

**ASTDD Dental Public Health Policy Committee Annual Report  
Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022**

Chair: Harry Goodman                      Consultant: Judy Feinstein

Members: Tracy Anselmo (CO)\*, Eric Biagioli (MD)\*, Chris Farrell (MI), Debony Hughes (MD), Shelley Guinn (WA), Pedro Medina-Cuevas (IL)\*, Nicole Payonk (PA)\*, Anubhuti Shukla (IN), Kristi Sutton-Thomas (MI), Mona VanKanegan (IL)

\* These individuals were members for part of the year.

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1. List any new members or subcommittee members:

Tracy Anselmo, Eric Biagioli, Pedro Medina-Cuevas, and Nicole Payonk joined the DPHPC in 2022.

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 are intended for directors of State/Territorial Oral Health Programs (S/TOHP) and their staff to support them in describing the issues and evidence base at a high level. Documents may include examples, recommendations, strategies, and/or information that S/TOHP can use to assist decision makers (such as healthcare providers, federal, state or private agencies, employers, public health officials), or the public, in developing further understanding of dental public health issues or in choosing between alternative courses of action in specific situations. Older policies are routinely evaluated by the committee to ensure that they continue to reflect the latest science. The Committee works in collaboration with other ASTDD committees and/or individuals and the Board of Directors to oversee the creation of resource documents and policy statements for use by the ASTDD membership.

3. List your committee accomplishments for the last calendar year.

- Met eleven times during 2022.
- Revised and posted one document: *State-based Oral Health Surveillance Systems*, (originally developed in 2015).
- Although we ultimately determined that ASTDD's existing policy statement on Dental Public Health Residencies should be archived and not revised or updated, discussions starting in April at the NOHC raised issues that are much larger and point to dental public health workforce concerns. Possibilities include an ASTDD issue brief, a white paper from AAPHD, either separately or in collaboration with each other.

- A policy statement on Social Determinants of Health and Oral Health (working title) continued to evolve, with drafts provided by a group of dental students working under the supervision of a dental school director. The paper began as a comprehensive literature review and by the end of this year has developed into a working statement. The students submitted an abstract for a poster session at the 2023 NOHC highlighting their research and were accepted.
- The Committee began looking to update ASTDD's amalgam policy statement (2010). It has become clear that the topic is broader and should look at environmental impacts and related issues in dental materials use. The existing statement will likely be archived. A central objective for the paper will be to provide background for state oral health programs to draw upon for informing and educating their constituencies as needed (e.g., public education materials, responses to media or policymakers). It will look at amalgam, pros and cons, acknowledge environmental concerns (Minamata Convention, etc.), and be clear that non-amalgam alternatives are not a panacea and why. We are working with Linda Kaste at UIC and a pediatric dental resident who is also working toward an MPH degree. She would like to complete the paper by the end of June.
- Harry Goodman and Judy Feinstein, along with Lori Cofano and Chris Wood, met with representatives of AMTA (American Mobile and Teledentistry Alliance) the current president of AMTA (American Mobile and Teledentistry Alliance) to discuss collaborating to update our *School-Based or School-Linked Mobile or Portable Dental Services* policy statement and the *Mobile and Portable Dental Services in Pre-school and School Settings: Complex Issues* issue brief. A principal writer has been identified (the current president) and hopes to complete the product by the end of June.
- The DPHPC sponsored and presented a weekend workshop at the 2022 NOHC, *Big "P" Policy, Little "p" policy, and Putting it into Practice*; 15 of the 18 people registered did attend. Evaluations were mostly positive. Specific things participants noted they intended to do with what they learned included: framing and structuring conversations/discussions about policy; use the ASTDD policies/policy briefs more often; use the information to promote and advocate within projects, organizations, and individually; use the big P/little p framework; and continue accessing the ASTDD site for help. Committee members Harry Goodman and Mona Van Kanegan were presenters, along with Greg Holder from CDC; Judy Feinstein served as the moderator.
- Judy Feinstein co-presented *"Is Your Website Ready for Visitors with Low Oral Health Literacy?"* at the 2022 NOHC with Matt Jacob, subbing for Alice Horowitz; the session was well-attended and well received.
- The Committee updated DPHPC [Policy statement template](#) and the Dental Public Health Policy Statement/Resource Document [Review form](#).
- The Committee reviewed proposed resolutions as presented to the ADA's House of Delegates for their Annual Session in October, and prepared comments on five of them for ASTDD. 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 which are strongly suspected to have a direct relationship to a patient's oral health.

- The DPHPC collaborated in planning for and submitting an abstract for a panel presentation at the 2023 NOHC, *A Collaborative Research Project to Reduce Opioid Use by Dental Providers in Managing Dental Pain*. This follows from a project funded by the US FDA, awarded to the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and the ADA Science & Research Institute, with input from ASTDD. The abstract was accepted for a concurrent session. Although it was produced separately from the project, the 2021 policy statement *Reducing Opioid Prescribing by Oral Health Professionals* will be noted by presenters.
  - On behalf of the DPHPC, Judy attended NACDD's webinar, "The Importance of Educating Policymakers About Preventing Chronic Disease." Along with discussing the importance of educating policymakers about chronic disease issues, presenters talked about the differences between education, advocacy, and lobbying and what specific strategies can be used to achieve positive policy outcomes.
  - Judy Feinstein met virtually with Adam Barefoot (HRSA Chief Dental Officer) to explore interest HRSA may have in the amalgam/restorative materials issue, and to discuss questions about HPSA designations and CWF status at the state level.
4. Describe the future activities planned by your committee:
- Review updated/revised documents in collaboration with the Fluorides Committee as they become available.
  - Complete the policy statements on social determinants of health, amalgam/restorative materials, and the paper(s) on mobile/portable dentistry.
  - Continue to evaluate older policy statements and resource documents (publication dates older than 5 years) to identify those likely to need revisions/updates. Other than those noted above, topics include but may not be limited to tobacco use (including vaping), and state oral health program infrastructure and capacity. The Committee's 2021-22 workplan suggested we would "assess ASTDD member priorities on dental public health policy and resources and develop an annual dental public health policy statements plan (as needed)." Other topics may be suggested by dental public health residents or professionals, other committees, the BOD and others.
  - In lieu of drafting a policy statement on health equity to correspond with a BPAR that might be developed, the Committee will focus on creating an annotated webpage on health equity, e.g., by reorganizing and annotating ASTDD's Health Equity/Social

Determinants of Health webpage, into categories such as organizations, policy statements, toolkits, journal articles, etc.

- In lieu of an issue brief on oral health literacy, 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, using an annotated webpage.
  - Determine ASTDD's potential role, and the nature, extent, and timing of collaboration with NACDD on their medical-dental integration project.
  - Continue consideration of Committee processes, e.g., format changes for documents, how the relationship among related various papers and resources (those related to access to care, fluorides, and others to be determined) can be presented.
5. Describe any subcommittees your committee uses, their roles and activities:
- 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. The DPHPC did not use any subcommittees in 2022.
6. List any unmet needs of your committee (e.g., members, funding, etc.):
- The Committee may recruit new members in 2023.