

Potential Board of Director Member Questionnaire

Name: McAllister Castelaz, DMD, MS

Position you wish to run for: 2nd Associate Member Director

1. Service on the ASTDD Board of Directors is a significant time commitment. It includes participation in a minimum of one 1½ hr phone call a month. Preparation for the call will customarily require several hours of reading various documents prior to the call. In addition, BOD members are frequently required to review and approve various requests and/or reports in between the monthly calls. Can you commit to preparing for, and active participation on, these monthly calls and timely response to requests that occur in between calls? Yes
2. Service on the BOD requires attendance at a minimum of one face-to-face meeting a year as well as occasional meetings with partner organizations as an ASTDD BOD representative. Are you able to commit to attendance at the National Oral Health Conference and up to two other meetings with partner organizations a year? Yes
3. Why would you like to serve on the BOD? I wish to serve as the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors' second Associate Member Director because ASTDD represents one of the most important bridges between policy, public health infrastructure, and real-world implementation of oral health programs. As a board-eligible Dental Public Health dentist and current Medicaid dental clinical policy consultant in Wisconsin, I work daily at the intersection of state policy, clinical practice, and community impact. Serving in this role would allow me to help strengthen the connection between ASTDD and the broader workforce that supports state oral health programs. My career has been grounded in advancing access to care through safety-net systems, innovative delivery models, and workforce development. From leading teledentistry initiatives and mobile care strategies to contributing to national collaborations across organizations, I have seen firsthand how state oral health programs drive meaningful change. ASTDD's leadership in best practices, policy guidance, and national coordination has influenced many of the initiatives I have been privileged to work on. ASTDD continues to play a pivotal role in my professional development, and serving in this leadership role would be an opportunity to give back while helping shape the next chapter of state oral health leadership.
4. How would your service on the BOD benefit ASTDD? As an Associate Member Director, I would bring an engaged national perspective grounded in active collaboration across state programs, safety-net systems, academia, and national partner organizations. Through my work in Medicaid dental clinical policy and national oral health initiatives, I have developed strong relationships that can help strengthen ASTDD's partnerships and expand its influence across the broader oral health ecosystem. I would use this role to help elevate the perspectives of associate members, clinicians, researchers, educators, and emerging public health leaders,

whose work directly supports and advances state oral health programs. I am especially committed to strengthening workforce pathways into dental public health, advancing evidence-informed policy, and helping translate innovative practices emerging in states into scalable strategies that benefit communities nationwide. Serving on the Board would allow me to contribute energy, connectivity, and strategic thinking that support ASTDD's mission while ensuring the organization continues to be a strong national voice for state and territorial oral health leadership.

5. What special talent, skill, or knowledge would you bring to the ASTDD BOD? Examples include financial, legal, or communications/media expertise, understanding of Medicaid, FQHC's or community health centers, or strategic planning ability. One of the most valuable perspectives I bring to the ASTDD Board of Directors is a strong understanding of how policy, public health infrastructure, and clinical systems intersect to influence access to oral health care. Through my work in Medicaid dental clinical policy and prior leadership roles in community health centers, I have developed practical insight into how state policies translate into real-world care delivery for patients and providers. I bring deep familiarity with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and other safety-net systems, including how reimbursement structures, workforce capacity, and program design affect access and sustainability. This experience allows me to help bridge conversations between state oral health programs, policymakers, and frontline providers. I also bring experience in innovation and implementation, particularly related to teledentistry, workforce development, and integrating oral health into broader health systems. My work with national organizations and cross-sector initiatives has given me a strong network and the ability to translate emerging ideas into practical strategies that states can adopt. Finally, as a board-eligible Dental Public Health dentist actively engaged in both policy and practice, I offer a perspective that connects data, community needs, and program implementation, helping ensure ASTDD continues to support state leaders with relevant, actionable guidance.
6. Describe previous leadership experience with other organizations. I have held leadership roles across several national and state dental and oral health organizations focused on advancing access to care, workforce development, and public health collaboration. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA), where I also chair the Membership Committee and help guide national engagement strategies for safety-net providers. In addition, I serve on the Board of the American Institute of Disparities in Public Health (AIDPH) and contribute to governance and strategic initiatives aimed at advancing public health equity. Within the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD), I hold leadership roles across multiple councils, including serving as Vice Chair of the Policy and Advocacy Council and the Career Pathways Workgroup, where we focus on strengthening the dental public health workforce. I have also led initiatives within the American Mobile and Teledentistry Alliance, including serving as President and chairing the Standards of Practice Committee. Collectively, these experiences have strengthened my ability to build

partnerships, support organizational governance, and translate strategy into meaningful programs that advance public health.

7. Describe your past involvement with ASTDD. Have you ever served on or chaired a committee? What projects have you been involved in? How have you demonstrated your commitment to ASTDD and its mission? Since joining ASTDD, I have actively engaged in advancing the organization's mission to support strong state oral health programs and improve population oral health. I currently serve on the ASTDD Dental Public Health Policy Committee, where I serve as Chair, helping guide discussions and contributions related to updating ASTDD policy documents, which can be utilized by state and territorial oral health programs. I also participate in the ASTDD Best Practices Committee, supporting efforts to highlight and disseminate effective strategies that states can adapt and implement. I have also collaborated on projects that translate policy and programmatic insights into practical resources for the field, including authoring the 2023 Mobile and Portable School-Based/School-Linked Oral Health Programs: Delivery Models to Expand Care for Children and Adolescents. Beyond committee participation, I regularly engage with ASTDD initiatives through conference participation, partnerships with aligned organizations, and sharing best practices that help strengthen state oral health infrastructure. My continued involvement reflects my strong commitment to ASTDD's mission and my belief in the organization's critical role in supporting state and territorial leaders working to improve oral health outcomes across the country.
8. Please provide any additional information that would help inform the Board of Directors and members about your interest and qualifications. In addition to my professional experience, my interest in serving ASTDD is deeply rooted in a commitment to strengthening the systems that support state and territorial oral health leadership. Much of my career has focused on working at the intersection of public health practice, policy, and community-based care. These experiences have given me an appreciation for the challenges state oral health programs navigate and the critical role ASTDD plays in supporting their success. I bring a collaborative leadership style and a strong national network across organizations including safety-net providers, academic partners, and professional associations. I value bringing people together around shared goals and helping translate ideas into practical solutions that improve access to care. Finally, as an early-career Dental Public Health dentist who has benefited from mentorship and opportunities within organizations like ASTDD, I am committed to helping cultivate the next generation of leaders in our field. Serving as the second Associate Member Director would allow me to contribute energy, perspective, and dedication to advancing ASTDD's mission and supporting the members and programs that drive oral health improvement across states and territories.