

ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee Annual Report

Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022

Chair: Sam Zwetchkenbaum

Facilitator: Lori Kepler Cofano

Members: 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, Gwen Sullentrup, Maryam Tabrizi, Damon Terzaghi, Sarah Tomlinson, Karen Tracy, Janet Yellowitz

Subcommittee members:

Healthy Aging Project Workgroup: Pam Blankenship (VA), Julie Boeckman (MO), Charles Craft (NE), Ellen Davis (IA), Guy Deyton (MO), Russell Dunkel (WI), Angie Friedman (IA), Kathy Wilson-Gold (Administration for Community Living), Tommy Johnson (AL), Kathy Miller (VA), Carrie Molke (WI), Nick Nyberg (AL), Ben Stromberg (NE), Mindy Ulstad (MO), Erik White (NE)

Purpose:

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 was supported through December 2022 by a grant from the Gary and Mary West Foundation (GMWF). The funding supported the development of the [Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration](#) that was published in October 2022 and disseminated to state oral health programs, state units on aging and area agencies on aging and other entities with an interest in older adults and the relationship of oral health to overall health. This was a three-year grant.

The HAC supports the ASTDD Strategic Plan by encouraging the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and practices, identifying emerging issues and promising approaches, providing tools and technical assistance to improve policies, plans, programs and partnerships, promoting and facilitating internal and external collaborations, promoting the collection of data, such as the older adult ASTDD Basic Screening Survey (BSS) to inform planning and decision making.

Accomplishments and Current Activities:

- The Healthy Aging Committee held meetings in February and June as well as a face-to-face gathering at the 2022 NOHC.
- Trish D'Antonio, the Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs for the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and a board-certified geriatric pharmacist, presented during the February meeting. She presented on various policy and advocacy efforts being undertaken by the GSA. Primarily around the inclusion of an oral health benefit in Medicare.

- For the June meeting the draft resource document was shared with HAC members and input was received and then shared with the HAP workgroup.
- The Healthy Aging Project (HAP)Workgroup included 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) was also on the workgroup.
- HAP workgroup meetings were held via Zoom in January, February and March of 2022.
- Two dental public health residents from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine created infographics on oral health and chronic disease and oral health and nutrition that are included in the resource.
- The nine final topic areas are: 1) Oral Health and Overall Health, 2) Special Populations Oral Health Needs, 3) Tooth Loss and Oral Health, 4) Non-ventilator and Ventilator Associated Pneumonia, 5) Nutrition and Oral Health, 6) Financing Routine Dental Care, 7) Oral Health Care and Non-dental Providers, 8) Teledentistry, 9) Equity Approach. There are two additional sections: Resources from State Programs and Acronyms and Additional Resources. The nine topic areas have introductions written by subject matter experts on the specific topic.
- The HAP workgroup developed a communication plan that identified a problem statement, goal, target audience, objectives, key messages, and methods of dissemination.
- The HAP workgroup created an extensive 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 are in the process of creating a fifth module. Nebraska was able to get a funding commitment and is putting the project together. The intent is to add the additional module to the resources sometime in 2023.
- The draft document was shared with several external reviewers including Admiral Tim Ricks, Dr. Karen Becerra (GMWF dentist), Dr. Jennifer Hartshorn, Dr. Judy Jones, Barb Park (NACDD), and Dr. Janet Yellowitz. It was also shared with the Communications Team at the GMWF. Revisions were made based on their input.
- Grace Linn assisted with the graphic design once the narrative and resources were finalized. She used Canva which allowed the resource document to be more visually appealing. It was then converted to a PDF and uploaded to the Healthy Aging Committee webpage.
- Dr. Sam Zwetchkenbaum wrote a letter that introduces the resource document when the link on the Healthy Aging Committee webpage is clicked.
- The HAP collaborated with one of ASTDD's evaluation consultants to create a pop-up questionnaire, that includes four questions, that comes up along with Dr. Zwetchkenbaum's letter. The responses are collected in Survey Monkey.
- In October 2022 the [Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration](#) document was disseminated via the ASTDD Weekly Digest, the ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee listserv, State Units on Aging listserv and shared with the Administration for Community Living, the Gary and Mary West Foundation, ADvancing States, The Gerontological Society of America, the Medicare Center for Advocacy, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), the Oral Health Nursing and Education Program (OHNEP).

- The HAC 2022-2023 logic model and workplan were updated, approved and posted to the ASTDD Healthy Aging webpage.
- A roundtable on the resource will be presented at the 2023 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC).

Future Activities:

- Lori submitted a grant request to the Gary and Mary West Foundation to support the update to the [Oral Health in the Older Adult Population \(Age 65 and Older\) Best Practice Approach Report](#). The grant was approved and the funding runs from January through December 2023.

Subcommittee Work:

- The HAP workgroup was separate from the ASTDD HAC although several of the workgroup members were also HAC members. HAC chair Dr. Sam Zwetchkenbaum was the also chair of the HAP Workgroup. The HAP Workgroup committed an extraordinary amount of time and energy assisting with the development of the Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration document. Their expertise was invaluable for this project.

Committee Needs:

Funding will be on a year-to-year basis depending on grant opportunities.