

ASTDD Roundup for October, November and December 2022

Selected Consultant, Committee, Project and Meeting Summaries



By Bev Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS

Happy Holidays!

Well here we are finishing another exciting year! Some of us are enjoying vacations in November and December but still keeping up with important ASTDD work and relationships. On a personal note, my husband Bob and I made our annual trip to spend the Thanksgiving holidays in Hawaii. In addition to being on the Big Island when Mauna Loa blew its top, we also were privileged to get a private tour inside one of the huge telescopes jointly supported by Canada, France and Hawaii on Mauna Kea during sunset. Such adventures continue to inform our perspectives on the beauty of nature and the importance of state, national and international cooperation. While on a brief stop in Oahu we were able to have pau hana (the time after work, considered a time for relaxation, informal socializing with friends and family, and enjoyment) with Annette Mente and Matt Shim from the Hawaii Health Department, who have kept oral health on the radar throughout the years without a state dental director. We were pleased to learn there are efforts to procure state funding to hire staff to re-instate the state's oral health program. And, we also had a breakfast blast from the past with Mark Greer, retired state dental director from years ago, who always kept the oral health tiki torch burning strongly when he was there. So, happy holidays to all our friends and colleagues, past and present, around the globe!



Board of Directors, State Dental Director Calls and National Partnerships

The ASTDD Board of Directors (BOD) held calls on October 17, November 14, and December 12. Topics for discussion primarily focused on National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) plans, nominations to fill BOD positions for 2023, a new ASTDD sustainability plan, and continuing challenges such as anti-fluoridation activities and staff retirements. Chris Wood and I share summaries of partner organization activities and subject matter expert activities every month with the BOD.

Dental directors continue to meet virtually and via email to provide information and support to each other. Due to vacations and holidays, only one call was held this quarter, on December 8, with staff from Care Quest discussing the [Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker](#) and associated media campaign; there were 23 participants. Other email and listserv topics included: the American Dental Association's School Sealant Program Survey, the ASTDD bi-annual Salary Survey, multiple postings related to community water fluoridation, and Medicaid reimbursement.

ASTDD continues to participate in calls with the COVID-19 Public-Private Partner Dental Coordination Group, and in CareQuest Institute's Pandemic Response Workgroup. Chris Wood presented about ASTDD on a November 3 call with the Canadian Federal-Provincial-Territorial Dental Directors Working Group. CareQuest, ASTDD and the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) are partnering on a webcast about the updated *Dental Sealant Best Practice Approach Report (BPAR)* on February 23, 2023.

We have established a new relationship with the American Mobile and Teledentistry Alliance (www.amta.net). They are interested in exploring opportunities to partner with ASTDD and are reviewing our relevant policy statements, issue briefs and best practice approach reports, especially the ones that need updating. Sandy Tesch and Lori Cofano will be attending the annual National Mobile and Teledentistry Conference (<https://nmdconference.com/>) March 2-4, 2023 in Dallas, Texas, and AMTA also will be presenting at the NOHC.

Many ASTDD members serve on the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) Response Teams and participate in OPEN webinars, calls, and on OPEN Communities. We continue our quarterly calls with Natalia Chalmers, Chief Dental Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The ASTDD leadership and consultants participate in regular calls with the CDC's Division of Oral Health (CDC) leadership and staff around national issues and our cooperative agreement activities. On December 12, ASTDD hosted a webcast in partnership with the OHRC and the Dental Quality Alliance on *Use and Interpretation of the Dental Quality Alliance's State Oral Healthcare Quality Dashboard*. Presenters included 1) Dr. Marie Schweinebraten, a periodontist practicing in Duluth, Georgia, serving as an Insurance consultant for the American Academy of Periodontology, and previously served on the ADA Board of Trustees and the Council of Dental Benefit Plans; 2) Dr. Jill Herndon, owner and principal consultant with Key Analytics and Consulting, an economist with extensive experience in research, policy analysis, program evaluation, project management, and education; and 3) Dr. Angela Filzen, Mississippi State Dental Director. Discussion focused on understanding what questions may be answered with state-level reports, stratifying data, and interpreting the data quality assessment scores. Here is a [link](#) on the ADA website to an overview of the dashboard.

Peer and Member Support Program

Welcome to two new state dental directors, Paul Gacek, MPH, CPH (CT) and Aimee Duval Critser (ID). Lori Cofano oriented the new directors; during this quarter there were five directors participating in the peer support program. Kimberlie Payne contacted about 38 new ASTDD associate members during October, November and December.

Updated ASTDD S/TOHP Competencies

ASTDD developed *Competencies for State/Territorial Oral Health Programs* in 2010 to accompany the *ASTDD Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs* and updated them in 2022 to align with other public health competencies, new state/territorial and national focus areas, and 2021 updates to the [ASTDD Guidelines](#). While the *Guidelines* reflect roles and activities for State/Territorial Oral Health Programs (S/TOHP), the *Competencies* represent skills that might be needed to successfully achieve the activities and roles. They focus on skills to accomplish the core public health functions of assessment, policy development and assurance and the [10 Essential Public Health Services to Promote Oral Health](#); clinical dental/oral health related skills are not included. The *2022 Competencies* are categorized under eight general Domains. Each Competency includes a table of examples of five Skill Levels starting from Zero (no skills), Level 1, the most basic, and increasing in complexity to Level 4. Although programs can work to attain Level 4 skills in all Competencies, most programs will be able to achieve significant program successes without reaching this ideal. In addition, 16 Guiding Principles represent Competencies that are crosscutting.

Available December 26, the [ASTDD Competencies website](#), includes updated and useful tools to assist S/TOHP determine what skills current team members perceive they have that contribute to program success, and what skills the

team feels are needed for program improvement. New documents include resources for professional development opportunities to learn new skills. The Competencies represent skills for a successful program, whether they are present in oral health program staff or are obtained from other programs or outside sources. Every individual working in an oral health program need not be proficient in each Competency. Competencies can help states determine where the program stands and what are realistic expectations and aspirations. The Competencies promote identifying, leveraging and sharing of resources and collaboration with partners to maximize skill sets.



Thanks to Julie Janssen for helping me (Bev) to revise the Competencies and associated materials and for leading the ad-hoc workgroup members and reviewers: Matthew Horan, Cheri Kiefer, Reginald Louie, Bob Russell, and Matt Zaborowski.

In October I facilitated a field test of the Competencies assessment process for the Vermont Office of Oral Health staff Robin Miller, Debora Teixeira, Dustin Jurgenson, and Stephanie Stead during a ZOOM call and an onsite visit on October 11. Debra was unable to attend the in-person session. They had previously held a Competencies session in 2015. The responses on the assessment forms and the group discussions resulted in a summary report with recommendations for their use. Their feedback on the forms and process helped us make further refinements. Thanks to all of you!

Data Committee (DC)

The bi-annual Salary Survey was distributed to dental directors in November; analysis will start in January. Kathy Phipps and Mike Manz provided TA to 12 states for Basic Screening Surveys (BSS) or other surveillance assistance from October through December. Classrooms are re-opening and BSS plans are moving forward. Due to CDC's Office of Management and Budget's restrictions on making any changes to the annual State Synopses or BSS for Children once OMB approved both items, the Data Committee has not been very active this year. The BOD, Data Committee chair and our data and oral health surveillance subject matter experts agreed to dissolve the committee, establish a BSS Community of Practice (CoP) chaired by Robin Miller (CT dental director), develop an Oral Health Surveillance workplan for ASTDD rather than a committee workplan, and convene workgroups for specific data related projects as needed. Thanks to all members who have served on the Data Committee for their commitment and expertise. A BSS CoP listserv was established, and the BSS CoP held their first call on December 14 with 30 attendees and much sharing of information from the states. Questions were solicited from listserv participants prior to the call and covered topics such as sampling issues when schools cancel, timelines for planning, and key partners to gain consents to participate.

John O'Malley, data science contractor to ASTDD, is excited to share that he has accepted a new position as biostatistician at CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. He will be responsible for publishing new research with CareQuest Institute's access to troves of oral health clinical, claims, administrative and survey datasets. In particular, John will be exploring the use of diagnostic coding for studies exploring links between oral health and chronic disease as he narrows in on his PhD dissertation topic. John will continue supporting ASTDD as a data science contractor, updating the National Oral Health Data Portal, and providing technical assistance to states and ASTDD members for all things related to dental public health data. Please reach out to John with questions at OMJOHN@UMich.edu.

Communications Committee (CC)

This was an extremely busy quarter for the Communications Committee. Three Spotlights were held:



9w0entstok.com - 112229842

- October 26: [Reaching Pregnant Women Through Social Media](#). (70 participants). The Texas Oral Health Improvement Program has used paid social media to share key oral health messages with pregnant women and women of childbearing age. In the past couple of years, they have conducted two social media campaigns and one social influencer campaign. Using Facebook and Instagram ads, programmatic ads, and social media influencers, they have been able to reach their target audience in their social environment. In this presentation, McKenna Dahlquist and Dr. Rhonda Stokley shared their campaign strategies and tactics, ad design, campaign analytics, and lessons learned.
- November 17: [School-Based Dental Sealant Best Practice Approach Report](#). (82 participants). Lori Cofano and Beth Lowe described the purpose and goal of the report and reviewed major sections of the report that include considerations states are encouraged to take into account when planning and implementing school-based dental sealant programs.
- December 14: [Remote Patient Monitoring and Specialist Consultation: Missed Opportunities with Teledentistry](#) (77 participants). Scott Howell DMD, MPH, Associate Professor and Director of Public Health Dentistry and Teledentistry, A.T. Still University, Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, introduced participants to lesser used but extremely beneficial aspects of teledentistry that do not require legislation. Technology for teledentistry continues to evolve rapidly. New technologies allow patients to collect data, such as brushing habits and ortho treatment, from anywhere on the planet and share it with their providers. Due to the ever-present need for specialists in areas where they may not practice, telecommunication technologies can be utilized to reach out to colleagues when help is needed with patient care.

The Communications Community of Practice (CCoP) was held on October 19 with approximately 25 participants. John Welby presented, *Building a Robust Communications Component Within Your Office*, ways to build a sustainable communications component within S/TOHPs. The next CCoP will be held in January. There are more than 55 people signed up for the CCoP. *If you are not signed up for the CCoP and would like to join, contact Chris Wood at cwood@astdd.org.*

The Social Media Workgroup (SMWG) has also been busy. The Social Media Workgroup just updated ASTDD's [Social Media Library](#) of ready-to-post messages. These messages direct people to a variety of oral health social media resources and tools. Today's social media landscape is always changing and you might find it difficult to find up-to-date information to post. The Social Media Library should help you save time and effort before your next social media post. The SMWG will also provide social media technical assistance to three states in 2023: Arkansas, Minnesota, and Missouri. This is a pilot program designed to help states get over the hurdle of using social media and assist them in building a social media presence in their communities.

The previous issue of *Roundup* highlighted an Oral Health Literacy Symposium honoring Alice Horowitz that included ASTDD members as speakers. The full event report summary, photos and slides are available from the morning presenters on their [Oral Health and Health Literacy Page](#).

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

During their monthly meetings the DPHPC continued to review and annotate a list of ASTDD documents older than five years and checking with several potential resource people about updates. An updated [ASTDD Policy Statement on State-based Oral Health Surveillance Systems](#) has been posted to the ASTDD website.

The DPHPC reviewed, finalized, and submitted ASTDD testimony on five proposed resolutions to the 2022 ADA House of Delegates. All were on the HOD's consent agenda and passed. ASTDD provides simple statements of support to "get on the record" on issues that may have an impact on dental public health. Three resolutions concerned the use of dental

amalgam and the scientific assessment of restorative materials, one was to support the ADA in calling for increased resources for the Department of Veterans Affairs for dental care, and one was to express support for efforts to integrate oral-systemic health by identifying and pursuing opportunities for collaboration between dentists and other health care providers to help identify systemic diseases that are strongly suspected to have a direct relationship to a patient's oral health.

The *Prevention and Control of Early Childhood Tooth Decay (ECC) BPAR update* will be funded by the National Maternal and Child Health Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) and the CareQuest Institute (CQI). Dr. Brian Novy will be the primary author, supported by a workgroup of seven people. The BPC decided to form a small evaluation workgroup to determine how to get feedback on BPARs. They had an initial call on December 7 to discuss ideas and share examples from other programs.



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

Matt Jacob presented on the November 10 SAOHC ZOOM meeting. He shared tips for clear communication on consent forms and sealant program letters to parents, schools, administrators and others. The SAOHC is still in the process of updating school-related ASTDD policy statements.

Sandy Tesch, ASTDD dental sealant coordinator, has fielded several questions from states. She regularly monitors CDC-funded states dental sealant group listserv and posts information on upcoming sealant-related events. She recently updated all electronic resources on ASTDD's [dental sealant resources webpage](#). A newly formed small workgroup has been meeting to discuss sealant retention related to the use of glass ionomer sealants. The workgroup is concerned about retention checks being the primary evaluation tool for sealant programs and would like to see a broader list of evaluation tools.

Two Dental Sealant Community of Practice calls were held this quarter. The Sealant CoP is now open to all states, not just CDC-funded states. On October 28 Sandy provided an overview of upcoming sealant-related webinars/events and an NOHC preconference session on "Evaluation Bootcamp." She reviewed the *2017 School Dental Sealant Programs White Paper* and discussed recommendations for updating. Lori Cofano provided an overview of the new *School-based Sealant Programs BPAR*. On December 1 Michele Neuburger from CDC led a discussion of infection, prevention and control issues for school programs.

Fluorides Committee (FC)

Judy Feinstein finalized two presentations, *How to Develop and Implement a State Oral Health Fluoridation Plan* and *Introduction of the Tablet Feeder System Handbook* for Missouri's Community Water Fluoridation Summit, which she attended in person on October 13 & 14. Unfortunately, due to technical issues with the feeder system in MO, the latter presentation was replaced by an *Overview of ASTDD Fluorides and Fluoridation Resources*, including an overview of the Fluoridation Activity Updates and Alerts information that is sent to states and other interested parties. The Summit, attended by about 60 people in person and another 25 or so via Zoom, was well done and very well received. The meeting may provide a model for small, focused regional meetings on fluoridation.

Judy sent two Fluoridation Activity Updates and Alerts during October with specific emails to contacts in WI and MI, and two more Updates and Alerts in November and December. The next CWF Community of Practice call will occur in January and is now open to all states, not just CDC-funded states.

Healthy Aging Committee (HAC)

The Gary and Mary West Foundation (GMWF) has awarded additional funding to update the *Oral Health in the Older Adult Population (Age 65 and Older) BPAR*. The [Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration](#) document was finalized and posted to the ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee webpage. This resource was developed by a workgroup of individuals from state public health programs, academia, and clinicians caring for older adults in a variety of settings. ASTDD would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Gary and Mary West Foundation for supporting the development of this resource tool and to Apple Tree Dental for their partnership in connecting ASTDD with the Gary and Mary West Foundation. The intent was to develop a resource to answer a need expressed by state oral health programs and other partners during ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee meetings. Committee members expressed a desire to collaborate with groups that focus on older adults to improve the health of this growing population. The resources include information on the link between oral health and overall health, oral health and chronic disease, special populations, ventilator and non-ventilator pneumonia, nutrition, financing routine dental care, information for non-dental providers, teledentistry and equity. We hope that you will begin to use the resources and respond to our evaluation questions.

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

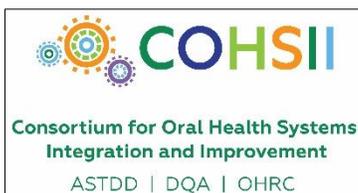
The Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) Project Consultants continue to work on providing leadership and assistance to the Regional DHL Coordinators (RDHLCs) and the state DHLs. They also keep busy with recruitment so that Head Start programs in every state continue to benefit from having a state DHL. The latest roster can be found on our [ASTDD DHL webpage](#).



One way that we keep the DHLs informed is through regular postings on the DHL Project discussion list. This quarter we had more than 20 postings. This quarter's DHL webinar was held on November 17 and focused on *Advancing Health Equity*. Children and families served by Head Start and Early Head Start are especially vulnerable to and disproportionately impacted by health disparities. This webinar built on information from the *Social Determinants of Health* webinar held earlier this year. DHLs learned how one's own values, beliefs, assumptions, and experiences can affect interactions with Head Start staff, children, and families as they address opportunities to promote health equity.

The ASTDD DHL consultants continue to work on designing and revising support documents and processes to improve workflow and communication. We participate in and /or lead a variety of calls each month with RDHLCs, Regional Health Specialists, the DHL management team, and the NCHBHS consortium to enhance that communication. Newly released educational materials on oral health from the NCHBHS *Resources to Make You Smile* series include: [How Smoking Affects Oral Health](#), and [Finding Oral Health Care](#)

Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII)



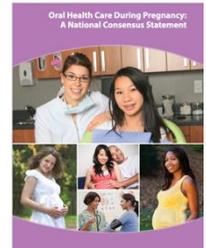
The ASTDD Perinatal Oral Health Committee (POHC) met on October 19 to discuss future projects. COHSII updates were provided and the group discussed creating a Perinatal Oral Health Community of Practice. For the past 3 months, COHSII staff and consultants have been developing and updating resources focusing on oral health care for pregnant women. Below is a summary of these resources.

[Considerations for Identifying Pregnancies in Claims Data for Oral Health Care During Pregnancy](#)

This brief describes background research for two new measures for pregnant women and challenges in testing measure concepts. It explains why oral health care during pregnancy and the development of related oral health care quality measures are important, as well as how health care quality measures are reported. It also discusses identifying pregnant women in claims data for denominator inclusion, determining enrollment requirements for denominator inclusion, determining time frame for receipt of recommended services for numerator inclusion, and the impact of benefits coverage on identification services for numerator inclusion.

[Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement](#)

The consensus statement provides guidance on oral health care for pregnant women for both prenatal care health professionals and oral health professionals, pharmacological considerations for pregnant women, and guidance for health professionals to share with pregnant women. The table, "Pharmacological Considerations for Pregnant Women," that appears in the document was updated to align with U.S. Food and Drug Administration [guidance](#) issued on September 1, 2022.



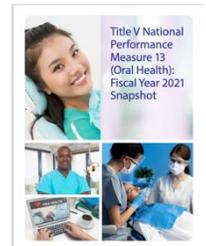
[Opioids and Pregnant Women: Information for Oral Health Professionals](#)

The brief provides guidance for dentists about prescribing opioids to pregnant women, if pain management is needed. It also includes information about prescription drug monitoring programs, managing acute dental pain, and recommendations for discharging women with prescriptions.



[Title V National Performance Measure 13 \(Oral Health\): Fiscal Year 2021 Snapshot](#)

The *Snapshot* presents activities conducted by states addressing the Title V national performance measure on oral health in fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021). It also presents challenges, lessons learned, and accomplishments in promoting preventive dental visits for pregnant women and children and adolescents, ages 1 through 17.



COHSII staff also presented about the project at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in November in Boston and also at the National Network for Oral Health Access annual Conference in Nashville in November.

RESPITE Project

As a reminder, RESPITE is a research study, *Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Acute Dental Pain: Development, Implementation, and Evaluation Using Data Analytics to Target an Implementation Strategy*. Activities for the RESPITE study for the past few months centered around: 1) responding to peer review feedback and revising study manuscripts in preparation for publication, 2) developing provider and patient surveys to learn about prescribing practices before and after the guideline is released as well as to measure negative consequences for both groups, and 3) promoting the CE course on the guideline that was launched in 5 states. Additional planned activities into the new year include continued development of a CME course on the guideline, publishing a commentary on the guideline for emergency medicine providers, and presenting a session co-sponsored with the ASTDD DPHPC at the NOHC in April 2023.

Evaluation Activities

The ASTDD Evaluation consultants continue to provide general assistance and TA to CDC-funded evaluators through one-on-one consultation, ASTDD's evaluation listserv, and review of states' annual evaluation reports and progress updates. In the last *Roundup*, the ASTDD Evaluation consultants shared that their team had grown to include Maggie Pustinger, in

addition to Mary Davis and Carissa Beatty. Since then, evaluation has been permeating the air. There was a two-part listserv series that discussed “The ABCs of Evaluation” to get gears turning about new evaluation frameworks.

The evaluation consultants presented a workshop at the American Evaluation Association Conference in New Orleans, *Evaluation Plans in Action: Tackling Real-World Roadblocks*. The presenters discussed the importance of properly planning for evaluation, challenges to implementing evaluations, and how to get evaluations back on track when encountering roadblocks. This was based on the workshop they presented at NOHC 2022. S/TOHP evaluators will be invited to a related webinar in early February 2023 about rebooting evaluation plans when challenges arise during implementation. The evaluation consultants are planning a workshop at the 2023 NOHC for evaluators and other S/TOHP staff on the variety of ways that evaluation findings can be reported beyond the “50 page report.”

There has been collaboration with the other ASTDD consultants as well. The evaluators and the Best Practices Committee have been discussing ways the BPC can measure impact. The ASTDD evaluation consultants are available to support surveillance and evaluation specialists at state oral health programs funded through CDC’s DP18-1810 cooperative agreement, and core resources are freely available on ASTDD’s [Evaluation and Quality Improvement](#) webpage. The recordings for past webinars are available to members on [ASTDD’s Webcasts and Audioconferences webpage](#).

National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) Update



APRIL 17-19, 2023
AT THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, ORLANDO, FL
WEEKEND WORKSHOPS
APRIL 15-16, 2023



PRESENTED BY:



2023 will mark the 24th joint meeting of ASTDD and AAPHD. NOHC offers educational sessions on a diverse array of topics by leaders in the field and is designed for dentists, dental hygienists, health researchers, dental/health educators, legislators, public health officials, Medicaid/CHIP dental program staff or consultants, state/territorial dental directors, county/city/local dental directors, community health center personnel, students, school-based and school-linked health center personnel, federally-employed dental personnel, as well as dental manufacturers/distributors and dental insurance companies – in short, anyone interested in engaging in collaboration to improve the oral health of the public.

Hotel information for the Doubletree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Studios is open and you can book via [this link](#). Attendee Registration and the online program are available [here](#).

Come join us in Orlando!



Meetings and Webinars

(links aren’t available if they were a member only or pre-registration event)

Information about meetings and webinars is regularly included in the ASTDD Weekly Digest. This is just one example of meetings attended.

Gerontological Society of American Oral Health Interest Group Meeting. Virtual, October 11, Elisa Ghezzi reporting.

Guest speakers were Eva Lenoir, MPH and S. Eric Wahlstrom, MPH from Discern Health, part of Real Chemistry who spoke on *Dental Provider and Payer Perceptions of Value-Based Oral Health Care*. Publications of this work and *Using Quality Tactics to Advance Value-Based Oral Healthcare* can be found at www.geron.org/oral_health. An update on the Consortium for Medically Necessary Oral Health Coverage was given regarding the statement on Medicare Coverage (<https://medicareadvocacy.org/public-statement-on-medicare-coverage-of-medically-necessary-oral-and-dental-health-therapies/>; <https://santafegroup.org/news/medicare/consortium-for-medically-necessary-oral-health-coverage-issues-statement-on-medicare-coverage/>). The GSA Annual Scientific Session was held in Indianapolis, IN November 2-6, 2022 which included a Momentum Discussion on *The Oral Health Imperative: Intensifying Research, Expanding Interprofessional Care and Increasing Access and Value*. Speakers included Dr. Christopher Fox discussing the upcoming American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research Meeting within a Meeting on Oral Health and Aging at the AADOCR March 2023 Portland meeting, Dr. Elisa Ghezzi summarizing the NIDCR *Oral Health in America Report* section on Older Adults, Eric Wahlstrom speaking on Value-Based Oral Health Care research, and Dr. Michele Saunders giving an update on Medicare coverage for medically necessary oral care. The next GSA annual meeting will be in Tampa, FL November 8-12, 2023.

Look for the next issue of *Roundup* in March 2023

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