

ASTDD New Member Services/Peer Support Program Annual Report Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2022

Coordinators: Lori Cofano- State/Territorial Dental Director and Program Manager
Orientation and Peer Support Program
Kimberlie Payne – Associate Member Coordinator

Purpose:

Developing, implementing, and evaluating a state/territorial oral health program (S/TOHP) is an enormous undertaking that requires a great deal of knowledge, skill, flexibility, and diplomacy. S/TOHP directors/managers bring a variety of backgrounds to their position and often occupy the sole oral health position within their health agency. ASTDD wants to assist in whatever way possible to help new directors/managers become effective in administering their programs.

Upon joining ASTDD, each new member and associate member is welcomed by Chris Wood, Executive Director and either Lori Cofano, state/territorial directors/managers or Kimberlie Payne, associate members.

Lori holds orientation calls with all new directors/managers to acquaint them with the ASTDD website. She offers them the opportunity to engage with a peer mentor from another state for a year through the ASTDD Peer Support Program (PSP). Those interested in participating in the PSP complete an online application via Survey Monkey. Based on their identified needs, interests and location, a peer mentor is selected and together they complete a technical assistance plan.

Kimberlie sends a personal email with a follow-up phone call to each associate member. She first welcomes and thanks them for joining ASTDD and describes ASTDD's mission and goals. She finds out more about their professional responsibilities and focuses the conversation on what would be more beneficial to them. Kimberlie walks through the website, resources, committees and makes sure the new member is aware that if they have any questions, Kimberlie is their contact. The program has been a great success and the new members are very appreciative of the personalized contact.

New Member Services/Peer Support Program supports the ASTDD Strategic Plan by supporting professional development and mentoring for S/TOHP leadership and staff, promoting and enhancing peer connections and communication among S/TOHPs and promoting and facilitating internal and external S/TOHP collaborations.

Accomplishments and Current Activities:

As of December 31, ASTDD had 60 primary members (S/TOHP) and 24 life members (state and territorial director for at least 10 years). In 2022, ASTDD added 128 new associate members for a total of 480 associate members, including 256 who were affiliated with a state oral health program, 224 who were not affiliated with a state oral health program, and 35 individuals who belong as part of 11 organizational memberships.

Peer Support Program (PSP): In 2022 states participating in the mentoring program included, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Missouri, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Utah Thank you to Rudy Blea, Charles “Fritz” Craft, Debonny Hughes, Robin Miller, Mona Van Kanegan, Julia Wacloff and Frances Wise for your mentoring expertise.

New director/manager orientations = 18

Peer Support Applications = 7

Six-month evaluations = 3

One-year evaluations = 2

PSP certificates = 2

Orientation for new state oral health program leads included, Arkansas (2), Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho (2), Indiana (2), Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada (2), Utah (2), South Carolina. Five states had two new leads in 2022.

- The Peer Support Discussion Group met in January, May, and September for 1.5 hours via Zoom. The January call focused on workforce challenges and the ASTDD Competencies. May included a presentation on fluoridation by Judith Feinstein the ASTDD Fluorides Committee Coordinator. The group also discussed oral health coalitions and the state oral health program’s role in strategic planning and policy. September’s call focused on data collection and both Kathy Phipps, ASTDD Data Committee Consultant, and Matt Jacob, ASTDD Communication Committee member presented on *Data Has Been Collected – Now What?* They discussed ways data can be disseminated and the “how to” of communicating data with non-oral health partners. The group also discussed state oral health plans. People shared how they had launched their plans, what activities supported buy-in and movement on implementation of the plan.
- NOHC 2022 a three-hour weekend workshop was held on the ASTDD Guidelines and Competencies. Presenters: Lori Cofano, Bev Isman, and Julie Janssen.
- January 2022 the [Mentoring Guide](#) was reviewed, updated and posted as some links were no longer active and Healthy People 2030 information needed to be added.
- January 2022 the [New Member Checklist](#) was updated to include the National Oral Health Data Portal link.
- Dr. Bob Russell’s [Reflections on Leadership in State Dental Public Health](#) was added to the New Member Services webpage under Leadership Development. Dr. Russell retired from his role as Iowa’s State Dental Director.
- Two mentors left their positions: Bob Russell (IA) and Katya Mauritson (CO). Frances Wise (AK) and Katie Glueckert (MT) came on as mentors.
- A Dropbox folder was created for Peer Support Discussion Group recordings.
- The letter that is sent to new mentees was revised to indicate they need to let their mentor know the areas they would like to focus on during the mentoring process. The updated ASTDD design guidelines were used.
- The [Peer Support Program Application](#) was revised. The State Development and Enhancement Committee and the Early Childhood Committee were removed and question #27 was revised to HP2030.
- All of the six-month and one-year mentor and mentee evaluations were updated to reflect the dissolution of the Data Committee and to revise the Competency Domains.
- Updated the letter sent to mentors to reflect an honorarium is no longer offered.

- Responded to Vonda Nutt's request for technical assistance with the ASTDD State Synopses by connecting her with Kathy Phipps.
- Responded to Jannette Gomez's request for technical assistance with the Basic Screening Survey.
- Responded to Kelli Broyles' technical assistance on using Dropbox to access the Peer Support Discussion Group recordings.
- Responded to Kristi Mellion's request for technical assistance on locating the Oral Health in America Report and information around the Basic Screening Survey.
- The New Member Services 2022-2023 logic model and workplan were updated, approved and posted.

Future Activities:

- Continue to contact new S/TOHP directors/managers to provide orientation to ASTDD and introduce them to the PSP.
- Ongoing tracking of PSP activities, including orientations, PSP applications, and evaluations.
- The PSP collaborates with experienced state oral health program directors/managers to provide mentoring to new directors/managers.
- New directors/managers are shown how to find information pertaining to ASTDD's committees. If they express interest in a committee, they are introduced to the committee Chair and Consultant via email to obtain more information.
- Subject matter experts are invited to the Peer Support Discussion Group quarterly meeting based on topics of interest to the new state oral health program leads.

Unmet needs of your committee (e.g., members, funding, etc.):

Due to the turnover in SOHP leadership, I only have nine people who are mentors. Many of the people listed as the SOHP lead are not only overseeing the SOHP but other programs. They are not interested in mentoring. This is a challenge as we have more turnover.

Quotes:

I've enjoyed being a part of the peer support program and I think that as a whole I feel more confident and worthy to be in this position. I still have much to learn as far as the workings of state government and politics, but I do feel that having a mentor allowed me to share and receive feedback in a non-threatening manner.
~ Jonise McDaniel (PA)

I now have another knowledgeable contact I can reach out to with questions.
~Jannette Gomez (NV)

Thank you for all you do. I appreciate and use so many of the ASTDD resources. I also love the personal touch your organization offers.
~ Patrice from Arizona