Since 2011, the OHRC has contracted with ASTDD to coordinate the dental hygienist liaison (DHL) project where one DHL in each state volunteers to serve as a communication link for the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW). The DHLs play an integral role at the state and local levels in promoting oral health for pregnant women and children enrolled in Head Start and children enrolled in child care. The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) has been an important partner since 2012 by assisting in DHL recruitment and promotion.

Michelle Landrum serves as the ASTDD lead consultant for the NCECHW Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) project, and Gina Sharps serves as the co-lead consultant. Michelle and Gina assisted in reviewing *Brush Up on Oral Health*, a tip sheet focused on important issues for Head Start and child care staff, as well as other publications on specific topics. All NCECHW materials are posted on the Early Childhood Knowledge and Learning Center (ECKLC) website. In 2019, a DHL page was added to the ECKLC website that includes a one-page handout on the services provided by the DHLs. Michelle and Gina also attended the NCECHW Oral Health Workgroup meeting in Washington, DC in August to interface with workgroup members and AAP and OHS leadership.

Nine state DHLs also serve as regional DHL coordinators to support and mentor DHLs in their region. Each quarter, the state DHLs submit a report of their activities that are summarized by the regional DHL coordinators for a final summary report prepared by Michelle and Gina. Each quarterly summary report is shared with the ASTDD BOD and consultants, the Office of Head Start (OHS), AAP, ADHA and OHRC. In 2019, the regional DHL coordinators participated in quarterly calls, coordinated calls for state DHLs in their region, and attended an annual regional DHL coordinators’ meeting at the American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) in Chicago. Training and TA are important aspects of the NCECHW’s work. The regional DHL coordinators presented information and facilitated hands-on station activities related to key oral health messages for pregnant women and children at the Health Care Institute held in April in Albuquerque, NM. Several Head Start regional health specialists and two staff from 30 Head Start programs attended the Health Care Institute. These 30 programs serve over 16,850 pregnant women children (ages 0-5) and all 12 ACF regions were represented. The attendees were expected to deliver the oral health information and replicate the station exercises within their programs during parents’ night. The regional DHL coordinators also helped each program develop individualized action plans to accomplish desired programmatic oral health goals for the upcoming year. DHLs gave numerous presentations at the regional, state, and local level, and the project continues to receive recognition from all partners as a stellar example of collaboration and coordination. Several DHLs attended a reception sponsored by ADHA at the NOHC where they were recognized for their service, and the DHLs were awarded the Presidential Citation from ADHA President, Michele Braerman, during the ADHA annual conference. The DHLs also received a letter and certificate of appreciation from OHS Director, Deborah Bergeron, who also recognized the DHLs on her vlog. An article on the DHL project was published in the May/June issue of ADHA’s Access magazine, and an additional article in the December issue highlighted how three state DHLs provide nutrition education in their states. Three DHLs discussed the partnerships they have fostered in their DHL role during ASTDD’s first Spotlight webinar in November.