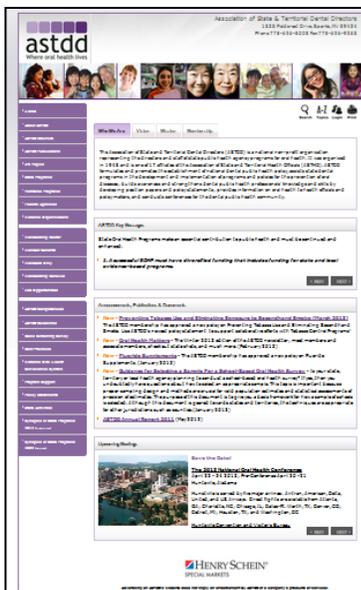


ASTDD Communications Committee and Social Media Workgroup

The ASTDD Communications Committee oversees the organizations various communication activities. The Committee is responsible for publishing and distributing the ASTDD Annual Report, the ASTDD newsletter, *Round-up*, the ASTDD Weekly Digest and the bi-monthly Spotlight webinar. The committee also works with the ASTDD webmaster to promote, manage, and update the organizations website and listservs. Additionally, the Communications Committee creates and distributes promotional materials and brochures, provides technical assistance on communications planning, messaging, and evaluation, reviews and edits communication materials, and organizes and staffs the ASTDD booth at the National Oral Health Conference. The committee's Social Media Workgroup, handles all ASTDD social media along with conducting related webinars and workshops

ASTDD Website <http://www.astdd.org>



ASTDD 2021 Annual Report



ASTDD Roundup

ASTDD Roundup for January and February 2022
Selected Consultant, Committee, Project and Meeting Summaries
By Bev Ismon, RDH, MPH, ELS

Welcome to 2022!!! We never thought that 2021 would end, we hoped the pandemic would end, but here we are still making, vaxing, distancing, and ZOOMING. Oh, and now we REALLY have to worry about the world in addition to US politics. I encourage everyone to read the 2021 Annual Report when it is posted in March; it highlights A Year of Realistic Optimism and how the ASTDD Family coped with a complex, confusing, and often frustrating environment.

State Dental Director Calls, National Partnerships, and Congratulations

ASTDD continues to participate in calls and emails with the COVID-19 Public-Private Partner Dental Coordination Group, more than three dozen organizations and a dozen federal entities dedicated to improving the oral health of the nation. We work through coordinated messaging, sharing knowledge about the ongoing pandemic as it relates to oral health, promoting integration of oral health into overall health, and working collectively on oral health topics. ASTDD also participates in the CareQuest Institute's Pandemic Response Workgroup, The Oral Health Pandemic Response Workgroup, which includes ASTDD, sent a letter to Adam Ruchel's Levine, MD, Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health, asking that oral health be included in the revision of the DHHS Strategic Plan and other policy, legislative, regulatory, and administrative activities as integral to overall health. Many ASTDD members serve on the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) Response Teams and participate in OPEN webinars, updates, and other training.

Dental directors continue to meet virtually to provide information and support to each other. Calls in January and February included:

- January 20: Bi Tatro, a former ASTDD Evaluation consultant, led the dental directors in a preliminary discussion about the ASTDD 2019-2021 Strategic Map to determine areas where we may need updates. She will lead a session at the Board of Directors meeting in April to continue the discussion and finalize a new strategic map for 2022-24.
- February 24: Sydney Chavis, DMD, Clinical Professor, Special Care and Geriatrics, Dept of Dental Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, provided an overview of the [National Dental Practice Based Research Network \(NDRN\)](#), including some of its accomplishments and asked the directors for input on how to market the Network to more people. In addition, Kirby Mastrion, DMD, MPH, ELS, who retired as the Colorado dental director in December, is now working as a Special Advisor to the director of the CDC Division of Oral Health (DOH). She shared her enthusiasm for the new position and will continue to work with the other DOH staff in providing support to states. Congratulations Kirby!

Also, congratulations to Lindy Bollen, dental director in Arkansas, who retired at the end of January. Lindy served on the ASTDD BOD as a director and kept us entertained with his quick wit and stories. We will miss you and your stylish bow ties (Lindy! Looks like you've been wearing them forever!



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