



The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an informal brief summary of ASTDD activities to keep our members and partners aware of what we do on your behalf and to highlight resources. We also like to share more personal stories as ASTDD really is a family. It is a busy time of year as we're also writing the ASTDD Annual Report, monthly consultant summaries, response to recent Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), getting feedback about the Data TA from our consultants and from a query of dental directors about preferred methods of TA and training delivery; also getting ready for the ASTDD virtual business meeting and the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) meetings. Highlights from many of these will be reported in the next *Roundup*.



National Activities and Collaborations

The Nominating Committee and Awards Committee finalized their choices, and Chris Wood worked with the Board of Directors (BOD) on the March 8 virtual business meeting, the March 27 Bylaws and quarterly dental directors virtual meeting, and the April BOD meetings, Awards Ceremony, BOD Installation, and the NOHC. We have selected Gateway 810 to be the recipient of the 2024 NOHC community service award. They are a homeless shelter serving women, children, and families in St. Louis.

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) has submitted their application for the next Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) 4-year grant that is similar to the current Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII) grant. ASTDD will be a partner through a contract, and the OHRC will work with some of our subject matter experts. The Improving Oral Health Integration Consortium (IOHI) will focus on increasing the adoption and implementation of policies and practices to advance the integration of preventive oral health care into primary care for the maternal and child health population through technical assistance.

Peer and Member Support Program

Lori Cofano, peer support subject matter expert (SME), oriented new oral health program directors Lauren Weiland (TN) and Elizabeth Lewis (GA) during January and February. Mike Tredway (SC) and Chris Farrell (MI) submitted evaluations of the Peer Support Program. Debonny Hughes, Maryland's state dental director, presented on diversified funding for state oral health programs on the Peer Support Discussion Group call January 11. Kimberlie Payne welcomed 26 new associate members in January and 17 in February.



Fluorides Committee (FC)

Judy Feinstein, Fluorides SME, participated in Zoom calls with fluoridation contacts in several states to discuss mutual issues of concern. She facilitated a CWF Community of Practice meeting on January 23. There were 59

participants; the responses of the 32 who responded to the poll at the end were very positive. The topic was positive messaging targeted for specific audiences. Fluoridation coordinators from North Dakota (Vanessa Bopp), Kentucky (Richard Crask), Georgia (Dixianne Parker), Missouri (Gwen Sullentrup) and Michigan (Sandy Sutton) shared their approaches and experiences. Most of what was shared concerned working with water system operators.

Judy participated in an information and planning call with committee member Johnny Johnson, AFS, who is providing technical assistance to fluoridation advocates in Union County, NC in preparation for an upcoming challenge. Judy provided ASTDD resources to the local group, which includes NC's new fluoridation coordinator. The following lists Judy's other activities for January and February:

- One Fluoridation Alert was sent in January, with emails to contacts in WI, UT, MA, and VT.
- One Fluoridation Alert was sent in February, with emails to contacts in AZ, FL, IN, KY, MI, NE, PA, SC, WA and WI.
- Continued to monitor the Food & Water Watch lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Ninth Circuit Court.
- Attended a fluoridation update webcast co-sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA) and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) where Fluorides Committee member Jay Kumar was one of the two presenters.
- Participated in and drafted notes for a meeting of several states working on identifying and problem-solving issues related to the implementation of the New Wave [tablet feeder] system. Attended a discussion of the larger "collaboration group" to review the resulting list and, with Gwen Sullentrup in Missouri, planned for following up with the manufacturer of the system. The group includes both CDC-funded and other states.
- Sent emails to State Dental Directors listserv requesting confirmation of water systems to be recognized at the 2024 NOHC for 50- and 75-year anniversaries in 2023.
- Researched and compiled list of systems for recognition at the NOHC for reaffirmation of fluoridation
- TA: Consulted with Robin Miller (email and phone) on issues in Vermont; compiled information for advocates in New York (Bridget Walsh, Schuyler Center) in preparation for a hearing in Albany on implementation of CWF; provided background information to Julie McKee in Kentucky on national fluoridation legislation and related issues; clarified awards history for Jo Dearien, West Virginia; congratulated Jenni Lansing (CO) for her efforts to develop/tailor CWF fact sheets for Colorado (email).

Communications Committee (CC)



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The CC met on February 29; topics included NOHC booth, banners, schedule, CCoP, Spotlight, communications award and meet and greet at NOHC. Heather Beavers (new Social Media Workgroup chair (SMWG) and Kimberlie Payne, ASTDD SME, are developing the design and materials for the ASTDD exhibit booth.

Ideas focus on drawing people to the booth and interacting with them using graphical interfaces and facilitation. Committee members Kathryn Eissfeldt, John Welby, Matt Jacob, and Kimberlie are reviewing applicants for the communications award for excellence to be presented at the NOHC.

Matt and Heather continue to provide TA to three states to show that social media is not intimidating to use. Missouri is complete. Minnesota and Arkansas should be finished by April 2024. TA sessions have been a great success!! See the other social media TA under the SAOHC/sealant section. The SMWG is developing a slide for the NOHC.

The February Spotlight will be covered under the SAOHC report. If you missed any previous Spotlights, you can access the links for the 2023 and 2024 Spotlights on the [ASTDD Home page](#), or the Archived Webcasts and Audioconferences in Members Only for previous Spotlights, or by contacting Kimberlie Payne at kyinemanbhs@gmail.com.

Dental Public Health Policy Committee (DPHPC), Best Practices Committee (BPC), and Healthy Aging Committee (HAC)

The [Early Childhood Caries Prevention and Management Best Practice Approach Report](#). An ASTDD Spotlight was held on February 7, 2024 to highlight this BPAR during Children’s Dental Health Month. There will be a session on the BPAR at the NOHC on Monday, April 15 titled, *Early Childhood Caries: A Paradigm Shift*.

The HAC continued to ask states to share the [ASTDD Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration](#) document. The Gary and Mary West Foundation notified ASTDD and Apple Tree Dental that \$35,600 in funding has been approved for 2024 to update the *Improving Oral Health Access and Services for Older Adults Policy Statement*. The funding period is January-December 2024. This will be a collaboration with the DPHPC.

As a reminder, the BPC and DPHPC received notification from the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health of funding for \$100,000 for the 2024 calendar year to develop an issue brief on Minimally Invasive Care (MIC). MIC is a proven, safe, cost-effective approach that can be utilized to treat patients across the lifespan and potentially decrease the need for more expensive treatment. This is not a clinical document. It is meant to offer advocacy speaking points.

Objectives of the project are:

- Create a cadre of MIC advocacy champions
- Increase the number of providers who adopt the MIC model
- Increase the number of states with payment policies that incentivize the adoption of MIC
- Increase consumer demand for MIC
- Establish baselines so that the impact (outcomes) of MIC will be evident and persuasive.

Authors and workgroup members have been identified and first drafts of two chapters have been submitted.

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



The SAOHC worked with McCallister Castelaz to create the [Mobile and Portable School-Based/School-Linked Oral Health Programs: Delivery Models to Expand Care for Children and Adolescents Issue Brief](#). An ASTDD Spotlight was held on January 10, 2024 to highlight the issue brief.

Per Lori's Cofano's request, the ASTDD SMWG created messages and graphics for Children's Dental Health Month. The information is linked to the [ASTDD homepage](#) and was shared via email with the SAOHC in January so states could get permission to share the resources on social media platforms. Heather Beavers presented during the SAOHC meeting on January 25. She shared information on how to post and how to access various resources. The orientation Zoom for Idaho, Iowa and Pennsylvania was held on January 11 with subsequent calls on February 11 and 12. These three states will be working with Matt Jacob to update three documents of their choice.

Lori and others attended the webinar, *Reducing the Consumption of Added Sugars*, part of the HP 2030 webinar series, as well as *Putting Prevention into Action 2nd Webinar: Sealant Implementation*, and posted information to the listservs.

Sandy Tesch continued to coordinate the Dental Sealant Community of Practice (CoP) and provide TA to states. Sandy also coordinated email correspondence with the CDC Division of Oral Health (DOH) regarding speakers for the sealant panel for the upcoming CDC grantee meeting in March 2024. The states participating on the panel discussion are Arkansas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Vermont.

- Sandy facilitated the dental sealant CoP call with sealant coordinators. She previewed the [Seal America](#) and [School-based Dental Sealant Training](#) with them. Discussion focused on how OHRC will assist any state that has a sealant training requirement for providers to develop a state-specific webpage for certification.
- Posts on the listserv included info on how to get access to OSAP's Dental Infection Control Boot Camp recordings for continuing education credits.

Data and Oral Health Surveillance Technical Assistance (TA) and Training

Kathy Phipps, Mike Manz, and Brooke Mehner, ASTDD data and surveillance SMEs, provided TA to 10 states for Basic Screening Services (BSS) or other surveillance assistance in January and February. Mike and Brooke continued reviewing and updating emergency department related documents. Brooke developed and provided a webinar on the 2024 ASTDD State Synopses and sent the questionnaire to the dental directors on January 18. She began compiling all state synopses data (2022-2023) for continuous quality improvement and the National Oral Health Data Portal. Kathy also- trained Brooke on the National Oral Health Surveillance System (NOHSS). A subgroup of the BSS Community of Practice, the Rethinking the BSS Workgroup, met on January 4 to discuss challenges states are facing when it comes to the BSS (e.g., recruiting schools to participate, dental material detection), and possible solutions. The whole BSS group will meet in May.



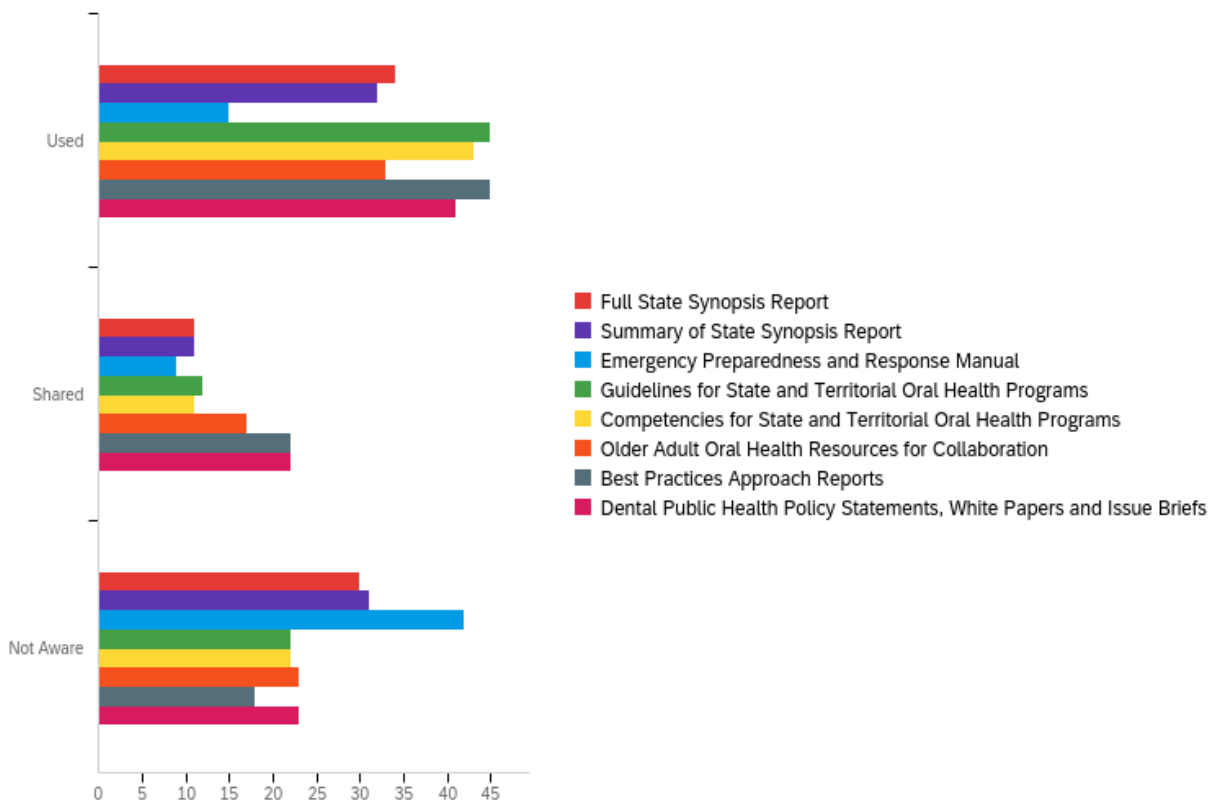
Sahiti Bhaskara continues to update the *Assessing Oral Health Needs: ASTDD Seven-Step Model* and has sent it for review to some state and consultant stakeholders. Updates have been made to align the model with other established needs assessment and health improvement planning methods from the National Association of City and Community Health Officials (NACCHO), American Hospital Association (AHA), Community Toolbox,

and more. Updates also include a refined list and editable worksheets of key indicators. Granular process-oriented steps like data collection and analyses have been edited to be more guidance-oriented and less prescriptive. Design-oriented steps like advisory committee planning, prioritization and evaluation have been bolstered to offer more up-to-date guidance. Bev Isman and Kimberlie Payne continue to work on the State Oral Health Improvement Toolkit that references the Seven-Step Model.

Evaluation Activities

The ASTDD evaluation consultants continued to provide general assistance to CDC-funded states through listserv posts and emails and held office hours for progress updates. They also held meetings with CDC staff to discuss the NOHC, listservs, webinars, state evaluation frameworks, and an upcoming grantee meeting. Listserv postings included a Final Reporting reminder and a series on alternative forms of reporting evaluation results. The consultants met with the new evaluator for MN to discuss ASTDD and how we might work together and also with CO and RI on reporting questions.

A recent query was sent to ASTDD members by the Emory team to determine past use and suggestions for future use for many ASTDD documents. A summary of some of the results are shown in the graph. ASTDD leadership and various consultants have already reviewed the list and are making improvements, especially to the website. More are in the works.



National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

In addition to the critical but routine work of administration and provision of technical assistance to Dental Hygienist Liaisons (DHLs) and regional DHL coordinators (RDHLCs), Kathy Hunt (lead) and Gina Sharps (co-lead) also oversaw the following activities:

- Facilitated 2nd quarter RDHLC call and shared meeting minutes with group
- Hosted Q2 DHL Webinar *Orientation to the Health Manager Orientation Guide (HMOG)*. Access the Oral Health section of the guide [here](#)
- Exported data from the DHL quarterly progress report and shared with respective RDHLCs
- Completed Year 4, Quarter 1 DHL quarterly progress report to submit to the NCBHBS
- Provided guidance to multiple RDHLs and DHLs
- 22 postings to the DHL discussion list to cover sharing of reports and new handouts, webinar recordings, plans for National Children’s Dental Health Month and some success stories, teledentistry resources
- Updates to DHL webpage and roster
- Reviewed and revised various documents, including the [DHL Activities Guide](#) so others can better understand the limitations and expectations.



The NCHBHS held a Spanish-language webinar for Head Start and child care related staff and others on January 30, *Improving Oral Health Literacy Brightens Children’s Smiles*, for National Children’s Dental Health Month, facilitated by Francisco Ramos-Gomez from UCLA and Maria del Rocio-Galarza from Sesame Street. There were 637 participants for presentation in English and 89 participants for presentation in Spanish.

Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII)

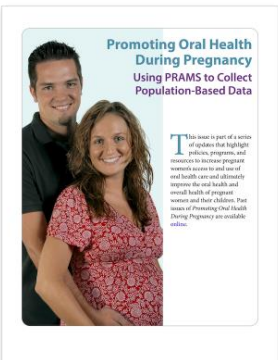
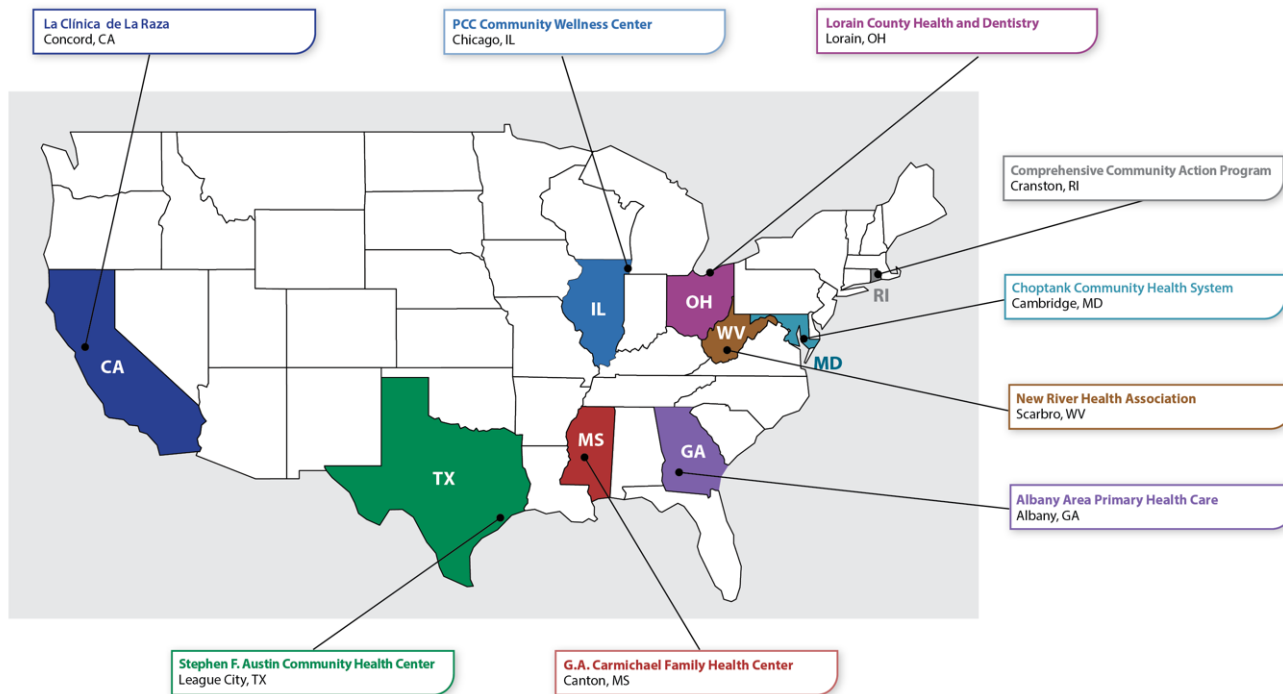
As part of COHSII’s effort to support the [Networks for Oral Health Integration](#) (NOHI) within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net project, ASTDD consultants continued to participate in COHSII-hosted learning collaborative (LC) webinars, calls, and TA activities. The COHSII [Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care Learning Collaborative: A State and Local Partnership](#) (Integration LC) is wrapping up two years of working with state oral health program staff and community health center (CHC) prenatal clinic health professionals and team members in nine states.

The project began with state partners helping with developing and testing an inventory tool to identify and assess systems-level capacity factors related to integrating oral health care into primary care for pregnant women. It continued with CHC teams implementing care integration while interacting with their state counterparts and COHSII staff. A report sharing project outcomes will be published in spring 2024, but early findings indicate that overall, participating CHCs increased their provision of oral health care for pregnant women across all five [interprofessional oral health core clinical competencies](#). A final webinar showcased the work, with infographics, project road maps, and discussions from all nine teams. Resources from the LC are posted on an OHRC [webpage](#) and include:

- Capacity Inventory for Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care for Pregnant Women
 - [Brief](#)
 - [Tool](#)
- [Learning collaborative video library](#)
- [Integrating Oral Health Evaluation into Prenatal Care: Considerations and Examples](#)

• Oral Health Risk Assessment Questions to Ask Pregnant Women

COHSII would like to express appreciation to state oral health program staff who have contributed to the success of this LC from the following states: California, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, and West Virginia. Thank you for your time and contributions!



Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy: Using PRAMS to Collect Population-Based Data

This issue focuses on the PRAMS questionnaire and PRAMS alternative questionnaires and features resources, including publications and data dashboards, that states have produced to share their PRAMS findings. This issue is part of a series of updates that highlight recent policies, programs, and resources to help ensure that health professionals and pregnant women and their families are aware of the importance and safety of receiving oral health care during pregnancy. These periodic updates provide an overview of selected national and state activities. [View the series.](#)

RESPITE: Responsibly Employing Safe Pain Interventions

Two articles were accepted for publication in 2023, but they were published in JADA earlier this year.

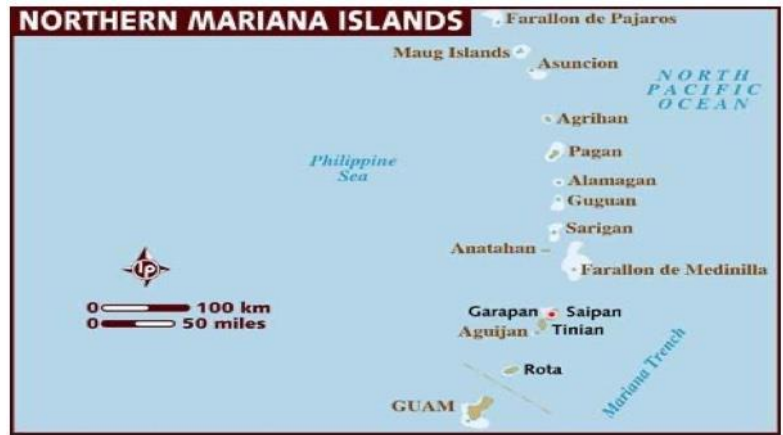
- Khouja T, Shah NH, Suda KJ, Polk DE. Trajectories of opioid prescribing by general dentists, specialists, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons in the United States, 2015-2019. J Am Dent Assoc. 2024 Jan;155(1):7-16.e7. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2023.10.002. Epub 2023 Nov 19. PMID: 37988047; PMCID: PMC10870999. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10870999/>
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A, Pahlke S, Pilcher L, Shirey M, Tampi M, Moore PA. Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for the pharmacologic management of acute dental pain in adolescents, adults, and older adults: A report from the American Dental Association Science and Research Institute, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Pennsylvania. J Am Dent Assoc. 2024 Feb;155(2):102-117.e9. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2023.10.009. PubMed PMID: 38325969. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38325969/>

U.S. Territorial and Jurisdiction Activities (submitted by Ohnmar Tut, Pacific Territorial SME)

I did refresher BSS training for the Chief Dentist and the Oral Health Program Manager in Saipan on February 21 and met with the Director of Public Health and the Chief Operating Officer for clinics as the Dental Clinics in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) had been under the hospital clinics. The OH Program Manager oversees and controls the interactive BSS data spreadsheet. The Dental Assistant IIs were trained since Kathy Phipps and I set up the BSS system for them and I did a refresher for them and a few new staff in 2022. I also helped set up a BSS system for Rota and Tinian in 2022 and for how the data they enter in both islands reflect on the main database. They have been entering since 2021-22 school year and they now have a total of 2000 kids entered for CNMI.

CNMI has hired two Dental Therapists (DT), one in Rota and one in Saipan, who are both foreign trained dentists, and the 3rd for Tinian is in the process. I trained the new DTs and new DA in Rota on the BSS system



The Chief Dentist and I met with the Resident Directors in both Rota and Tinian for discussions on a Wrap-around Program I helped set up for those small islands. The

mothers and babies seen at Well Child Visits get preventive dental education and fluoride varnish applications, continuing every three months until they enter Early HSP. CNMI has now included Oral Health in their Yellow Cards (Child Wellness Card) together with immunizations and other well-child screenings.



I met with the Director of Public Health and the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) together with Guam MCH Administrator and her Finance person and separately with the MCH administrator and a dentist on February 27. The MCH Administrator and I reviewed all information with the Director, who was not the person we discussed plans on MCH Oral Integration through the fluoride varnish and silver diamine fluoride programs and trainings in 2022 and 2023. He and the CPHO were supportive for hiring a dental hygienist who is on island and certified and a part-time Dentist Consultant to oversee the preventive programs at Head Start, WIC, and the MCH Well Child and Immunization Clinics.

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