

## **ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee Annual Report Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2021**

Chair: Sam Zwetchkenbaum  
Facilitator: Lori Kepler Cofano

Members: Diane Brunson, Steffany Chamut, Pam Cushenan, Conan Davis, Guy Deyton, Sarah Dirks, Russ Dunkel, Elisa Ghezzi, Susan Griffin, Mike Helgeson, Christie Hogue, Deb Jacobi, Prasida Khanal, Kally Kline, Karen Lewis, Jill Moore, Karen Phillips, Kaz Rafia, Gwen Sullentrup, Maryam Tabrizi, Damon Terzaghi, Sarah Tomlinson, Karen Tracy, Judy White, Janet Yellowitz

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1. List any new members or subcommittee members:  
Guy Deyton (MO), Gwen Sullentrup (MO), Kaz Rafia (OR)
  2. Describe the purpose of your committee:

The Healthy Aging Committee (HAC) is a focal point for healthy aging issues, including chronic diseases, and resources for state and territorial oral health programs. The HAC consists of subject matter experts in healthy aging and oral health as well as state oral health program directors/program managers and staff interested in advancing statewide efforts to improve the oral health of the older adult population. The HAC is currently supported through a grant from the Gary and Mary West Foundation to develop a toolkit for state oral health programs, state units on aging and area agencies on aging to educate older adults on the importance of oral health to overall health. This is a three-year grant that will end in December of 2022.

3. List your committee accomplishments for the last calendar year.
  - The Healthy Aging Project (HAP) Workgroup includes state oral health program and state unit on aging staff from Alabama, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Virginia and Wisconsin.
  - Kathy Wilson-Gold a dietician working for the Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion (ONHPP)/Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) joined the workgroup in April 2021.
  - HAP workgroup meetings were held via Zoom in January, March, April, June, July, August, October and November 2021.
  - Two dental public health residents from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine are in the process of creating infographics. One will focus on oral health and chronic disease and the other will focus on oral health and nutrition.
  - The HAP workgroup brainstormed topics for the toolkit. The seven areas selected are: 1) oral health and chronic disease and the impact on overall health, 2) edentulism and oral health, 3) non-ventilator and ventilator associated pneumonia, 4) nutrition and oral health, 5) oral health and non-dental providers, 6) special populations oral health needs, 7) teledentistry.

- The HAP workgroup developed a communication plan that identifies a problem statement, goal, target audience, objectives, key messages, and methods of dissemination.
  - The HAP workgroup has been creating an inventory of existing educational materials that focus on older adult oral health.
  - Nebraska has a training program called Enduring Smiles that currently has four modules. They would like to add a fifth module to be included in the toolkit. Nebraska was able to get a funding commitment and is putting the project together. It will need to be added to the toolkit after the release due to timing issues.
  - The draft toolkit was shared with the ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee (HAC) in December 2021 to get their input. Their suggestions will be included in the final toolkit.
  - The HA created an environment for discussion of COVID-19-related disruptions in oral health access for older adults in long-term care settings.
  - Several HAC members collaborations efforts resulted in publications and presentations with the Gerontological Society of America (GSA): [Pandemic-Driven Disruptions in Oral Health:10 Transformative Trends in Care for Older Adult](#) and two webinars developed and presented by nationally recognized speakers under the theme of “Geriatric Oral Health and COVID-19: Old Problems, New Challenges - – [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).”
5. Describe the future activities planned by your committee:
- Assistance is needed to format the final toolkit. Lori has reached out to CareQuest Institute for Oral Health with an ask for an “in-kind” donation to have their graphic designer assist with the final formatting.
  - The draft toolkit format will be finalized in early 2022.
  - The draft toolkit will be shared with external reviewers to get input.
  - The final toolkit will be disseminated to state oral health programs, state units on aging and area agencies on aging.
  - A follow up assessment will be done in late 2022 to determine how the toolkit has been used and the extent of dissemination.
6. Describe any subcommittees your committee uses, their roles and activities:
- The HAP workgroup is separate from the ASTDD HAC, although several of the workgroup members are also HAC members, including the HAC chair Dr. Sam Zwetchkenbaum.
7. List any unmet needs of your committee (e.g., members, funding, etc.):
- In 2022 the HAC will need to discuss other potential funding sources as the Gary and Mary West Foundation funding will end in December 2022. Since many funding opportunities are only once per year it will be important to begin the process early.