


# Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD)

## 2008 Annual Report

January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008



*Anniversary*  
**60***th*



*Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors*

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*ASTDD would like to thank our primary funders (HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau and CDC's Division of Oral Health), our Executive Committee members, central office support staff, project consultants, contractors, national organization partners and especially the directors and staff of state and territorial oral health programs for your teamwork in making 2008 such a wonderfully productive year!*

*Christine Wood*

**ASTDD President**

## 2008 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC)

As you can see from the cover, ASTDD celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the National Oral Health Conference in Miami on April 28-30. Many past presidents attended, and a special publication highlighted ASTDD's history. ASTDD awards were given to Dr. Joe Doherty, Dr. Reg Louie, Dr. Mike Morgan and Ms. Judy Sherman. The 2008 NOHC, co-sponsored

By the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD), featured 4 plenary sessions, 26 concurrent sessions (3 of these were oral contributed papers), 41 roundtables, 84 posters, 18 sponsoring exhibitors and 5 non-profit exhibitors. ASTDD also sponsored a Pacific Basin Dental Association (PBDA) meeting. In addition to the 81 speakers for contributed abstracts, there were 85 speakers for the invited sessions, including the pre-conference sessions on April 26-27. Workshops focused on the topics of *Medicaid/SCHIP 101*, *Framing Oral Health: Communication Strategies for Oral Health Advocates*, and *A Policy Tool for States*. The program planning committee included 23 representatives from 12 national organizations and federal agencies. They reviewed abstracts submitted for plenary and concurrent sessions and created a very thought-provoking and interesting program to meet the diverse needs of the more than 750 participants who attended. Enhancements to the NOHC website, initiation of an online CE and evaluation process, and other logistical changes resulted in a 50% increase in efficiency reported by the meeting planners, MRSI. Plans are in place for the next three NOHCs: April 20-22, 2009 in Portland, OR; April 26-28, 2010 in St Louis, MO; and April 11-13 in Pittsburgh, PA.



**ASTDD Past Presidents**

***Evaluations continue to indicate high satisfaction with the quality and content of the NOHC presentations and the networking opportunities.***

## ASTDD National Oral Health Leadership Institute (NOHLI)



Under the direction of Dr. Don Altman, the second NOHLI began on April 27 at the National Oral Health Conference, followed by a 2 ½ day retreat at the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health in Mesa, AZ on September 11-13, 2008. This year's Institute had 14 participants: 7 dentists and 7 dental hygienists from 12 different states and the District of Columbia. Topics for the retreat were basically the same as for Cohort 1 last year. In 2009 ASTDD will offer an array of different topics during the Institute, focusing on succession planning, strategic thinking and problem solving, and strategic leadership. In addition to the

Institute, ASTDD also began offering a series of audioconferences and webcasts for NOHLI alumni this year. The first call in October featured Dr Cynthia Bauer, Director, Division of Health Communication and Marketing, National Center for Health Marketing, CDC, speaking on *Social Marketing and Health Literacy*. 2008 NOHLI sponsors, in addition to ASTDD and the AZ School of Dentistry and Oral Health, included the ADA, ADHA and HRSA MCHB. ASTDD is a member of and sends representatives to meetings of the National Public Health Leadership Development Network, a consortium of organizations dedicated to advancing the practice of public health leadership.



## Healthy People 2020

At the ASTDD meeting of partner organizations in December 2007, the group voiced concern over the lack of national leadership for assuring that oral health issues remain an integral and visible aspect of planning for the US Healthy People 2020 Objectives. ASTDD and AAPHD took the lead in quickly

convening a meeting in Atlanta for representatives of 25 national organizations and federal agencies to start the planning process. Based on the discussion, Ms. Kathy Mangskau, ASTDD consultant, created talking points and coordinated testimony on oral health at all six regional HP 2020 meetings convened by DHHS. The testimony was summarized and disseminated via a new listserv created for the group. During sessions at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Meeting in October, federal officials acknowledged that oral health was well represented and that they had heard our concerns. During fall 2008 Ms. Mangskau worked as one of four people on a national oral health coordinating committee to begin the process of reviewing HP 2010 objectives and making recommendations for 2020. At the ASTDD partners meeting in December 2008, the group committed to sending representatives to another meeting even if funds could not be secured. The Chief Dental Officer of DHHS agreed to host the meeting in March 2009 in Rockville, and ASTDD agreed to handle logistics.

***This collaborative planning process for HP 2020 has been a significant, proactive step in influencing the national health agenda.***

## Health Care Reform

The ASTDD/AAPHD/ADA Dental Public Health (DPH) Task Force continues to address dental public health workforce issues and advocates for inclusion of DPH and state oral health program infrastructure development as part of any healthcare reform effort. The Task Force submitted a document to the ADA Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations requesting inclusion of dental public health in their Task Force on the Future of Health Care/Universal Coverage. Dr. Don Marianos, ASTDD consultant, discussed the paper at the April 2008 meeting of the ADA Task Force, and the concepts were well received. Dr. Marianos also represents ASTDD on the ASTHO Access Policy Committee; this committee has identified oral health as a priority area for activity this year.



**2008 Partners Meeting**

ASTDD partners also discussed health care reform at the mid-year partners meeting in December. Many of the groups had developed short papers emphasizing their priorities, while some, such as ADEA, asked ASTDD to sign onto theirs as a supporter. ASTDD is developing an issue brief on health reform that advocates for strong state oral health programs. Well-funded state oral health programs are critical to the coordination of community-based disease prevention programs and providing the leadership to create collaborative solutions to address the unmet oral health needs of underserved populations.

***As the nation debates the dual problems of the current economic crisis and the failure of the health care system to meet the needs of all Americans, it need only look to the declining dental public health infrastructure to observe a prime example of how the two crises interface.***

*ASTDD draft Issue Brief on Health Reform*

## Policy Development and Advocacy

ASTDD's Policy Committee has been actively creating a searchable database for ASTDD's policy documents, archiving outdated resolutions, selecting resolutions for updating to position or policy statements, and recommending where new policy statements are needed. Other ASTDD committees work with the Policy Committee on the updating and submission process. Committee members worked jointly with AAPHD to review and provide testimony on resolutions at the American Dental Association's House of Delegates, and also provided comments on proposed policy statements for the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the National Rural Health Association (NRHA).



Through collaboration with partners, ASTDD advocacy efforts this year focused on passage of Medicaid/SCHIP legislation and increased funding to NIH for oral and craniofacial research, to HRSA for improvements in maternal and child health, and to the CDC for state oral health program infrastructure and capacity building cooperative agreements. ASTDD representatives also participated in a series of meetings to provide input to Senator Bingaman's bill, the Oral Healthcare for All Americans Act. ASTDD is increasingly invited to provide input on federal legislation. The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) included ASTDD *State Synopsis* information in advocacy packets for their members doing Hill visits. The Council on State Governments (CSG) involved ASTDD members in developing a legislator policy brief on *Promoting Improved Oral Health*.

***"I value ASTDD's leadership in promoting oral health policy and evidence-based best practices and appreciate its efforts to share policy/best practice information with members and associate members. I also value ASTDD's outreach to many other federal/state/community partners and efforts to build a larger, more diverse coalition of practitioners and policymakers interested in oral health."***

***From ASTDD member survey***

ASTDD, Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Association (MSDA), National Association for State Health Policy (NASHP) and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) are collaborating with the Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP) on their HRSA award as the new MCHB National Oral Health Policy Center. The project will be creating Trend Notes, webcasts, trainings and special meetings on selected policy issues.

## New Committees

ASTDD has activated three new committees.

***New committees are important to ASTDD for broadening its focus and addressing important issues that confront states.***

- **The Perinatal and Early Childhood Committee**, chaired by Dr. Jay Kumar, with Dr. Reg Louie as a consultant, will serve as a focal point for issues and resources for state oral health programs relating to pregnancy and early childhood programs, policies and materials.
- **The Healthy Aging Committee**, chaired by Ms. Diane Brunson, with Ms. Kathy Geurink as a consultant, will serve as a focal point for healthy aging issues, information, guidelines, policy statements and resources for states.
- **A Committee on Oral Cancer, Tobacco and Risk Factors**, chaired by Ms. Linda Koskela, with Ms. Kathy Mangskau as a consultant, will serve as a resource for states on oral cancer, tobacco and other risk factor issues and information.

All of the committees are involving new partners to participate in needs assessments and to develop objectives, logic models, workplans and evaluation strategies. Dr. BJ Tatro, ASTDD evaluation consultant, is working with all committees on logic models and evaluation plans.

## Technical Assistance

ASTDD provides technical assistance to states in a number of areas. Dr. Kathy Phipps and Dr. Mike Manz, ASTDD consultants, directly help more than 15 states each year with oral health needs assessment strategies and development of oral health surveillance systems, always to rave reviews. In 2008 37 states had submitted qualified data on 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to the National Oral Health Surveillance System (NOHSS). To help states access data, Dr. Manz coordinated development of a State Data/Surveillance Template, a tool that was highlighted during a webcast and will be used in a pre-conference workshop at the 2009 NOHC. The tool provides links to online data sources with state and national estimates for key oral health indicators and can be modified to add links to state and local data sources or updated with new national sources.

States regularly use the Basic Screening Survey (BSS) to collect data on children's oral health to submit to the NOHSS. Because of the increasing need to collect information on young children, the BSS was totally revised this year. Dr. Kathy Phipps and Ms. Lori Cofano, an ASTDD associate member, worked with SOS Video Communications to film new training videos at a tribal Head Start and at an elementary school in Nevada. The videos are distributed on a DVD, while a CD includes the revised BSS manual, a sample PowerPoint examiner training presentation and some supplemental materials. Having two separate training videos will help to better meet states' needs, and using newer technology creates a more flexible and portable training and reproduction format.



**Filming in Nevada**

ASTDD recently formed the State Oral Health Program Support and Resources Subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Bob Russell, to provide a more proactive and rapid response to states that have dental director vacancies or states in jeopardy of losing their program or their director. The subcommittee already has assisted three states, and anticipates that others will need help during economically challenging times. In addition, ASTDD collaborated with Altarum Institute to provide technical assistance and support to seven states as part of the HRSA State Access Workshop project. ASTDD has continued to work with some of these states after funding ended for Altarum's participation.

***When members were asked to list 3 important issues for state oral health programs this year, "identifying sustainable strategies for program survival and funding for core functions and core staff" emerged as a major theme.***

ASTDD consultants Ms. Kathy Geurink and Dr. Jay Balzer continue to provide technical assistance around Head Start and Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) initiatives, forums, action plans, evaluation strategies and educational materials, and are writing evaluation reports highlighting ASTDD and state oral health program roles. ASTDD coordinates teleconferences for the PBDA that are supported by HRSA and CDC. Dr. Julie Tang provides TA on Best Practices and coordinates the Best Practice Project. To date, 47 states and 2 territories have submitted more than 200 descriptions of their most successful practices. ASTDD would like to acknowledge the dedication of the Best Practices coordinator, chair and committee members for their expertise and the countless hours devoted to this project. Dr. Theresa Mayfield will be consulting to states in the upcoming year on emergency preparedness protocols for state oral health programs. ASTDD's 2008 annual membership survey elicited information about other potential TA needs in 17 areas for the upcoming year. Responses help to inform decisions about which assistance can be provided via workshops, webcasts or other tools versus training onsite or one-on-one phone conferences.

## Publications, Meetings and Information Sharing

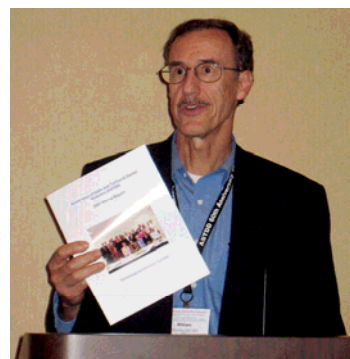
Communication is key to any organization and a major focus of the HRSA and CDC cooperative agreements that fund ASTDD activities. ASTDD strives to communicate with members, national partners and others in a variety of ways. The quarterly newsletter, **Oral Health Matters**, has undergone a facelift this year, thanks to Dr. Warren LeMay, Ms. Lynn Bethel, and Anunci Creative Group, LLC. Each issue of the newsletter is distributed via the listserv, sent to partners and posted on the ASTDD website. ASTDD recently changed website companies, contracting with Bradley Cummins at Sixth Street Website Design & E-marketing, LLC to improve the efficiency and usability of the website and member listserv as well as the NOHC website.



Newsletter

Working with its national partners, ASTDD developed a number of written resources this year.

- In conjunction with the Children's Dental Health Project, ASTDD published two issue briefs: **Emerging Issue: Dental Sealants and bisphenol-A (BPA)** and **State Laws on Dental Screening for School-Aged Children**; they are posted on both organizations' websites and have generated a great deal of interest.
- ASTDD promoted and disseminated **Guidelines for Development of State Oral Health Issue Briefs**, developed by Altarum Institute after they helped Idaho and the District of Columbia design issue briefs.
- The research brief, **Fluoride Varnish: An Evidence-Based Approach**, produced by the ASTDD Fluorides Committee, with Ms. LeeAnn Hoaglin-Cooper as a consultant, has been used widely for program justification, planning and implementation, and during trainings.
- To help states respond to specific requests for proposals, ASTDD created and posted 3 resource lists/tipsheets: 1) **Grantwriting Tips**, 2) **Healthy Aging Resources**, and 3) **Oral Health Workforce Resources**.
- The School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee continued to promote **resources for school nurses to integrate oral health into Coordinated School Health Programs**. Resources include brochures, curricula and assessment resource lists, and a PowerPoint presentation. They are working closely with the National Association of School Nurses.
- The **ASTDD 2007 Annual Report** was widely distributed and used by partners and states.



### 2007 Annual Report

This year 48 states submitted information to the **ASTDD Synopses for State Dental Public Health Programs**. The **2008 Synopsis Summary Report** provides aggregated data (from 2006-2007) for responses to selected items from the state specific Synopses report. The reports are shared with administrators and other governmental staff, community partners and legislators to foster support for programs, for comparison purposes, and in grant proposals and reports. The information was used this year to compile a review of state level oral health infrastructure changes since 2000. This information was incorporated into a presentation on oral health infrastructure at an AAP National Summit on Children's Oral Health and will be included in an upcoming journal article.

This year Dr. Tang produced ***A History of the ASTDD Best Practices Project: The Journey Taken from 2000 to 2008***. Agencies and organizations such as the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Indian Health Service, and the National Academy for State Health Policy, feature the project and provide links on their websites. Project information was shared this year at the NOHC, the MCHB TOHSS grantees meeting, the MCH Partnership Meeting, the ASTHO Annual Conference and via the ASTDD/National Oral Health Resource Center combined exhibit. More than 95% of members have used Best Practice Project documents and resources.

***ASTDD increasingly is asked to attend, present or exhibit at national meetings or topic-focused workshops and expert panels.***

In 2008 ASTDD representatives attended more than 25 national meetings and exhibited at others. Examples include:

- HRSA Bureau of Health Professions All Programs Meeting
- HRSA MCHB TOHSS Grantees Meeting and CDC State Grantees Meeting
- American Dental Hygienists' Association Annual Meeting
- Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Conference
- Special Care Dentistry Association Annual Conference
- AAPD Head Start National Partners Meeting
- MCHB CSHCN Strategic Planning Meeting and MCHB Dental Home Expert Panel
- National Head Start Association Annual Conference
- National Rural Health Association Annual Conference
- Santa Fe Group Workshop on New Workforce Models
- Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures Annual Conference
- ADA Give Kids a Smile Best Practices Workshop
- Academy for Health Equity Health Disparities Conference
- CDC Low Fluoride Toothpaste Expert Panel
- National Dental Association Annual Conference
- ASTHO Affiliates Meeting
- DHHS Birth to Three Institute
- ASTHO/NACCHO Combined Annual Conference
- AAP Annual Conference and Oral Health Summit
- AAP National Children's Oral Health Summit
- ADA Annual Conference
- APHA Annual Conference
- National Primary Oral Health Care Conference (NNOHA/HRSA BPHC)



**Member Presentations**

## **State Oral Health Program Competencies and Guidelines**

A workgroup of the Leadership Committee has developed draft skill sets for state oral health programs, based on similar ones for state chronic disease programs. The competencies represent skill sets in seven domains that a state oral health program should have access to either in staff or from other programs or outside sources. The committee plans to ask states to review and prioritize the competencies, then to develop a progression of skill levels for each competency. Programs could review the skills to identify where they have strengths and where there are gaps. A selection of the competencies could be used to develop job descriptions and interview questions, as staff self-assessment tools, and as a framework for professional development plans and courses. ASTDD also is in the process of a major revision to the ***ASTDD Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs***, which will cover state oral health program roles under each of the three core public health functions and ten essential services, along with examples and links to resources.



## Who We Are

Founded in 1948, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) is a 501 ( c ) ( 6 ) non-profit organization representing the directors and staff of state and territorial public health agency programs for oral health. It is one of 17 affiliates of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). In 1993 ASTDD established a non-voting associate member category.

### Vision

A strong and effective governmental oral health presence in states and territories to assure optimal oral health.

### Mission

ASTDD provides leadership to advocate a governmental oral health presence in each state and territory, to formulate and promote sound oral health policy, to increase awareness of oral health issues, and to assist in the development of initiatives for prevention and control of oral diseases.

ASTDD receives funding from member dues and \$750,000 from cooperative agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Oral Health (DOH), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) to support its staffing and activities.

### Key Directions

Influence policy

Promote and use evidence-based practices

Enhance oral health program infrastructure and Workforce

Build partnerships

Strengthen ASTDD

ASTDD formulates and promotes the establishment of national dental public health policy; assists state dental programs in the development and implementation of programs and policies for the prevention of oral diseases; builds awareness and strengthens dental public health professionals' knowledge and skills by developing position papers and policy statements; provides information on oral health to health officials and policy makers; and conducts conferences for the dental public health community.

### Governance

ASTDD is governed by a nine-member Executive Committee comprised of the five elected officers, three member directors and one associate member director. Ex-officio members include the executive director, the cooperative agreement manager and the editor of the newsletter. At the end of 2008 ASTDD had 54 members and 75 associate members.

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# **Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors**

## **Executive Committee**

Christine Wood, RDH, BS – President  
Steven J. Steed, DDS – Immediate Past-President  
Margaret M. Snow, DMD, MBA, MPH – President Elect  
Nicholas G. Mosca, DDS – Secretary  
Bob Russell, DDS, MPH – Treasurer  
Linda A. Altenhoff, DDS – Director  
Gordon B. Empey, DMD, MPH – Director  
Emanuel Finn, DDS, MS – Director  
Linda L. Koskela, RDH, MPH – Associate Member Director  
M. Dean Perkins, DDS, MPH – Executive Director, Ex Officio  
Warren R. LeMay, DDS, MPH – Newsletter Editor, Ex Officio  
Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS – Cooperative Agreement Manager, Ex Officio

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## **ASTDD Contractors**

Sixth Street Website Design & E-marketing, LLC (website)  
Management Resource Specialists, Inc (NOHC)  
Anunci Creative Group, LLC (newsletter)

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