

2023 ASTDD New Member Services/Peer Support Program Annual Report

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 62 primary members (S/TOHP) and 26 life members (state and territorial director for at least 10 years). In 2023, ASTDD added 176 new associate members for a total of 558 associate members, and 59 individuals who belong as part of 15 organizational memberships.

Peer Support Program (PSP): In 2023 states participating in the mentoring program included, Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont

Thank you to Chris Farrell, Angela Filzen, Cheri Kiefer, Robin Miller and Frances Wise for your mentoring expertise.

New director/manager orientations = 11

Peer Support Applications = 2

Six-month evaluations = 4

One-year evaluations = 3

PSP certificates = 3

Orientation for new state oral health program leads included, Colorado, District of Columbia, Montana (2), New Mexico (2), North Carolina (2), Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee. Three states had two new leads in 2023.

- The Peer Support Discussion Group met in January, May and September for 1.5 hours via Zoom. In January, Cheri Kiefer and Dr. Jackie Nord from North Dakota (ND) presented a program created in ND to recruit dentists. In May, Sarah Kolo from the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) presented resources available on the OHRC website. Sarah will continue to participate on these calls to inform the OHRC of the type of information new oral health program leads are looking for. September's call focused on the integration of oral health and behavioral health. Ashleigh Kirk from Colorado presented a pilot project being done in her state.
- A letter to supervisors was created and then reviewed by those participating on the January 2023 Peer Support Discussion Group. The letter was finalized and sent to supervisors of those participating in the Peer Support Program.
- In March, a query was sent to the new oral health program leads to determine how many would be attending the NOHC in April 2023. Eleven out of fifteen planned to attend: AR, GA, ID, LA, MO, MT, NC, NV, OR, SV, UT.
- Stacey Swilling (UT) was added to the mentor list.
- The New Member Services 2023-2024 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.

Subcommittees: N/A

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

SOHP leadership turnover makes it a challenge to find new mentors. A number of the people listed as the SOHP lead are not only overseeing the SOHP but other programs and are not interested in mentoring. Some of the recent new oral health program leads have expressed interest in the PSP but do not complete the application due to their other obligations.

Quotes:

It's great to have a guide to provide ideas, methods and strategies. Having someone in your corner to listen to ideas or offer direction for projects is so beneficial. Chris is fantastic! I really value her and all she has done for me.
~ Michael Tredway (SC)

Angela is a wealth of knowledge and I've learned so much from her. I am able to bounce ideas off her and get great feedback. She is willing to share her connections and resources with me. She is very supportive and passionate about oral health.
~Kristi Mellion (LA)

ASTDD is such a great organization! I appreciate all you do and all the information you have on your website. I also want to thank you for the personal contact you offer for the new associate members, I have utilized this benefit often.

JoAnn G (IL)