

ASTDD Best Practices Committee Annual Report

Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2022

Chair: Steve Geiermann
Coordinator: Lori Cofano

Members: Zachary Brian, Christina Demopoulos, Gina Thornton-Evans, Irene Hilton, Samantha Jordan, Shillpa Naavaal, Kimberlie Payne, Julie Reynolds, Christine Veschusio and Kathy Weno

New members: Russell Dunkel, Christine Farrell

Members resigned: Adam Barefoot, Robin Miller

Specific Advisory Committee Members: Rudy Blea, Angela Filzen, Darwin Hayes, Katrina Holt, Jeremy Horst, Sarah Kolo, Beth Lowe, Bill Maas, Debora Teixeira, Sandy Tesch and Julia Wacloff.

Purpose: The Best Practices Committee (BPC) supports effective state, territorial and community programs through the development and sharing of Best Practice Approach Reports (BPARs). The collection of Descriptive Reports (DRs) increases awareness and promotes the integration of oral health best practices into other programs.

The BPC supports the ASTDD Strategic Plan by encouraging the use of evidence-based and evidenced-informed policies and practices, identifying emerging issues and promising approaches, identifying cross-cutting issues and providing tools and technical assistance to improve state and territorial oral health program policies, plans, programs and partnerships.

Accomplishments and Current Activities: The committee held two virtual meetings in January and October, and its annual in-person meeting at the National Oral Health Conference in Dallas, Texas. The committee works efficiently and effectively through Dropbox. Committee members volunteer as liaisons on workgroups updating and developing best practice approach reports (BPARs), reviewing draft BPAR narratives and descriptive report submissions, and revising the descriptive report form. The BPC members offer a wide range of subject matter expertise.

- The NOHC session, *Oral Health Care of People with Special Health Care Needs: Data Drives Decisions*, was an opportunity to highlight two BPARs completed in 2021: the updated [Oral Health Care of People with Special Health Care Needs](#) and the new [Dissemination of Data from State-Based Surveillance Systems](#) BPARs. Presenters were Drs. Paul Glassman, Amy Martin and Sam Zwetchkenbaum with moderation by Dr. Mike Manz.
- The [School-Based Dental Sealant Programs](#) BPAR was updated and posted in October 2022, with 14 descriptive reports. This project was supported by the National Maternal and Child Health Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC). The primary authors were Prasida Khanal, BDS, MPH and Beth Lowe, BSDH, MPH. An ASTDD Spotlight was presented by Beth Lowe and Lori Cofano in November.

- A webinar co-branded by ASTDD, the OHRC and the CareQuest Institute is slated for February 23, 2023, during Children's Dental Health Month.
- This is the first BPAR to include the ASTDD and the funder's logo. It also acknowledges the subject matter experts who assisted with the report development.
 - Thank you notes were emailed to those who submitted descriptive reports. The notes include a link to the descriptive report and the BPAR as well as a request to share the information with their partners.
 - The update to the *State Oral Health Plans and Collaborative Planning* BPAR was discontinued by the Board and the project will be addressed outside of the BPC.
 - The BPC began discussing how to capture input to evaluate the use of BPARs. Who is accessing the documents, who do they represent, and how do they intend to use the document. Input from several ASTDD partner organizations will inform this project. An evaluation workgroup has been formed to further this discussion. ASTDD evaluator Maggie Pustinger is assisting the workgroup.
 - The BPC is seeking to update the descriptive report form., which was deemed too repetitive and long by current users. Input from several ASTDD partner organizations is being used to inform this project.
 - Two webinars were presented in June 2022 by BPC member Dr. Zachary Brian: [Why a Systems Change Approach for Oral Health?](#) and [Strategies & Tactics for Seeking Funding for Systems-Level Oral Health](#). The sessions were a joint collaboration with ASTDD and the American Dental Association (ADA). The webinars are available on the ADA website free of charge and continuing education credit is available.
 - Support for the update to the *Prevention and Control of Early Childhood Caries (ECC)* BPAR was confirmed. The project will be a partnership with ASTDD, OHRC and the CareQuest Institute. The primary author is Dr. Brian Novy. This BPAR will explore "promising practices" that are in the works to address ECC.
 - A funding request to the Gary and Mary West Foundation to support an update to the *Oral Health in the Older Adult Population (Age 65 and older)* BPAR was submitted by Lori Cofano and approved. The funding period runs from January through December 2023. Principal authors for this BPAR are being finalized.
 - Lori received approval from the BPC to discontinue the collection of State Activity Submissions. Starting in January 2023, only descriptive reports will be posted on the BP webpage moving forward. The ASTDD IT person will be working with Lori to make the necessary revisions to the BP webpage.
 - The committee provided technical assistance on the use of Dropbox.
 - 86% of the BPC are members of ASTDD.
 - The BPC 2022-2023 logic model and workplan were updated, approved and posted to the ASTDD BP webpage.

Future Activities:

- Solicit descriptive reports for BPARs.
- Completion of two BPARs and post to BP webpage.
- Dissemination of BPARs via ASTDD Spotlight, listservs and other means.
- Review and monitor BP webpages for revisions.
- Continue to provide technical assistance around BPARs, descriptive reports, Dropbox and other areas as needed.

Subcommittees:

- Best Practices Evaluation Workgroup: Formed to look for ways to capture input on ASTDD BPARs and other documents.
- BPAR Workgroups: Formed for each BPAR. Members provide input and guidance to primary author during development of the narrative. Members also make recommendations for descriptive report submissions on the related topic.

Unmet committee needs:

- Funding to support honoraria for primary authors writing and presenting BPAR materials. The BPC is thankful for entities such as the Oral Health Resource Center, CareQuest Institute and the Gary and Mary West Foundation, but such fiscal collaborations cannot always be guaranteed. The role of subject matter experts is critical to keep ASTDD Best Practices up to date and excelling.
- Funding outside of the CDC CA for ASTDD consultant hours needed to provide technical assistance and oversight as the number of BPARs in process now averages two to three per year.