



## ASTDD Roundup for June and July

### Selected Consultant, Committee, Project and Meeting Summaries

#### ASTDD Fluorides Committee



A repeat of the webinar “Communicating Your Messages about Community Water Fluoridation” was held on June 17 and was recorded (will be posted in the future). A third webinar via Zoom for CWF Community of Practice for the CDC-funded states was held on July 9, with a focus on developing state Community Water Fluoridation plans.

#### School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOH) and Dental Sealant Consultant

Donna Behrens, consultant to the SAOH, is available to answer questions or provide TA about integration of oral health into school health ([donnambehr@gmail.com](mailto:donnambehr@gmail.com)), while Sandy Tesch, Dental Sealant Coordinator, provides TA around school-based dental sealant programs ([sandytrdh@gmail.com](mailto:sandytrdh@gmail.com)); during June and July she provided email technical assistance to seven states on various sealant related issues as well as monitoring and posting messages on the CDC-funded states dental sealant group listserv and the ASTDD sealant listserv. The SAOH committee, with Sandy and Donna, held a July 17 webinar, *Successfully Working with Schools to Improve Oral Health Consent Returns*; the [recording](#) and [slides](#) are now posted on the SAOH webpage.

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

The [Dental Public Health Residency Directors Guidance](#) document and [Guidance for Drafting ASTDD Resource Documents](#) were developed jointly by the two committees and are posted to the BPC page and the DPHPC page. ASTDD has been fortunate to have several DPH residents from many programs serve as authors or researchers on ASTDD projects, especially white papers and Best Practice Approach Reports.

#### Communications Committee

Quarterly webinars are being planned to highlight ASTDD projects or committee successes and challenges. The first webinar targeted for October will highlight Dental Hygienist Liaisons’ successful collaborations with state oral health programs. Watch for more information about how to attend in the Weekly Digest.

#### Data Committee

Mike Manz and Kathy Phipps provided BSS or oral health surveillance TA to 11 states during June and July. Additional TA was provided to some of the territories (see other article.) As a reminder, the *2019 State Synopses Report* is posted in the Members Only section of the website, but the [Summary Report](#) is posted on the Data Committee webpage.

#### ASTDD Peer Support Program

Three new state dental directors joined the peer support program: Dayna Brinckman (KS) mentored by Kathy Weno and Bob Russell; Maryanne Goss (CT) mentored by Katya Mauritson (CO); and Darwin Hayes (NJ) mentored by Sam Zwetchkenbaum (RI). Debony Hughes and Katya Mauritson completed their one-year evaluations as a mentoring pair. Kimberlie Payne oriented three new ASTDD members in July.

#### ASTDD Evaluation Consultants

The consultants have been reviewing the need for collecting additional evaluation information to include in the next CDC progress report and also planning webinars with the CDC staff. They continue TA with states on evaluation planning and posting updates from CDC and evaluation tips on the evaluators’ listserv for CDC-funded states.

## ASTDD Territorial Oral Health Needs Assessment and Technical Assistance Project

ASTDD consultants Reg Louie, Ohnmar Tut, and Bev Isman have worked on multiple drafts of the territorial oral health needs assessment report, including *The Oral Health Environment in the USAPIs: Infrastructure Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities*. Magda de la Torre is working with the dental director and chronic disease director from Puerto Rico on a similar report. She traveled to St. Thomas and St. John from July 15-19, 2019 to conduct meetings with key oral health advocates in the USVI (see photo of one group). Upon her return, she, Reg and Bev had a call with the USVI health department staff as she was unable to get over to St Croix where the offices are located. A similar USVI report is being drafted.



Technical assistance provided by Dr. Tut in the Pacific during these months included:

- Follow up with American Samoa after their BSS training; helped them with their funding request to PIPCA for silver diamine fluoride training in October
- Preparation for and conducting BSS training on Guam with the dental staff (see photo); discussed dental workforce issues and recruitment of dentists and DAs in Guam public health clinics; met with Public Health agency leadership and discussed reimplementing the school sealant program and collecting and reporting using the BSS data for the existing fluoride varnish program.
- Worked with Kathy Phipps to finalize a proposal for CNMI BSS training next spring to be funded through their HRSA Oral Health Workforce grant; also discussed needs assessment and TA/training needs with the Dental Chief.
- Co-trained on silver diamine fluoride, fluoride varnish safety in younger children, and betel use prevention and cessation in young adults in Saipan.
- Visited Rota and Tinian Health Centers and Dental Clinics, and discussed with the Resident Directors their TA and training needs and integration of oral health into other MCH/PH programs as a 'wrap around program.'



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

Kathy Geurink, Harry Goodman, and Reg Louie, ASTDD consultants, and Chris Wood, ASTDD executive director, reviewed evaluation comments from the Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement (PIOHQI) learning session (meeting) held on May 7-8, 2019 in Alexandria, VA; assisted in the preparation of the PIOHQI final report that was submitted to HRSA, MCHB; and are helping to plan support for the new MCHB-funded Network for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) within the Maternal and Child Safety Net learning collaborative.

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

At the ADHA meeting in Louisville, KY, June 21-23, Michelle Landrum, lead ASTDD consultant for the NCECHW, accepted an ADHA 2019 Presidential Citation on behalf of the Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) project; see video of presentation at <https://youtu.be/d212uZaS-Uk>. The citation acknowledges exemplary contributions to ADHA and the dental hygiene profession. The Region 5 and Wisconsin state DHL, Diane Flanagan (pictured with the ADHA president), was also honored with the 2019 Award for Excellence in Dental Hygiene for her outstanding career as a dental hygienist. April Sluder, Idaho DHL, was the featured hygienist for ADHA's Member Monday in their online Update and on Facebook.



Increasingly, [the DHLs](#) are called upon to provide a variety of services. In addition to giving presentations at state and local settings, DHLs serve on health services advisory committees and collaborate with Head Start regional health specialists, state collaboration offices, Head Start program staff, oral health professionals and other health professionals,

child care agencies, and other community partners. New DHLs were recruited in ND, NH and OH. This is the first time we have 100% of the state DHL volunteer positions filled.

The NCECHW Oral Health Workgroup Meeting was held at Georgetown University in DC on June 11 to update and gain input from workgroup members on this year's accomplishments, current activities and emerging issues to inform NCECHW's oral health workplan and development of action steps. Topics of discussion included 1) fluoride toothpaste, 2) silver diamine fluoride, 3) teledentistry, 4) the upcoming Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health, 5) pregnant women and oral health, and 6) medical and dental integration. In addition to producing monthly issues of *Brush Up on Oral Health*, NCECHW released four new resources in FY19:

- *Checklist for Child Care Staff: Best Practices for Good Oral Health* handout
- *Getting to Know Me: Information for Your Child's Dental Office* form
- *Partnering with Parents to Improve Children's Oral Health: Facilitator's Guide*
- *Steps for Toothbrushing at the Table: Growing Healthy Smiles in Early Care and Education Programs* video.

The June issue of *Brush Up* focused on Home Visiting and the July issue on Rural Oral Health. Topical issues posted on the [Brush Up page](#) on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) website have been reorganized under the following categories: 1) Oral health promotion, 2) Children's oral health, 3) Children with disabilities and oral health, 4) Fluoride toothpaste, toothbrushing, fluoride supplements, and fluoridated water, 5) Oral health care and dental visits, 6) Oral health for adults, including pregnant women, and 7) Health literacy, language, and culture. A draft of the tipsheet, *Understanding the Requirements for an Oral Exam for Pregnant Women and Children Enrolled in Head Start*, was shared in advance of the meeting and discussed.

### Recent Meetings

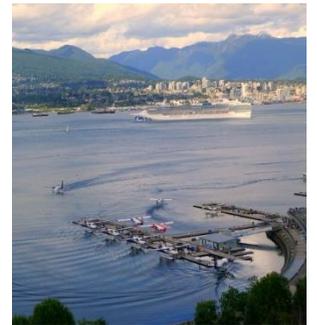
#### **National Governors Association (NGA) Meeting, Improving Capacity for Health Care Service Delivery, Indianapolis, IN, June 5-6, 2019; Chris Farrell reporting**

Chris attended as part of a state team; of the 20 state teams invited, there were five dental directors from MN, NV, MI, DE and the Northern Mariana Islands. One of the topics was oral health. There were several different breakouts and we all managed to make a comment about oral health in each one. There was a specific oral health session that discussed rural health and telehealth. Shane Rogers from the HRSA Oral Health Branch also spoke. The room was full, the discussion was robust, and the moderator had to stop the discussions since it was the end of the day. Many ideas were exchanged during the networking sessions. The resource guide developed at the meeting is available [here](#), which includes speaker presentations. ASTDD needs to keep in touch with NGA, NCSL and NASHP (NGA and NCSL were co-sponsors).

#### **International/American/Canadian Associations for Dental Research (IADR/AADR/CADR) General Session and Exhibition, Vancouver BC, June 18-21, 2019; Bev Isman reporting**

The purpose of this conference is to present new research from international presenters using a variety of formats; for the various Scientific Groups/Networks, Councils and Committees and Regional Division Sections to meet; and to present awards. Some of the sessions I attended included:

- Oral Epidemiology Forum and Poster Session
- Novel Nicotine Products and Oral Health: The Emerging Evidence Base
- Improve Oral Health for Older Adults Globally: Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Microbes and Oral Cancer
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Medicine is Transforming Healthcare (Distinguished Lecturer series)
- Poster sessions: Determinants and Outcomes; Caregivers, ECC, Literacy & Behaviors, Policy and Programs; Teledentistry; Big Data in Oral Health Research; Oral Health, Health Behaviors, Determinants and Outcomes; Global Oral Health Inequalities Research Network



- Future Promise and Critical Research Needs in Special Care Communities
- Developing & Launching Children’s Caries Prevention Trials to Reduce Disparities
- Oral Health Inequalities and Stigma Across Different Population Groups (homeless, frail elders, incarcerated, working poor)
- The Microbial session was interesting: evidence suggests that the lung microbiome originates in the oral microbiome; oral microbiome is also associated with pancreatic cancer; *p. gingivalis* is associated with non-oral cancer; HPV associated O/P cancers have a better prognosis than non-HPV O/P cancers; HPV16+ associated infected persons have a lower risk of O/P cancers than HPV16- ones.
- The Nicotine session also was interesting. Some key points: e cigarettes stress the subgingival environment, which then promotes biofilm growth—many of these changes are due to the glycine vehicle more than the nicotine; there are many confounders in recent studies that complicate the research, e.g., definition of vapers and if that includes former smokers; variability in products, time lag of health effects.
- More of the caries prevention trials that use oral health communication and promotion interventions are using or adapting established theoretical frameworks than previously.

I would encourage more state oral health program staff to attend AADR/IADR meetings, especially to learn about new research that is not yet published. The next IADR/AADR/CADR meeting is in Washington DC March 18-21, 2020. Learn more at <https://www.iadr.org/>.

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