

## **ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee Annual Report Jan 1, 2021 – Dec 31, 2021**

**Chair:** Rudy Blea

**Facilitator:** Lori Cofano

**Sealant Consultant:** Sandy Tesch

**Members:** Susan Acosta, Tammy Alexander, Kim Bartolomucci, Brita (Bergland) Allen, Jorge Bernal, Nicole Bobo, Terri Chandler, Stephanie Chickering, Matt Crespin, Jennifer Ferguson, Susan Gorman, Jennifer Hasch, Katrina Holt, Toni Hruby, Sherry Jenkins, Betty Kabel, Ashleigh Kirk, Kally Kline, Sherry Laliberte, Robert Calvin Lloyd, Jonise McDaniel, Keiko Miyahara, Jill Moore, Lauren Neufeld, Karen Phillips, Gwen Sullentrup, Debora Teixeira, David Tepel, Julia Wacloff

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1. List any new members or subcommittee members:

Ashleigh Kirk (CO), Jonise McDaniel (PA), Natalie Thomas (CO)

2. Describe the purpose of your committee:

The ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health (SAOH) Committee serves as a resource to state oral health programs and works to ensure a strong oral health component in all school and adolescent health initiatives.

The mission of the SAOH Committee is to promote the importance of good oral health practices that improve the oral health of school age children and adolescents through education, networking and collaborative partnerships at local and national levels. School-based dental sealant programs are a focus area for SAOH activities. In addition, the SAOH Committee collaborates with other ASTDD Committees to establish policies and promote oral health for this target population at the Association level.

3. List your committee accomplishments for the last calendar year.

- Six SAOHC calls were held in 2021 via Zoom.
- More than 75% of the SAOHC are ASTDD members.
- The planned face-to-face meeting to be held in April 2021 during the NOHC was postponed until 2022 due to NOHC being virtual due to COVID-19.
- The collection of COVID-19 resources continues to be added to as states develop additional resources related to school-based programs because of COVID-19.

- The policy statement, *Promoting Good Nutrition Healthy Eating in Schools: An Important Strategy for Preventing Dental Caries* was updated by Katrina Holt and Alyssa Tatum. It was posted to the SAOHC webpage in January 2021.
- In January 2021 emails were sent to members who had not attended an SAOHC meeting in the past year. The committee directory was updated.
- Sandy Tesch reviewed and revised the *Dental Sealants and Bisphenol A* policy statement. Upon further discussion and review by the SAOHC, it was determined this policy statement should be archived.
- Merging of the *Integrating Oral Health Education into Health Education Curricula in Schools* and *Integrating the Oral Health into the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child School Health Model* policy statements is currently being worked on by Lori Cofano. The dental public health resident was not able to complete the project as planned. This will not be ready until 2022.
- The School-Based or School-Linked Mobile or Portable Dental Services policy statement is being updated by two SAOHC members, Tammy Alexander and Betty Kabel. This will not be ready until 2022.
- Lori Cofano provided technical assistance (TA) to Ericca Facetti from Virginia Catalyst regarding the use of the BSS and training school nurses to do the screenings.
- Dr. Tommy Johnson, Alabama's state dental director, introduced Lori Cofano to Dr. Mike Brown the Merck Regional Medical Director for the Southeast region. Dr. Brown presented a webinar for ASTDD titled, *Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Caused Cancers are Preventable* on June 9, 2021. Slides from the presentation are posted on the SAOHC webpage.
- Dr. Tommy Johnson shared a PowerPoint® on Alabama's oral cancer project, *Watch Your Mouth Campaign*. The slides are posted on the SAOHC webpage.
- SAOHC members were sent a link to participate in Wisconsin's HPV Summit on May 7, 2021. The meeting recordings were sent to the SAOHC for those not able to attend.
- The SAOHC webpage was reviewed, and revisions and updates were sent to Chris Wood.
- Lori Cofano did a presentation on partnerships for the July Sealant Coordinators Community of Practice. Information from the ASTDD *State and Territorial Oral Health Programs and Collaborative Partnerships Best Practice Approach Report* was shared. The ASTDD Collaboration resource page and the ASTDD Partnership Assessment Rubric were also shared.
- Jane Grover, from the American Dental Association, reached out for technical assistance on implementing fluoride mouthrinse programs in schools. Lori Cofano connected her with Judy Feinstein ASTDD's subject matter expert on fluoride.
- The annual Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) Report was shared by Jane Grover. COVID-19 has had an impact on GKAS activities.

- Lori Cofano was invited to be a subject matter expert on a coordinating team put together by Susan Griffin from the CDC. The coordinating team will provide input on information being gathered related to the use of fluoride varnish in school programs. The goal is to have the information released in the Community Guide.
- Developed 2021-2022 workplan and logic model.

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- Six dental sealant Community of Practice (CoP) and/or sealant-related trainings were conducted for CDC-funded school sealant programs (SSPs) during 2021.
- Sealant consultant serves as a member on the Student and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC) and reports on CDC-funded school sealant program (SSP) activities.
- CDC webinar conducted on January 25, 2021, on the development of a SOHP/SSP communications plan per requirement of the CDC cooperative agreement (CA).
- Worked with SAOH committee members to update ASTDD's *Dental Sealants and Bisphenol A* policy statement. After review by the DPHPC, the decision was made to archive the document.
- Sealant CoP webinar on March 26, 2021, on the application of glass ionomer (GI) sealants. Speaker was Michele Wright from GC America. GI resources, PowerPoint presentation, and recording link made available through sealant CoP Dropbox.
- Sealant CoP call on *Partnerships* on July 16, 2021. Lori Cofano presented information from the *State and Territorial Oral Health Programs and Collaborative Partnerships Best Practice Approach Report*. The ASTDD Collaboration resource page and the ASTDD Partnership Assessment Rubric were also shared. Resources and recording link made available through sealant CoP Dropbox.
- Sealant CoP call with Kathy Phipps on November 5, 2021, regarding SSP reporting and BSS-related issues. Resources and recording link made available through sealant CoP Dropbox.
- CDC offered listening sessions and TA for CDC CA grantees/sealant coordinators in response to their concerns about the impact of the pandemic on SSPs.
- CDC launched new, on-demand SEALS training resource on November 3, 2021. Its purpose is to provide TA for current and former CDC grantees that utilize SEALS software for reporting program data.
- Sealant Consultant facilitated multiple sealant CoP sessions with CDC grantees to discuss their SSP challenges during the pandemic. Topics included: school closures and reopening, pandemic's impact on SSP participation, glass ionomer (GI) vs resin sealant materials, caries-risk assessment tools, SEALS reporting, BSS, teledentistry services, additional PPE requirements, building partnerships, and SSP alternative activities and allowable expenses for CA.
- Coordinated multiple SEALS-related responses with Susan Griffin and Srdjan Lesja to assist CDC-funded sealant programs database and reporting inquiries.

- Posted multiple communications related to SSPs and various COVID-related resources via CDC-funded dental sealants group listserv.
- Dental Sealant Resources compendium for ASTDD webpage was updated.
- Sealant consultant serves as member on the School-Based Dental Sealant Programs Best Practices Approach Report (BPAR) committee which is currently updating 2015 BP .
- Continuous monitoring and correspondence to TA questions posted on CDC-funded dental sealants group listserv ([cdc-funded-dental-sealants@groups.astdd.org](mailto:cdc-funded-dental-sealants@groups.astdd.org)) and ASTDD sealant coordinator's listserv ([dentalsealants@groups.astdd.org](mailto:dentalsealants@groups.astdd.org)).

5. Describe the future activities planned by your committee:

- Existing policy statements *Integrating Oral Health Education into Health Education Curricula in Schools (August 2013)* and *Integrating Oral Health into the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child School (WSCC) Health Model (Sept 2015)* will be merged into one policy statement.
- Update the *School-Based or School-Linked Mobile or Portable Dental Services (February 2012)* policy statement.
- Refocus committee efforts on the CDC Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child School Health Model (WSCC).

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- Topics for future monthly CoP calls are pending and will be identified as challenges/successes unfold from the pandemic. Many SSPs are still not fully operational and are experiencing capacity issues/staffing shortages.
- Request for sealant CoP session/webinar on the use of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) in SSPs, writing SSP success stories, and working with state Medicaid programs.

6. Describe any subcommittees your committee uses, their roles and activities:

- Subcommittees/workgroups are convened on an as needed basis. The SAOHC provided input on various documents and provided technical assistance on an as needed basis.

7. List any unmet needs of your committee (e.g., members, funding, etc.):

- It is challenging to rely on volunteers from the SAOHC to complete projects and policy statement updates as everyone is very busy, particularly those involved with trying to get school-based programs up and running again.