

STDD Perinatal Oral Health Committee (POHC) Annual Report January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Chair: Mark Moss

Consultant: Reg Louie

Members: Katrina Holt, Kally Kline, Jay Kumar, Charmaine Mayers, Emily Norrix, Rocio Quinonez, Renee Samelson, Ruma Simhan, Rhonda Stokley, Pam Vodicka, Jane Weintraub, Chris Wood (ex officio)

1. List any new members or subcommittee members:

In 2023 POHC added Ruma Simhan.

2. Describe the purpose of your committee:

POHC continues to serve as the primary ASTDD focal point for issues and resources for state and territorial oral health programs (STOHPs) relating to perinatal oral health. Most POHC activities focus on programs, initiatives, and priorities addressing the maternal and child health (MCH) population, including the integration of POH into primary care.

POHC operates as a large group and as smaller ad hoc work groups or assigns individuals to work on specific projects and activities.

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

- POHC continues its partnership with the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC), lead for the Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII), a consortium working in partnership with ASTDD and the Dental Quality Alliance and funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) for a second funding cycle (2021-2024). As part of this partnership, POHC has assisted OHRC in developing its application for a third funding cycle (2024-2028) for the *Improving Oral Health Integration National Consortium* (MCH-IOHI Consortium).
- This report describes POHC's and other ASTDD members' participation in various program activities. Specifically, it focuses on perinatal oral health centered on assisting COHSII in providing technical assistance (TA) to three MCHB-funded Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) within the MCH Safety Net. The NOHI learning collaborative (LC) is comprised of three regional projects, each consisting of four states:
 - Midwest Network for Oral Health Integration (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio)
 - Rocky Mountain Oral Health Network (Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming)
 - Transforming Oral Health for Families (District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, and Virginia).

COHSII provides TA to the LC projects to share successes, lessons learned, and challenges focused on building capacity around three core functions: (1) data, analysis, and evaluation; (2) outreach and education; and (3) policy and practice.

- Regarding MCH Title V-related activities, COHSII completed and published *Snapshot of the U.S. Jurisdictions' Activities Addressing Title V National Performance Measure 13 (Oral Health) During Fiscal Year 2022*. This report included descriptions of accomplishments and challenges/solutions identified in American Samoa, Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

In addition, Katrina Holt and Reg Louie participated in the FY'24 Title V Services Block Grant reviews of American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau.

- POHC members participated in the COHSII Learning Collaborative *Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care for Pregnant Women* involving 9 states, including planning and as a facilitator for the virtual annual meeting.
- COHSII provided training and technical assistance to American Samoa, CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, and RMI. This included on site training of MCH clinical staff in Guam to provide silver diamine fluoride in children to arrest caries. Other examples of TA include updating existing local Basic Screening Survey (BSS) activities, training a local dentist to provide TA on BSS, training dental and non-dental providers in preventive services (fluoride varnish), assisting in implementing NPM 13 in FY '24 and exploring adoption of an oral health-related NPM or state performance measures in FY '25.
- POHC continued to provide information to CDC funded Strategy-3 listserv regarding perinatal oral health, including information from the American Dental Association, CDC, OHRC and OSAP, and information about teledentistry, which is especially relevant to the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI) and Caribbean jurisdictions.
- POHC members continued to participate as members of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACCD) Medical-Dental Integration Project.
- POHC and other members presented a roundtable at the 2023 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) entitled *Public Oral Health Crisis in Guam and Efforts to Facilitate Preventive Oral Health Care to Children*. The presentation focused on the ASTDD oral health infrastructure needs assessment in the USAPI and on strategies to promote oral health for the MCH population in the absence of public oral health program capacity.

- In addition, an abstract for a roundtable at the 2024 NOHC entitled *From Tragedy to Success: Integrating Preventive Oral Health Care into Primary Care in Guam* was accepted for presentation.

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4. Describe the future activities planned by your committee:

Title V Oral Health related NPM:

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- COHSII plans to conduct on-site training for MCH programs in Republic of the Marshall Islands, and possibly in American Samoa on providing silver diamine fluoride treatment to arrest caries in children. Funding support for the proposed on-site trainings will be sought from MCHB and the Pacific Islands Primary Care Association, respectively, as well as from local sources.
- POHC members will provide TA efforts to states and jurisdictions retaining NPM 13 for FY '24 as resources permit.

NOHI/IOHI:

- POHC is committed to build upon the work which has been accomplished to date. COHSII continues through June 30, 2024. ASTDD POHC members will continue to participate in COHSII NOHI and Title V teams to plan monthly webinars and annual virtual meetings and in the development of NPM 13–related resources. It is hoped that the OHRC will be successful in receiving the award for a third funding cycle (2024-2028) MCH-IOHI Consortium.

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

POHC does not have any established subcommittees and constitutes ad hoc work groups to address specific tasks and functions.

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

A number of activities in the POHC work plan include the caveat “as resources permit.” As in past years, the extent of requests for TA exceeds our resources.