since 2018 she has served as the ASTDD Consultant for Pacific Territorial Oral Health Programs. She was a critical and essential part of ASTDD’s team in implementing the oral health infrastructure needs assessment and strategies project targeting the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI) that was supported by the CDC Cooperative Agreement. Dr. Reg Louie presented his nominating comments, and Ohmar accepted the award via a pre-recorded video from her home in Australia as it would have been the middle of the night for her during the live ceremony.



Greg McClure Memorial President’s Award (Given at the discretion of the ASTDD President). Matt Jacob is the owner of Jacob Strategies, a communications and marketing consultancy that advises stakeholders in the field of dental public health. Previously, he managed communications and media outreach for the Pew Children’s Dental Campaign and the Children’s Dental Health Project. Matt is an ASTDD associate member who serves on ASTDD’s Communications Committee and its Social Media Working Group. Matt has given presentations on oral health-related communication strategies to several organizations. His communication products have received multiple awards from the National Public Health Information Coalition. In 2014, he was named a Health Literacy Hero by HealthLiteracyMonth.org. Matt and John Welby, from the MD Oral Health Program, have worked as a team on a Messaging Matrix project for the past two years for ASTDD, conducting trainings and NOHC workshops as well as providing feedback and tips to DPH residents presenting projects during the Five-Minute Masterpiece session at the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC).



Fluoridation Special Merit Award (Given to recognize an outstanding contribution toward the progress of fluoridation). The American Fluoridation Society (AFS) was founded in 2014 by a group of concerned professionals who were committed to seeing all residents of the United States served by community water systems enjoy the benefits of community water fluoridation (CWF). The Society's efforts are equally directed to the prevention of rollback attempts by opponents of CWF, and to the initiation of CWF where it has not previously been available. AFS members provide "boots on the ground" to help communities with local fluoridation activities, train local advocates for CWF promotion; organize scientific meetings to promote CWF; work at the local, state, and national levels to extend CWF in the US; research scientifically sound publications; comment on published articles and reports; and maintain links and sharing information with international colleagues.



NOHC Business Meeting

The 2019 ASTDD Annual Report, 2019 ASTDD Highlights PowerPoint, Business Meeting PowerPoint and Business Meeting Minutes are posted on the homepage of the website. RADM Timothy Ricks provided an overview of his USPHS Chief Dental Officer Roles and Responsibilities, and Casey Hannan from CDC provided updates from the Division of Oral Health.

President's Message during Business Meeting

Thank you, Jason Roush and to all the previous presidents of ASTDD. (I would like to acknowledge some that are present on the call--Kimberlie Payne, Chris Wood, Dean Perkins, Harry Goodman and any others I may have missed). I am honored to be included in this prestigious company. (I also would like to acknowledge my family and friends that are on the call, my family, mom, sister, brother, friends, and Oral Health Program staff).



ASTDD was formed in 1948 and has a long history of promoting and supporting a strong governmental oral health presence in every state and territory. In thinking of what to say, I looked at the ASTDD website and read Who We Are, Mission and Vision statements. The Mission states that we strive for a strong and effective governmental oral health presence. That presence cannot operate in a silo but must merge as part of a whole. As the President, I have wondered about how to convey my purpose for this organization. How can I convey the value of this position and the importance to ASTDD? Should I espouse a mission and vision too? How do I create an inspirational tone and convey that to other dental directors? How do I encourage ideas, possibilities, and imagination?

So, My Vision...that ASTDD position itself to engage in health systems change, collaborations and collective impact. So how do you become involved in systems change? In order to be engaged in systems change, and become a systems thinker, you need to be concerned with the whole, be concerned with the process, try to find and identify patterns, and be more attentive to interactions and patterns of communication. That is a lot of big words. It also sounds very daunting. I did a little more research and found something a little simpler that I could relate to: **DOTS**.

From a leadership academy I attended, I read about Sir Richard Branson and the culture he seeks to create. He uses this equation: **A+B+C+D=Always Be Connecting the Dots**. That doesn't mean that the dots are always linear. In fact, the dots can be connected in any way that you see fit to create interconnectedness. Another way is to think of a spider web and all its interconnectedness. **There are many dots to connect and I wove in the ASTDD mission and vision statements into these connections:**

- **Connecting ideas with different ones to create new and unusual concepts:** Assist in the development of initiatives to prevent and control oral diseases

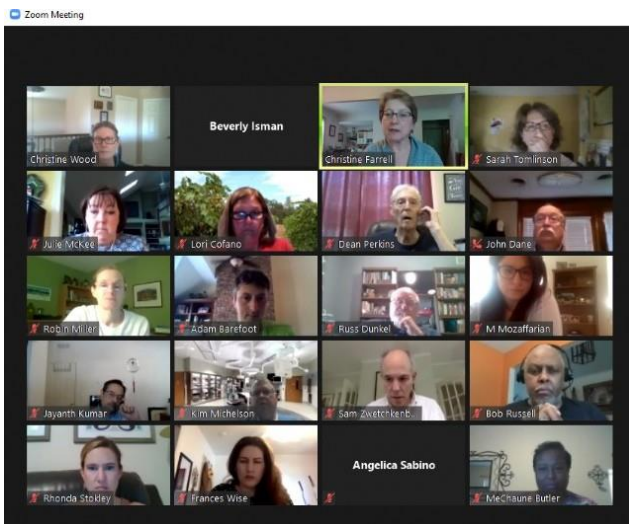
- **Connecting diverse people to combine talents, experience and perspectives:** Strengthen and foster relationships within our own departments and learn to reach out to different areas to begin a dialogue
- **Connecting partners with State Oral Health Programs (SOHPs) to gain capability and reach:** Integration and collaboration with a variety of partners
- **Connecting SOHPs needs and wants, to solve bigger problems:** Support and strengthen dental directors to increase retention and longevity
- **Connecting ideas from different places, across geographies and sectors:** By addressing oral health equity
- **Connecting products and services into richer SOHP experiences:** Learn from other states, share ideas and keep abreast of new practices
- **Connecting SOHPs in new ways to operate different and better:** Promote evidence-based oral health policies and practices
- **Connecting media, channels and market networks to amplify the impact:** Promote use of social media, creating communication plans, developing blogs and participating in Twitter storms
- **Connecting SOHPs with partners to build richer communities:** Increase awareness of oral health as an important and integral part of overall health.

My Simple Vision.... Connect and use Dots to explore new models, ideas and build systems. I challenge all of you to connect some dots throughout the course of the year:

- Introduce yourself to someone new. Ask them a question to start a conversation
- Invite a new stakeholder to the table to collaborate on a new topic and/or idea
- Review your OH program alignment and see how you can connect with other units in your department
- Mentor someone—it can be a student, staff member, or colleague.

2020 is a year of changes and milestones, such as the 2020 Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health to be released late this year, leap year, and election year...and let’s not forget COVID-19...so connect new dots and incorporate them into your new system. The real skill is to see the bigger picture, the bigger space in which you can make the new connections – and then to make those connections – interesting, unusual, distinctive, better. There is a lot of energy in this room so harness it, use the power of the energy and make some new connections. Thank you.

President’s Message for this Roundup Issue



In my President’s speech I mentioned that my simple vision was “Connect and Use Dots to explore new models, ideas and systems.” In the past couple of months, and for the future, I believe that connecting new ideas to create new and unusual concepts to assist in the development of initiatives to prevent and control oral diseases and other diseases is what we have been doing. The Thursday evening dental director calls since early April have brought many of us together to strengthen and foster relationships and to connect with other partners to gain capability and reach. The Thursday evening calls have averaged around 30 participants each week, with several discussion topics, the majority around how states are managing within the COVID-19 pandemic. Notes from the meetings are shared with all dental directors so those not able to make the call can see the topics discussed. I hope these calls are helping support and strengthen dental directors in their work.

Another connection that began by looking at other ideas from different places, across geographies and sectors is to address oral health equity. One of the Thursday evening dental director calls did address health equity and racism. This is not an easy subject to approach and it may make some feel uncomfortable. The Michigan Public Health Administration has been discussing diversity, equity and inclusion for many years. This is an ongoing process that continues today. I

think we are all aware of oral health disparities and inequities that face many populations. Learning and becoming educated on these topics can help foster conversations and build richer communities. In the bureau where I work, we have created a Health Equity library. It is small but has a few books that may be of interest--*Teeth* by Mary Otto and *\$2 a Day/Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Kathryn Edin and H. Luke Shaefer are a couple of them. The current book I am reading from the library is *How to be Less Stupid about Race* by Crystal M. Fleming. I would encourage you to read them.

COVID Workgroups

During one of the dental directors' COVID calls, they requested the formation of two new workgroups. One workgroup is the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Workgroup, chaired by Chris Farrell, with Julie Janssen, who was the lead for the IL Oral Health Program for five years, serving as the consultant. They are beginning to meet to discuss goals and will review our *Emergency Preparedness Protocols for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs Manual* that was developed 10 years ago and also our Emergency Preparedness webpage. The focus of both was primarily related to hurricane response rather than pandemics. The second workgroup will focus on developing ideas for school programs. Lori Cofano, consultant for the ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee, will lead the workgroup. Two calls have been held, and the workgroup sent a survey to dental directors to determine how COVID-19 is impacting their sealant programs. On a related note, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials created [a Blog on Ensuring Safe Access to Oral Healthcare During COVID-19](#).

Data Committee

During the past two months, Kathy Phipps and Mike Manz provided Basic Screening Survey (BSS) TA and oral health surveillance TA to the following states/territories – Delaware, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana and American Samoa. To augment our TA resources for states conducting BSS surveys, Kathy is providing BSS training to Sahiti Bhaskara, BDS, MPH (in Epidemiology) to enable her to serve as a ASTDD consultant in the future. Sahiti was a recipient of the Anthony Westwater Jong post-professional student research award from the American Public Health Association (APHA) in 2014 for her work during several student research and internship positions at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Sahiti worked for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Oral Health Program as a field coordinator and epidemiologist for Minnesota's statewide oral health and height/weight assessment of 3rd graders. In 2015, Sahiti joined the CDC as a Dental Public Health Resident and completed a field experience with the MDH conducting research on the oral health status of children and adolescents with chronic health conditions. In 2016 Dr Bhaskara joined the Center for Oral Health as Director of Public Policy Research. This year she began a doctoral inter-degree program with Evaluation and Applied Research Methods at Claremont College in California.

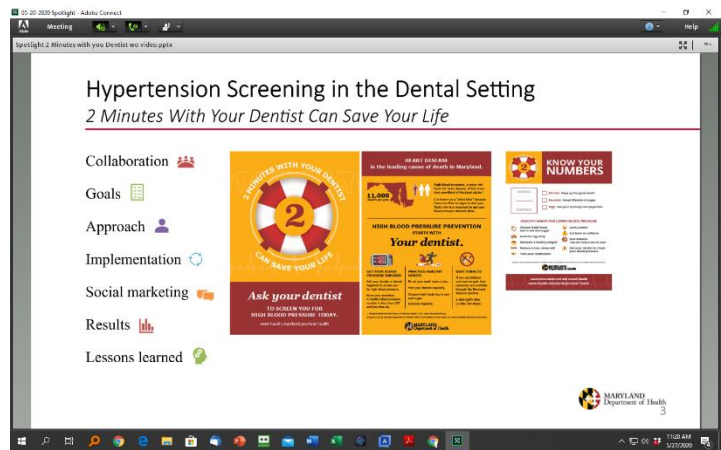
Kathy added Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) questions to the state-added questions document for BRFSS, PRAMS and YRBS and posted the updated [document](#). Mike continued to update the Emergency Department surveillance reference document and ICD-10 code materials, while Kathy created three new Infographics with assistance from the Data Committee and Communications Committee to highlight some important information from the *ASTDD State Synopses 2020*, noting where there have been improvements, what additional actions are needed to achieve improvements, and how states can access ASTDD resources for assistance.

- [The Importance of State Oral Health Surveillance Systems](#)
- [Important State Collaborations around Oral Health and Chronic Diseases](#)
- [The Importance of State Oral Health Program Plans](#)

John O'Malley and colleagues are developing the national oral health data portal in two phases: the first is to develop the overall look and feel of the data portal website. Once finished, the second phase will be to develop the look and feel of Tableau vizzes (data visualizations.) ASTDD has submitted a grant request to the Delta Dental Foundation of Michigan for funding to carry us into the Fall of 2021, expanding the scope of our project to include unique state-based datasets, updating 2020 data, and begin using existing public data in new ways such as imputing local periodontitis rates based on NHANES data or replicating the ADA Health Policy Institute dental access maps. Kathy Phipps is analyzing BRFSS data for the portal and Mike is updating emergency department surveillance data for the portal.

Communications Committee

John Welby presented *Maryland's Hypertension Screening in the Dental Setting* as an ASTDD Spotlight webinar on May 27 with 82 attendees. Attendees had many questions and the session was a huge success. John and Kimberlie Payne are providing TA to ND and PA on Hypertension screening programs as a result of the exposure we gained through the Spotlight presentation. Jay Kumar has agreed to present the next Spotlight sometime in August on *COVID 19: Recommended Protocol for Dental Health Care Professionals to Reduce Aerosols During Preventive Dental Visits*. John also presented a session during the Virtual NOHC, *Getting People to Choose Healthy, How Social Marketing Can Help*, with 139 attendees. John and Matt Jacob converted their weekend NOHC workshop, *Giving Oral Health Talks*, into two virtual sessions in June that included a participatory speaking exercise; 23 ASTDD members participated. (See the separate *Roundup on the Virtual NOHC*) Participants rated themselves using a 1-10 point scale on confidence levels in giving an effective public talk or presentation about oral health before the sessions and afterward. Pre-session ratings were mostly 5 or lower (not very confident) while the majority of people rated themselves 7 or higher (very confident) after the training. Matt also has been presenting a Health Communication's Virtual Learning Series for the Texas Oral Health Coalition that is open to anyone interested. They run through August 13, with registration available via the Coalition website at <https://txohc.org/education/health-communications-series/>.



ASTDD Peer and Member Support Program

We currently have ten dental directors/program managers in the mentoring program; no new mentoring pairs have joined the program since the last issue of *Roundup*. Kimberlie Payne contacted eight new associate members in May and another eight in June for orientation.

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

Authors and workgroups are still working 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 the Policy Statement on Opioids Prescribing and Dentistry. Authors of the *Promoting Antibiotic Stewardship in Dentistry Policy Statement* presented a virtual NOHC session on the topic. (See the *Roundup on the Virtual NOHC*).

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

The School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC) had a call May 21 where they discussed reviewing and updating policy statements and/or white papers relevant to school and adolescent oral health as well as the effects of COVID on school sealant programs. Many sealant staff have been reassigned due to COVID-19. Some programs were concerned about funding that has been redirected to the COVID-19 response. CDC conducted phone call with CDC-funded SOHP sealant coordinators to discuss impact of pandemic on CA DP18-1810 reporting requirements, funding, and sealant programs. Many states had questions about school re-openings. The School Based Health Alliance (SBHA) is collecting initial information; ultimately it will be up to superintendents – so it's all over the board. Sandy Tesch posted several COVID-related emails/resources to the cdc-funded dental sealants listserv. The SAOHC webpage now includes the National Maternal and Child Health OHRC's newly released *Nutrition and Oral Health: A Resource Guide* and the School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA) resource: [School Oral Health Playbook](#). Sandy Tesch conducted a Sealants CoP call on June 29 with CDC-funded state sealant coordinators to solicit questions regarding completion of the CDC sustainability plan/template for the cooperative agreement. She prepared questions from grantees and submitted to CDC to address in a future webinar. The new dates for CDC SEALS trainings are July 22 and August 5. She also provided TA to IA, LA, NM, PA OH Coalition and VT.

ASTDD Fluorides Committee

Committee meetings were held in May and June. The *Fluoridation Awards Toolkit* was revised to include templates and instructions for states to prepare their own award certificates, with updated language in sample letters. The toolkit was emailed with an overview to all state dental directors. Judy Feinstein organized the 2019 annual fluoridation awards for upload to the Awards database and prepared and ran the Fluoridation Awards PowerPoint during the Awards ceremony. The Committee presented the 2020 Fluoridation Merit Award to The American Fluoridation Society as noted above. The brochure and PowerPoint also featured the list of 50-Year Awards for Continuous Water Fluoridation, the Community Initiative Awards to two communities that passed water fluoridation initiatives during the past calendar year, the six Community Fluoridation Reaffirmation Awards, and the six states receiving the State Fluoridation Quality Awards.

Judy also worked with Tracy Boehmer to plan the *CDC Annual Fluoridation Update* on May 20 as part of the virtual NOHC (see the *Roundup on the Virtual 2020 NOHC*). This virtual session was attended by more than 120 people and also served as the ASTDD/CDC May CWF Community of Practice webinar. The presentations are posted in the Members Only section of the ASTDD website. During the next month the Fluorides Committee will be assessing the topics that emerged in the 2020 survey of state dental directors for future resource development around fluoridation.

Evaluation Activities

JoAnna Hillman and Mary Davis continue to provide general assistance and TA to CDC-funded evaluators through their listserv and emails. Mary met with the AR evaluator to discuss reporting requirements. JoAnna provided TA on a MN water hydration station survey and continues to provide TA to MN on several topics. She also held a TA meeting with Georgia and followed up on resources and questions. Mary polled CDC OH program-funded evaluators on preferences for training approaches and contacted each state to determine current and future needs for evaluation TA. She also helped conduct a brief survey of dental directors on opioid practices and TA needs. Both consultants met with ASTDD/CDC consultants and experts on training needs of CDC-funded oral health programs around content areas highlighted in the state cooperative agreement (sealants, fluorides, surveillance). They also reviewed state evaluation questions and qualitative thematic analysis to inform CoP sessions and the CDC webinar series. JoAnna developed COP evaluations in survey monkey for CWF and Dental Sealant COPs. They are planning for the upcoming review of CDC-funded state progress and/or evaluation reports. JoAnna also helped the ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee with design of their Survey Monkey survey to be distributed later this summer.

National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW)

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic and the continuing need for children in Head Start Programs to continue practicing oral hygiene while at home, the NCECHS Oral Health Project will make use of social media platforms to promote the ongoing need for twice a day toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and other key messages. ASTDD has contracted with Marketing for Change and Matt Jacob to provide the following communication, behavior-change marketing, and creative services:

- Creation of a series of evidence based key messages
- Creation of video/graphic content to support the key messages
- One 1 1/2 to 2 minute video
- Two 15-30 second videos
- Two still graphics.

A workgroup of some Dental Hygienist Liaisons (DHLs) and community Head Start representatives is reviewing the draft messages and graphics. We're very excited about this project and hope to release it in August.

We are in the last year of the current NCECHW grant and assisted the OHRC in developing a statement of work and budget for a proposal submitted in response to a new Office of Head Start National Center on Health, Behavior Health and Safety (NCHBHS) Funding Opportunity, this time with Educational Development Center (EDC), a global nonprofit that advances lasting solutions to improve education, promote health and expand economic opportunity, as the lead organization. Our oral health project portion hopes to expand on our highly successful Dental Hygienist Liaison program and work more closely with the Head Start regional T/TA specialists. The goal of this center is to develop and deliver

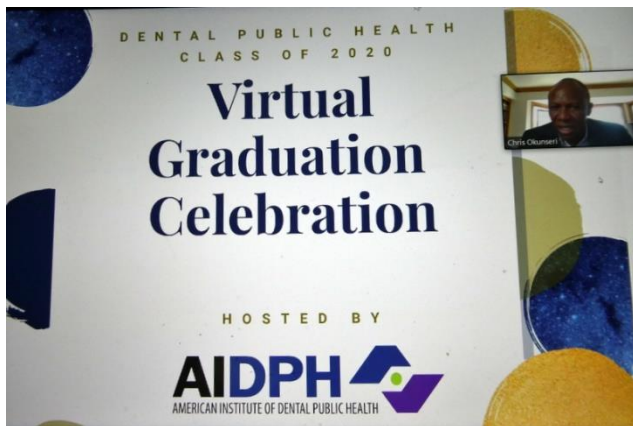
T/TA through both a trauma-informed and social determinants of health lens. New focus areas include staff wellness; behavioral health promotion and prevention; prevention of mental illness and substance use disorders; safety and safety practices; child and adult trauma, incidents and maltreatment; emergency preparedness, response and recovery; and environmental health. There is also a focus on homeless groups and home visiting programs. There is more emphasis on virtual learning. Fingers crossed that we are funded again!

Michelle Landrum, Beth Stewart, Michelle Martin and Diane Flanagan presented a Virtual 2020 NOHC session, *Creating Change by Using Interprofessional Collaboration to Increase Access to Care and Improve Oral Health Literacy*, on June 26, with 124 people attending. See the *RoundupVirtual NOHC* special issue for more information.

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 American Dental Association and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD). ASTDD COHSII consultants Harry Goodman, Kathy Geurink, and Reg Louie assisted OHRC in developing resources to help states implementing the Title V national performance measure on oral health (NPM 13) and/or oral-health-related state performance measures. The publication, *Title V National Performance Measure 13 (Oral Health): Strategies for Success*, is being expanded to include three strategies on teledentistry for NPM 13.1 (preventive dental visits for pregnant women) and for NPM 13.2 (preventive dental visits for children and adolescents, ages 1–17) in response to COVID-19 and the increased use of teledentistry to provide and support oral health care delivery. OHRC and ASTDD are grateful to John Dane (Missouri), Russ Dunkel (Wisconsin), and Chris Farrell (Michigan) for reviewing draft teledentistry strategies. In addition, OHRC and ASTDD staff are developing two infographics for state oral health program staff to use as tools to raise the state MCH director's and other key stakeholders' awareness of the importance of preventive dental visits. These resources will be available in late July.

Honoring the Dental Public Health Residents: A Virtual Graduation Hosted by AIDPH



Several of us attended this virtual graduation to celebrate the many dental public health residents who have worked with us during the past year or two on projects. It was difficult to take photos as there were multiple screen pages and tiny videos, so I apologize that many of you are not pictured. We especially want to acknowledge Marcia Parker, who has served as our outstanding Project officer on our CDC grant for the past few years, and is the Program Team Lead for the CDC Division of Oral Health. We hope this new wave of talented individuals will continue to be involved in ASTDD, hopefully in leadership positions one day!



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