

ASTDD Dental Public Health Policy Committee Annual Report

Jan 1, 2019 – Dec 31, 2019

Chair: Harry Goodman

Consultant: Judith Feinstein

Members: Lindy Bollen (AR), Antonina Capurro (NV), Carrie Farquhar (OH), Chris Farrell (MI), Shelley Guinn (WA), Debono Hughes (MD), Ray Lala (SC), Jason Roush (WV), Mona Van Kanegan (IL)

Note: Committee name changed from Dental Public Health Resources in March.

1. List any new members or subcommittee members:
 - Debono Hughes, DDS, Director of the Office of Oral Health in Maryland, joined the Committee in October.

2. Describe the purpose of your committee:
 - To develop, promote and support resource and policy-related documents to assist state and territorial oral health programs to improve oral health, in support of ASTDD's objective to reflect the Association's priorities and stance on dental public health issues. These documents describe the issues and evidence base, and contain statements that may include recommendations, strategies, and/or information to assist decision makers (such as healthcare providers, federal, state or private agencies, employers, public health officials), or the public, in choosing between alternative courses of action in specific situations. The Committee's function is to oversee the creation of resource documents on such issues for submission to the Board of Directors for approval, working with other ASTDD committees and/or individuals.

3. List your recent committee accomplishments:
 - Updated Committee logic model and work plan for the period 9/2019 – 8/2020.
 - Met eight times during 2019.
 - In March, the Committee proposed and the BOD agreed to change the committee's name to Dental Public Health Policy Committee. Papers produced prior to that remain "white papers" and those produced after are policy statements.
 - Produced two new documents:
 - "Teledentistry: How Technology Can Facilitate Access to Care" in March, working with Scott Howell, DMD, MPH, FSCD
 - "Sugar-Sweetened Beverages" in April, working with Nazgol Gharbi, DDSThese were approved by the BOD and posted to the ASTDD website.
 - The Committee and consultant worked extensively to produce a third document, a policy statement titled "Reducing Emergency Department Utilization for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions (with Dane McClurg, DDS, MPH). The bulk of the work was completed in 2019; approval by the BOD is expected in January 2020.
 - Completed update of ASTHO's 2015 Oral Health Position Statement, now to be known as a policy statement. This is a short paper to be linked to a longer background document.

ASTHO's Population Health and Informatics Policy Committee approved the statement and Board approval is pending (1/2020).

4. Describe your current committee activity:
 - Review of the Fluorosis Issue Brief from the Fluorides Committee remains pending.
 - A policy statement on antibiotic stewardship and dentistry has been started by two dental public health residents working with a faculty mentor. They hope to complete the paper by the 2020 NOHC, and submitted an abstract to present on this topic there; they were accepted for a concurrent session.
 - The Perinatal Oral Health Committee has revised and updated a policy statement from 2013. They expect to forward it to the DPHPC in January and would like to have the statement approved and posted by the time of the NOHC.
 - A policy statement on opioid prescribing practices and dental procedures has been initiated by a dental resident at Temple. His goal is to complete the paper by June.

5. Describe the future activities planned by your committee:
 - As noted in our previous report, the DPHRC looked at older resource documents (publication date 2012 or earlier) in order to identify those likely to need revisions/updates. There are several more papers that should be reviewed in 2020.
 - In lieu of an issue brief on oral health literacy, which would be very broad in scope, the Committee continues to be interested, as time permits, in undertaking drafting a short document (one to two pages) to summarize the many and multi-faceted issues around oral health literacy and describe ASTDD's resources.
 - Continue to assess need for, recruit writers, and develop policy statements, as resources allow, on priority issues identified by members as well as on those previously identified. The 2019-20 workplan suggests we will conduct a survey (or other inquiry) of ASTDD members on their priorities and develop an annual dental public health resource statements plan if/as needed; we also rely on topics identified as being of interest by DPH residents who want to work with ASTDD.

6. Describe any subcommittees your committee uses, their roles and activities:
 - The DPHRC does not have standing subcommittees. Subcommittees are established as needed to work on specific statements or other activities; e.g., an ad hoc subcommittee to review the ADA's proposed resolutions.

7. List any unmet needs of your committee (e.g., members, funding, etc.):
 - We continue to recognize that specific expertise on accepted oral disease prevention modalities either from committee members or others on an *ad hoc* basis, and on other topics as identified, would be beneficial in drafting statements on such issues.