

2023 ASTDD Best Practices Committee Annual Report

Chair: Steve Geiermann

Coordinator: Lori Cofano

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

New BPC members: None in 2023.

Subcommittee members:

Early Childhood Caries: Prevention and Management BPAR: Dr. Brian Novy, primary author. Advisory workgroup: Lori Cofano, Irene Hilton, Katrina Holt, Jeremy Horst, Steve Geiermann, Mike Monopoli, Debora Teixeira, Chris Veschusio and Chris Wood.

Improving the Oral Health of Older Adults BPAR: Dr. Leonard Brennan, primary author assisted by Drs. Steffany Chamut and Lisa Thompson. Advisory workgroup: Lori Cofano, Russ Dunkel, Gretchen Gibson-Castleman, Steve Geiermann, Deb Jacobi, Chris Wood and Sam Zwetchkenbaum.

Evaluation workgroup: Zachary Brian, Lori Cofano, Steve Geiermann, Katrina Holt, Sarah Kolo, Maggie Pustinger and Chris Wood.

Purpose: The Best Practices Committee (BPC) supports more effective state, territorial and community programs through the development and sharing of Best Practice Approach Reports (BPARs). The collection of descriptive reports (DRs) promotes the integration of oral health best and promising 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: The committee held two meetings via Zoom, January and August, and held the annual face-to-face meeting at the National Oral Health Conference in Orlando, Florida. The committee worked efficiently and effectively through Dropbox. Committee members volunteered to serve as liaisons on workgroups updating and developing BPARs, reviewing draft BPAR narratives and DR submissions, and revising the DR form. The BPC members provide a range of subject matter expertise.

- The narrative on the State Activities page and the Best Practices page was updated to reflect the change in status of state activity submissions. Those submissions were placed in archive status and will no longer be collected. In December 2023, state dental directors were notified that state activity submissions will be deleted from the ASTDD server by January 31, 2024. Descriptive reports will continue to be collected for inclusion in BPARs and still listed by state on the Best Practices page.
- In February, Beth Lowe presented a webinar, *Best Practices and Innovative Approaches to Strengthen School-Based Dental Sealant Programs*. The webinar

announcement was shared with the National Association of School Nurses and the School-Based Health Alliance. More than 1,000 people registered and more than 600 participated.

- Funding from the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) and the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health supported the [Early Childhood Caries: Prevention and Management](#) BPAR. This was an update to a previous BPAR. It was posted in October 2023 and includes sixteen DRs. The primary author was Dr. Brian Novy. External reviewer subject matter experts: Drs. Francisco Ramos-Gomez, Shillpa Naavaal, Man Wei Ng, and Timothy Wright. Dr. Brian Novy will present an ASTDD Spotlight on February 7, 2024, as part of Children's Dental Health Month.
- An abstract was submitted and accepted for the 2024 NOHC. The session is titled: *Early Childhood Caries: A Paradigm Shift*.
- Funding from the Gary and Mary West Foundation supported the update to the *Oral Health in the Older Adult Population (Age 65 and older)* BPAR, retitled, [Improving the Oral Health of Older Adults](#). It was posted in December 2023 and includes eleven DRs. Dr. Lenny Brennan was the primary author with support from Drs. Steffany Chamut and Lisa Thompson. External reviewer subject matter experts: Drs. Elisa Ghezzi, Eric Reines, Hugh Silk and Barbara Smith.
- An abstract was submitted and accepted for the 2024 NOHC related to this BPAR and was accepted. The session is titled: *If I Had Known I Was Going to Live This Long, I'd Have Taken Better Care of Myself!*
- Thank you notes were emailed to those who submitted DRs. For CDC funded states, their project officer was copied on the note as well. The notes included a link to the DR and the BPAR as well as a request to share the information with their partners.
- Three new state DRs from Arkansas, Idaho and Vermont were added to the [State-Based Oral Health Surveillance Systems](#) BPAR. The submissions were suggested by CDC DOH staff. Per CDC's request thank you emails were shared with the CDC surveillance team: Gina Thornton-Evans, Mei Lin, Shanele Williams and Ann Sauer Goding.
- Lori presented to the Connecticut Dental Sealant Advisory Workgroup on the [School-Based Dental Sealant Programs](#) BPAR during their April meeting.
- The BPC Evaluation Workgroup, formed in 2022, continued to discuss how to capture evaluation of ASTDD documents. A recommendation was made to use pop-up evaluations for various ASTDD documents. The pop-ups were to be piloted on upcoming BPARs. Bradley Cummins, ASTDDs IT support person, provided an estimate of \$18,000 to complete the project. Chris requested Bradley provide an estimate to begin the basics of the project and that estimate was still too high. The workgroup was dissolved after receiving the cost estimate.
- The BPC approved the revised DR form in January 2023. Input from users had indicated the previous form was too repetitive and long. Input from several ASTDD partner organizations was used to inform this project.
- The BPC compendium was updated, including a QR code, for distribution at the 2023 NOHC.
- The ASTDD BOD requested the BPC consider a BPAR on mandated school screenings. This was requested as there is an ASTDD issue brief on the topic. Steve and Lori requested Chris query state dental directors to see if outcome-based data exists to support mandated screenings. Only California responded

that they collect data around mandated school screenings. The suggestion for a BPAR was tabled due to lack of supporting evidence.

- The *Statutory Mandate for a State Oral Health Program* BPAR was archived.
- Lori created a basic Dropbox Guidance document to share with BPAR advisory workgroups.
- The BP committee provided technical assistance on the use of Dropbox.
- The BPC 2023-2024 logic model and workplan were updated, approved and posted to the ASTDD BP webpage.
- The BPC will hold their annual face-to-face meeting at the 2024 NOHC.

Current activities:

- Minimally invasive care (MIC) advocacy document supported by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health will be a collaboration between the BPC and Dental Public Health Policy Committee.
- BPC members serve as liaisons to review drafts and provide subject matter expertise on various ad hoc BPAR advisory workgroups and subcommittees.

Future Activities:

- Solicit DRs for BPARs.
- Completion of MIC advocacy document.
- Dissemination of MIC advocacy document via ASTDD Spotlight, listservs and other available means.
- Review and monitor BP webpages for revisions.
- Continue to provide technical assistance around BPARs, DRs, Dropbox and other areas as needed.

Subcommittees:

- Best Practices Evaluation Workgroup: on hold until funding becomes available.
- BPAR Workgroups: Formed for each BPAR. Members provide input and guidance to the primary author during development of the narrative. Members make recommendations for DR 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 National Oral Health Resource Center, CareQuest Institute for Oral Health and the Gary and Mary West Foundation, but future fiscal collaborations cannot be guaranteed.
- Funding outside of the CDC CA for ASTDD consultant hours to provide technical assistance and oversight on BPC projects. This may be vital as CDC funding after August 2024 may change.