

ASTDD Dental Public Health Policy Committee Annual Report

Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2021

Chair: Harry Goodman

Members: Raya Abu-Zahra (NY), Lindy Bollen (AR), Antonina Capurro (CO), Carrie Farquhar (OH), Chris Farrell (MI), Debono Hughes (MD), Shelley Guinn (WA); Anubhuti Shukla (IN), Kristi Sutton-Thomas (MI), Mona VanKanegan (IL)

-
1. List any new members or subcommittee members:
Eric Biagioli, Deputy Director in Maryland's Office of Oral Health joined the committee and will start attending meetings in February 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 to oversee the creation of resource documents and policy statements on such issues in collaboration with other ASTDD committees and/or individuals and the Board of Directors for dissemination to the ASTDD membership.

 3. List your committee accomplishments for the last calendar year.
 - Met nine times during 2021
 - Produced three new documents:
 - *Promoting Good Nutrition and Healthy Eating in Schools*, in collaboration with the School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee and Katrina Holt, MPH, MS, Project Director, National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, and Alyssa Tatum, RD, LD, CNSC.
 - *Healthy People 2030*, first posted in November 2020, was updated in July 2021 to reflect CDC's addition of oral health as a leading health indicator (OH-08: Increase use of the oral health care system).

- *Reducing Opioid Prescribing by Oral Health Professionals*, drafted by Arjun Deo Singh, BDS, MPH, DPH-C, was finalized and posted to ASTDD’s website in September.
 - Provided comments to the School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee on the pending update of ASTDD’s 2011 policy statement *Dental Sealants and BPA*. The statement will not be updated but instead incorporated into a pending Best Practices Approach report on school dental sealant programs.
 - Reviewed and provided comments to ASTHO’s Population Health and Informatics Policy Committee on two pending policy statements:
 - *Achieving Optimal Health for All by Eliminating Structural Racism*
 - *Permanent, Sustainable Medicaid Financing for U.S. Territories*.
 - Reviewed proposed resolutions as presented to the ADA’s House of Delegates for their Annual Session in October, and prepared comments on seven of them.
 - Participated in discussions and planning for changes in branding approaches to ASTDD documents.
 - Developed and submitted a proposal accepted for a preconference workshop at the 2022 NOHC, *Big “P” Policy, Little “p” policy, and Putting it into Practice*, with speakers Greg Holder from CDC, Committee member Mona Van Kanegan, as primary presenters, with assistance from DPHPC chair Harry Goodman and consultant Judy Feinstein.
 - On behalf of the Committee, consultant Judy Feinstein attended a CareQuest webcast, *Seven Recommendations to Boost Oral Health Advocacy Efforts*, a follow-up to an APHA session in October (*Why Advocacy for Oral Health Policy Change is Critical*), and summarized the APHA session for an issue of Round Up.
5. Describe the future activities planned by your committee:
- Review updated/revised documents in collaboration with the Fluorides Committee.
 - Complete a policy statement paper tentatively titled *Social Determinants of Health in Dental Public Health* in collaboration with a team of dental public health residents.
 - Continue to evaluate older policy statements and resource documents (publication dates older than 5 years) to identify those likely to need revisions/updates. Several were identified by the end of 2021; potential collaborators/writers for updates were identified, and work on these and selected new topics is anticipated for 2022. Topics include but are not limited to dental amalgam, dental public health residencies, tobacco use state oral health program infrastructure and capacity. The Committee’s 2021-22 workplan suggests we will “assess ASTDD member priorities on dental public health policy and resources and develop an annual dental public health policy statements plan (as needed).” We also rely on topics identified as of interest by DPH residents who want to work with ASTDD.
 - Draft a policy statement on health equity that will correspond with a BPAR to be developed over the next year; it may be modeled on and adapted as appropriate from a similar paper developed by ASTHO (“Achieving Optimal Health for All by Eliminating Structural Racism”), with other resources as already identified.

- Complete reorganization and annotation of 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, which would be 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.
 - Interest in a proposal for a session at the 2023 NOHC on opioids prescribing, in collaboration with partners at the University of Pittsburgh, addressing issues identified in the 2021 policy statement (e.g., predoctoral and continuing professional education, PDMPs, state level policies) will be further assessed.
 - 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.
6. Describe any subcommittees your committee uses, their roles and activities:
- The DPHPC 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. The DPHPC did not use any subcommittees in 2021.
7. List any unmet needs of your committee (e.g., members, funding, etc.):
- The Committee may recruit new members in 2022.