



The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an informal brief summary of ASTDD activities to keep our members and partners aware of what we do on your behalf and to highlight resources. We also like to share more personal stories as ASTDD really is a family. We hope everyone had a great summer. Our consultants and leaders outdid themselves, traveling around the globe to countries such as England, Scotland, France, Hungary and other European countries, Iceland, Dominica, Zambia, Rwanda, Madagascar and more!

National Activities and Collaborations

Kudos to Harry Goodman, ASTDD consultant and previous MD dental director, for his webinar presentation on August 30, *Jack of All Trades, Master of None: One State Dental Director's Perspective*, as part of CDC's Dental Public Health Webinar series. He included information on *ASTDD Competencies* and *Guidelines for State Oral Health Programs*. ASTDD was also represented on the Aug 30 Healthy People 2030 webcast, *Increasing the Proportion of Children & Adolescents Who Have Dental Sealants on 1 or More Molars (OH-10)* by Amy Umphlett, Oral Health Operations & Policy Analyst at the Oregon Health Authority and acting dental director in Oregon.



ASTDD continues to meet virtually with Natalia Chalmers from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a quarterly basis. Check out their new reports and tools on their [webpage](#). Angela Filzen, MS dental director and an ASTDD BOD member, was nominated and selected to serve on the 2026 Medicaid and CHIP and Adult Core Sets Annual Review Workgroup.

ASTDD is beginning a new collaboration with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and their Health Equity Council. Recent calls with Robyn Taylor, Vice President of NACDD's Center for Justice in Public Health, resulted in our scheduling an upcoming webinar on November 15 on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social Justice, and Dental Public Health. Also check out their new publication, [Social Justice Framework for Public Health Professionals](#).

ASTDD continues to collaborate with the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health on a revamp of the National Oral Health Data Portal. Look for exciting updates and upgrades in the future! In July CareQuest asked ASTDD to submit a concept paper for development of an Issue Brief on Minimally Invasive Care. We should find out if our application is accepted at the end of October.

Members of the ASTDD BOD are continuing calls with leadership of the Indian Health Service (IHS). They are currently exploring opportunities to expand medical/dental integration, enhancements to the ASTDD AI/AN ASTDD web page, and inclusion of IHS programs in the descriptive reports section of ASTDD Best Practice Approach Reports.

The current year 05 of our CDC cooperative agreement ended on August 31 so now we are in the last year, (which is an extension year due to COVID) and look forward to a very productive year wrapping up projects and conducting evaluation activities. CDC is hosting a grantee close-out meeting for the funded states and national partners ASTDD and NACDD March 19-21 in Atlanta; several ASTDD consultants will participate. A new funding opportunity for national partners and states is forecast for March with a May due date, and we intend to apply.

Gary and Mary West Foundation is supporting a National Academies of Sciences workshop that will focus on oral health throughout the lifespan. They have invited ASTDD to have a representative on the planning committee; Sam Zwetchkenbaum, chair of the ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee has volunteered to represent ASTDD.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is in the process of developing guidance for their members on the implementation of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) application in pediatric practice, with funding from the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. A critical element of successful patient outcomes will be referral by medical to dental professionals for follow-up and definitive treatment. They have invited ASTDD to participate in two 3-hour meetings to develop a workshop on improving and developing pathways for inter-professional collaboration and efficient referral of pediatric patients. Harry Goodman and Lori Cofano have agreed to participate on behalf of ASTDD.

[Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures®\(BSBF\)](#), in collaboration with the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#), plans to launch a public health initiative entitled *Bringing Oral Health to the Table*. The initiative will address the intersection of children’s oral health and nutrition security. They held a meeting in New York City on September 22 that Chris Wood attended virtually.

Peer and Member Support Program



Two new mentoring pairs are participating in the peer support program in addition to two others mentioned previously: Frances Wise (AK) is mentoring Stacey Swilling (UT) and Chris Farrell (MI) is mentoring Mike Tredway (SC). Lori Cofano oriented Derek Smith (TN) and Amy Sandoval (NM). Kimberlie Payne contacted 41 new associate members during July, August and September—wow, lots of new members! A Peer Support Program discussion group was held on September 7 with Ashleigh Kirk from

Colorado sharing information on their oral health and behavioral health program collaboration. Find out more at <https://coloradooralhealth.org/initiatives/oral-health-integration/bohi/>. State oral health program dental directors participated in a ZOOM call on September 27 with Deborah Vishnevsky, Khalil Hassam and Danyelle Gowie from the DC health department presenting on their Community Dental Health Coordinator pilot project, including preliminary evaluation findings. Other participants mentioned their attempts at using CDHCs and shared resources. The next quarterly discussion group will be held in December.

Fluorides Committee (FC)

Judy Feinstein participated in Zoom calls with fluoridation contacts in several states (MO, KY, WI and others) during this summer to discuss mutual issues of concern. One meeting focused on identifying and categorizing the challenges states have encountered in trying to test and implement the “New Wave” fluoride tablet system, and brainstorming strategies to manage them. Other discussion touched on operator training and messaging when confronting rollbacks. Two Fluoridation Alerts were sent during August, with specific follow-up emails to contacts in Michigan, Texas (OH coalition) and Florida. Two Alerts were also sent during September, with specific follow-up emails to contacts in Oregon and North Carolina.

Communications Committee (CC)



Matt Jacob and Heather Beavers from the Social Media Workgroup (SMWG) continue to provide TA to three states to show that social media is not intimidating to use. The Missouri TA is almost complete and Minnesota’s should be complete in January. Arkansas TA will begin in November. Congratulations to

Heather who is now the new chair of the SMWG! Lynn Bethel Short served as the chair for many years and recently stepped down. We’d like to thank Lynn for her dedication and hard work in that role! ASTDD will participate in the Social Media campaign “I will [blank] for kid’s health” on October 2 to identify different roles that people could play to improve children's health. The campaign coincides with National Child Health Month, and The Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin, a leading voice for oral health, was actively involved. ASTDD also developed messages for a campaign for Older Americans (see the Healthy Aging Committee section.)

Recent Spotlights:

- *HRSA Oral Health Literacy Campaign, 8-15-23, Adam Barefoot.* This was an overview of the campaign including its history and launch earlier this year and upcoming expansion opportunities.
- *Oral Health Resources from the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, 9-27-23, Sarah Kolo.* This Spotlight discussed their wealth of resources to support state and local health departments.

If you missed these or any previous Spotlights in 2020-2023, lasting usually only about 30 minutes in duration, you can access the links either via the [Health Communications webpage](#) or by contacting Kimberlie Payne at kyinemanbhs@gmail.com.

Three Communications sessions involving members of the Communication Committee have been accepted for weekend workshops or seminars at the 2024 NOHC. Look for them when the program is released in December.

Dental Public Health Policy Committee (DPHPC) and Best Practices Committee (BPC)

These committees have been very busy! The DPHPC posted this policy paper on the website in August, [Dental Amalgam and Resin-Based Composites: Environmental and Health Impacts](#), as well as this issue brief, [Mobile](#)

[and Portable School-Based/School-Linked Oral Health Programs: Delivery Models to Expand Care for Children and Adolescents Issue Brief](#) (see description under SAOHC below). Look for the *The Prevention and Control of Early Childhood Tooth Decay (ECC) BPAR* update that was funded by the Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) and the CareQuest Institute (CQI) to be posted in late October. An ASTDD Spotlight is scheduled on February 7, 2024, to highlight this BPAR during Children’s Dental Health Month.

School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC) and Dental Sealant Subject Matter Expert

The Mobile and Portable Issue Brief mentioned above addresses a range of issues such as workforce, funding, equipment, program planning, state regulations, teledentistry, and continuity of care, and other things to consider when establishing oral health programs for preschool and school-age children. There is an Appendix with a planning checklist for implementing a program and questions for planners to consider prior to engaging with community partners. An ASTDD Spotlight is scheduled on January 10, 2024, to highlight the issue brief.



Sandy Tesch continues to coordinate the Dental Sealant Community of Practice (CoP) and to provide TA to states. On August 25 GC America conducted a glass ionomer (GI) dental sealants CoP presentation and sealant application demonstration. They covered the effectiveness, technique for placement, and tips, tricks and techniques. Examples of posts to the Dental Sealant listserv included an example of a RI nurse’s interview document for sealant coordinators, examples of two school surveys from Vermont, information on a webinar by Elevate on infection control common mistakes, information on Dental Infection Control Awareness Month for OSAP, information on OSAP’s webinar on *Achieving Compliance with Infection Control Record Keeping*, and information on ADA’s *Evidenced-based Guideline on Restorative Treatments for Caries Lesions* (including glass ionomers).

Healthy Aging Committee

September was Healthy Aging Month. Matt Jacob, ASTDD health communications consultant, created more than 25 messages about older adult oral health that could be shared via social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn and X on September 7. Partners co-hosting the event besides ASTDD were Oral Health Watch (Seattle, WA) and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. Many states shared the messages across the platforms along with the [ASTDD Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration](#) document. Impact of the X social media storm included:

- Total posts and shares: 297
- Potential reach of these messages: 193,400
- Unique participants: 29
- Influencers* (*Accounts with ≥1,000 followers*) who participated: 10
- States whose health departments or oral health coalitions participated: 13.

The Healthy Aging and Best Practices Committees are overseeing an update to the *Oral Health of Older Adults (Age 65 and older) BPAR*. The Gary and Mary West Foundation (GMWF) is supporting this project, and the

mid-year grant report was submitted to them in July. On the July 13 HAC call, Judy Jones discussed advocacy around a dental benefit in Medicare.

Data and Oral Health Surveillance Technical Assistance (TA) and Training

Kathy Phipps, Mike Manz, and Brooke Mehner, ASTDD data subject matter experts, provided TA to 15 states for BSS or other surveillance assistance in July, August and September. Mike and Brooke continued reviewing and updating emergency department related documents. Brooke completed the *ASTDD 2023 State Synopses Report* (available in Members Only on the website) and the [2023 State Synopses Summary Report](#). Sahiti Bhaskara continues to update the Assessing Oral Health Needs: ASTDD Seven-Step Model.

Evaluation Activities

The ASTDD evaluation consultants continued to provide general assistance to CDC-funded states through listserv posts and emails and held office hours for end of year progress updates. Mary Davis, one of the consultants, has now become an employee of the Emory University Centers for Training and Technical Assistance providing the same TA and expertise as before. The Evaluation team met with CDC and CDC's evaluation contractor, Deloitte, to plan yearly progress report reviews and a fall webinar to provide guidance on meeting end of state cooperative agreement reporting guidelines. The consultants are actively reviewing state oral health program evaluation reports for the past year. They also are developing examples of alternative evaluation report methods for other types of projects as a follow up from the NOHC workshop on different reporting styles. Look for additional evaluation weekend workshops at the 2024 NOHC. A recent listserv posting emphasized *Evaluation as a Team Sport, Reminder About the Evaluation Resources on the ASTDD website, and Year 5b Reporting Guidance*.

The consultants also assisted ASTDD in conducting a member Qualtrics survey to gain feedback on selected ASTDD materials, communication pathways, and professional development offerings. There were 112 responses from all membership categories from 40 states. Three key findings:

- Members appreciate ASTDD resources
- Members suggest a refresh and updating of some ASTDD resources
- Not all members are aware of the available resources.

ASTDD leadership, consultants and committees already have begun to prioritize improvements.



RESPITE Project

The RESPITE project, a collaborative research project to reduce opioid use by dental providers in managing dental pain, continues to have manuscripts accepted for publication. The previous *Roundup* included links to four of the articles. *Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Pharmacological Management of Acute Dental Pain in Children* was published in the [September JADA issue](#) and is open access. The

researchers are making progress developing the CME course for emergency medicine providers on the guideline. Two supplemental material videos for the course were recorded in August.

National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

In addition to the critical but routine work of administration and provision of technical assistance to Dental Hygienist Liaisons (DHLs) and regional DHL coordinators (RDHLCs), Kathy Hunt (lead) and Gina Sharps (co-lead) also oversaw the following activities:

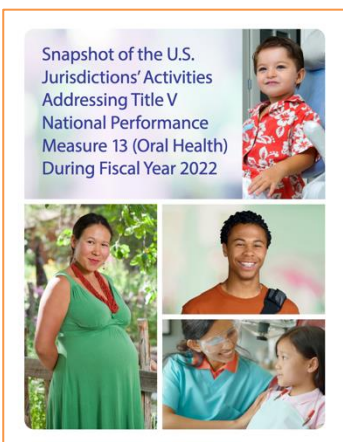
- Successfully exhibited the NCHBHS project including recognition of DHLs during the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) Conference in Chicago, IL in July
- Planned and conducted the RDHLC's annual meeting in Salt Lake City, UT in August to review the past year's accomplishments and plan for the new project year
- Produced the 2nd quarter DHL progress report
- Sent the annual DHL assessment of their satisfaction and needs and disseminated the summary of results
- Conducted annual check-in calls with RDHLCs
- Helped coordinate DHL webinar in July with Harry Goodman providing information about the Head Start Program Information Report (PIR)
- Participated in regular calls with the oral health leadership team and other DHL project related calls
- Provided final review and approval for feature DHL article, [What it Means to Be a Dental Hygienist Liaison \(DHL\) - ADHA](#) featuring the passionate and dedicated efforts of Celeste Terry; disseminated published article on the DHL discussion list.



They also attended and participated in the annual in-person NCHBHS oral health workgroup meeting in August in Baltimore, MD to 1) discuss federal and national activities impacting NCHBHS activities, 2) discuss oral health accomplishments, 3) discuss trends in Head Start oral health data, and 4) provide input on emerging issues and develop action steps.

Check out the NCHBHS Brush Up on Oral Health new tip sheets [Caring for the Oral Health of Children Experiencing Homelessness](#) and [Using Teledentistry to Provide Care for Children](#).

Finally, we'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the loss of one of our DHL family. [Diane Flanagan](#) approached every aspect of her life with passion, dedication, and a good dose of wry wit. Prior to her retirement, she served as the state DHL for Wisconsin and the DHL Coordinator for Region V. She bravely fought cancer that eventually took her from us, but her legacy lives on through the many lives she touched.



Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII)

COHSII partners, the OHRC and ASTDD, have been busy working on a variety of projects for the past 2 months. One project of significant importance was the production of the report, *Snapshot of the U.S. Jurisdictions' Activities Addressing Title V National Performance Measure 13 (Oral Health) During Fiscal Year 2022*. It highlights activities conducted by American Samoa, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands addressing the national performance

measure (NPM) on oral health. Many jurisdictions are more similar to countries than to states and have nation-like functions and responsibilities. The report presents a snapshot of jurisdictions' experiences with implementing strategies to promote preventive dental visit for pregnant women, children, and adolescents. Challenges, accomplishments, and technical assistance needs related to each jurisdiction are discussed. COHSII is grateful to the following people from the jurisdictions who shared their knowledge about their jurisdiction's activities related to the NPM on oral health:

- American Samoa: Inoke Siasau and Anaise Uso
- Guam: Maggie Bell and Margarita Gay
- Marshall Islands: Edlen Anzures, Dustin Bantol, Caroline Jibas Johnny, and Flora Nathan
- Palau: Edolem Ikerdeu, Janice Mathew, Summer Saunders, Hera Subediang, and Mindy Sugiyama
- Puerto Rico: Abraham Rivera Alvarado, Marianne Cruz, Leslieanne Ann Soto, Teresa Taboas, and Manuel Vargas-Bernal
- U.S. Virgin Islands: Charmaine Mayers and Janis Valmond.

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