



*By Bev Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS*

Wow, what a crazy busy two months!! All of us at ASTDD scrambled to submit our CDC continuation application before we left for the NOHC that included a 39-page progress report covering March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023; a one-page abstract, 15-page narrative, and workplan of our proposed activities for September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024; and a 21-page budget narrative. The 20 CDC-funded states had the same timeline. We also submitted our proposed scope of work and budget for year 04 of our contract for the Dental Hygienist Liaison Project as part of the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety, funded by the Office of Head Start. And we wrote the 2023 ASTDD Annual Report. There were a lot of exhausted but smiling folks traveling to the NOHC in Orlando in April! It was good to have the ASTDD and American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) families back together again.

**ASTDD 2023 Virtual Annual ASTDD Business Meeting March 2, 2023  
and 2023 ASTDD In-Person Awards and Installation Ceremony April 16, 2023**

The Annual Business Meeting was attended via ZOOM by 29 dental directors or their proxies and 57 associate members. You can access the [2022 ASTDD Annual Report](#) on the website as well as the [2022 ASTDD Overview PowerPoint](#).

Christine Wood recognized 15 new dental directors and acknowledged the addition of 137 new Associate Members who have joined ASTDD since the 2022 business meeting, bringing our total Associate Membership to 511; by the end of April, total membership was 616. The treasurer announced that ASTDD remains financially stable with diverse funding sources.

New nominees to the Board of Directors (BOD) were elected during the business meeting, and Chris Farrell installed the new Board at the in-person ceremony in Orlando.

- President: Julia Wacloff, RDH, MS (AZ)
- Immediate Past-President: Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA (MI)
- President-elect: Russell Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA, FACD, FICD (WI);
- Secretary: Robin Miller, RDH, MPH (VT)
- Treasurer: Mona Van Kanegan, DDS, MS, MPH (IL)
- Director: Debony Hughes, DDS (MD)
- Director: Angela Filzen, DDS (MS)
- Director: Tommy Johnson, DMD (AL)
- Associate Member Director: John Welby, MS (MD)



The following awards were presented during the Awards ceremony. You can read/view more details in the [2023 ASTDD Awards Brochure](#), the [2023 ASTDD Awards PowerPoint](#) and the [2023 Fluoridation Awards Flyer](#) on the website. In addition, **ASTDD received the AAPHD Public Service Award!** The award was presented to ASTDD on behalf of state and territorial dental directors, the local dental public health staff and all those people who show up and do the work, day in and day out.



**ADA/ASTDD/CDC  
COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION (CWF) AWARDS  
Honoring 78 Years of Community Water Fluoridation in the United States**



**Special Merit Award: Given to recognize an outstanding contribution toward the progress of fluoridation**

**Gwen Sullentrup**, Community Water Fluoridation and Dental Sealant Coordinator in the Office of Dental Health for the State of Missouri’s Department of Health and Senior Services.

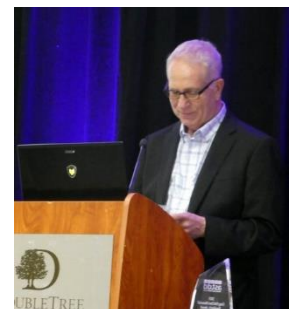
**CWF Community Awards**

- **Fifty Year Awards:** 106 water systems in 26 states (see list of states in the Fluoridation Awards brochure)
- **Systems Reaching 75 Years of Continuous Water Fluoridation:** Evanston, Illinois
- **2022 Community Fluoridation Initiation Awards:** Camden County Public Water Supply District #4, Shawnee Bend, Missouri
- **2022 Community Fluoridation Reaffirmation Awards:** 7 cities in 4 states
- **2022 State Fluoridation Quality Awards:** Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan

**ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award**

Given to a state/territorial dental director in good standing for at least 5 years who has made a significant contribution to ASTDD programs, initiatives, or the field of dental public health.

**Rudy Blea, BA**, Recently Retired as New Mexico Department of Health’s Oral Health Program Manager, Rudy continues to serve as Chair of ASTDD’s School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee.



**ASTDD Distinguished Service Award**

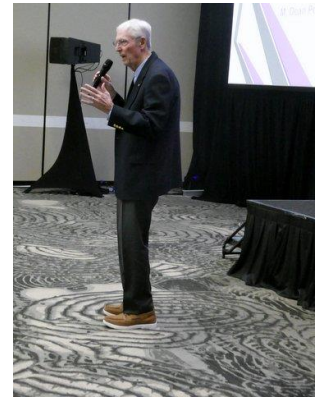
Given to an individual or an organization that has made a significant contribution to ASTDD programs, initiatives or the broader field of dental public health—this year to a dynamic duo!

**Matt Jacob, BA** of Jacob Strategies and an ASTDD Communications Consultant, and **John Welby, MS**, Director of Social Marketing and Health Literacy for the Maryland Office of Oral Health and chair of ASTDD’s Communications Committee.



## Greg McClure Memorial President's Award

**M. Dean Perkins, DDS, MPH**, was previously the Missouri Dental Director from 1991 to 2003, serving in all ASTDD leadership positions on the BOD, and served as the ASTDD Executive Director from 2000-2009. Dean retired in January 2023 as ASTDD's Webmaster and Executive Director Emeritus. ASTDD also is renaming the Distinguished Service Award the M. Dean Perkins Distinguished Service Award starting in 2024. We applaud Dean for his lifetime of dedication to public service and improving the oral health of our nation as well as the infrastructure that is needed to advance improvements.



APRIL 17-19, 2023  
AT THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON  
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, ORLANDO, FL  
WEEKEND WORKSHOPS  
APRIL 15-16, 2023



PRESENTED BY:



2023 - Celebrating 75 Years  
astdd  
Where oral health lives

The 24th joint meeting of the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) co-sponsored by ASTDD and AAPHD was held in-person at the Doubletree Hotel in Orlando, FL April 17-19 with weekend workshops, BOD meetings of ASTDD, AAPHD, and the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH), the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC) annual meeting, and other functions on the weekend. About 740 people attended. The ASTDD Board of Directors meetings focused on reviewing and updating our Bylaws and meeting with Adam Barefoot from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as well as Casey Hannan, Nicole Blair-Johnson, Gina Thornton-Evans, and Lorena Espinoza from the CDC Division of Oral Health. The BOD also enjoyed a joint luncheon with the AAPHD BOD. We want to extend our appreciation to the meeting planning staff, Jan Aument, Leticia Harnung, and Aly Brazil, for their dedication and hard work in bringing us a seamless in-person meeting again! And kudos to the IT support staff and the Doubletree Hotel staff as well!



### Weekend workshops sponsored by ASTDD included:

- Using Targeted Briefings to Strengthen Partners Knowledge of Water Fluoridation
- Resources for Needs Assessments and Oral Health Improvement Plans
- From Sampling to Analysis -- Hands on Workshop for Epidemiologists & Analysts (Part 1)
- From Sampling to Analysis -- Hands on Workshop for Epidemiologists & Analysts (Part 2)
- Clear Writing: Strategies to Enhance Reports, Newsletters or Other Products
- Evaluation Report Makeover Bootcamp.

### Other weekend workshops included:

- Oral Health Equity in Action
- Curating Your Faculty Development Process
- Inclusion of Racial and Oral Health Equity in Dental School Curricula
- Meaningful Oral Health Impact Metrics and Measures for the Future
- Building Research Infrastructure.





**Our Community Service Project recipient** this year was Florida Voices for Health, a nonprofit advocacy organization working to improve health care outcomes for all Floridians. Part of their mission is Florida Voices for Oral Health and the Florida Oral Health Alliance. Henry Schein donated oral hygiene supplies and attendees stuffed 500 kits to donate.

**Thirty Sponsors and Exhibitors** supported the NOHC this year (see selected photos at the end of the newsletter):

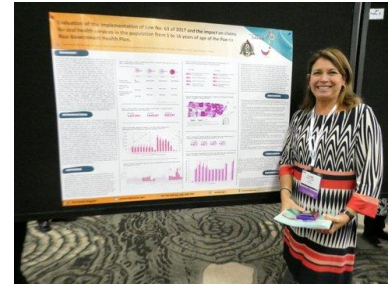
- Platinum Sponsor: CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
- Gold Sponsor: American Dental Association
- Silver Sponsors:
  - Aseptico
  - GC America
  - Ultradent Products, Inc.
- Community Service Project Sponsor: Henry Schein, Inc.
- Lanyard Sponsor: Aseptico
- Conference bags: Elevate Oral Care
- Monday Exhibitor Reception: Mouthwatch
- Monday Lunch: Delta Dental Foundation
- Tuesday Exhibitor Reception: CareQuest Innovation Partners
- **Other Exhibitors:** Air Techniques, VOCO America Inc, Centurion Health, DNTLworks Equipment Corporation, Nova Southeastern University, Strategic Tax Planning, Triadex Services, Young Innovations, McMillen Health
- **Non-Profit Supporters:** American Fluoridation Society Inc, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Network of Oral Health Coalitions, CDC Division of Oral Health, Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention, ASTDD, AAPHD, American Institute of Dental Public Health, National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, National Network for Oral Health Access, Minnesota Dental Therapy Association.

**Program.** You can access the session listings and abstracts on the 2023 NOHC app and on the [2023 National Oral Health Conference site](#). Attendees could earn up to 18 hours of continuing education credit for the Monday through Wednesday sessions and an additional 15 hours for the weekend sessions. Three plenaries started each day; the one on Monday, *A Diamond Jubilee: Telling Our Story and Looking to the Future*, honored ASTDD’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and AAPHD’s 86<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and featured three current or former state dental directors in addition to other panelists. Sessions also included 27 concurrent seminars including three sessions of oral presentations, 60 roundtables, and a poster session covering 77 posters.



Seminars and roundtables sponsored by ASTDD or involving ASTDD consultants are included under the committee and project activities.

Attendees networked during a New Attendee Welcome Reception, the Sunday Opening Reception, two Networking Lunches and three Continental Breakfasts, along with two Afternoon Receptions with Exhibitors. AAPHD and ASTDD held an informal joint reception on Saturday night for their respective boards, committee chairs and consultants. We were excited to welcome two of our colleagues from Palau and the dental director from Puerto Rico, pictured here, to the conference. ASTDD has been working with the US Affiliated Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands to conduct an oral health needs assessment and provide technical assistance since 2019.



### Committee and Consultant Activities

#### Peer and Member Support Program



Two new mentoring pairs joined the peer support program: Angela Filzen (MS) mentoring Kristi Mellion (LA) and Cheri Kiefer (ND) mentoring Erin Rollins (MT); Lori Cofano oriented Deborah Vishnevsky (DC). The next Peer Discussion Group call is in May. Eleven of the fifteen new dental directors (AR, GA, ID, LA, MO, MT, NC, NV, OR, SC, UT) attended the NOHC and networked with their peers. Kimberlie Payne contacted 22 new associate members during March and April.

#### Fluorides Committee (FC)

The FC met in March and April and were very busy at the NOHC participating in these sessions:

- Are Your Water Systems Properly Fluoridating? What to Know and How to Educate
- Water Fluoridation 101
- CDC Community Water Fluoridation Update.



Following the NOHC, Judy feinstein updated the Fluoridation Awards Toolkit and emailed it along with templates for awards certificates to state dental directors. The committee provided critical input to update ASTDD's [Natural Fluoride in Drinking Water Fact Sheet](#), now posted on the website. A fact sheet on silver diamine fluoride will be updated soon. The [Compendium of ASTDD Fluoridation and Fluorides Resource List](#) was updated and promoted at the NOHC.

Judy sent two Fluoridation Activity Update and Alert emails, at the beginning and end of March, and sent specific follow-ups to state contacts in MA, MD, MO, PA, and UT. Although there were no Fluoridation Alerts sent during April, individual emails were sent to contacts in IA, OH, OR, and WI. Judy attended ADA's National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC) meeting in March in Washington; Fluoride Committee members Jay Kumar, Johnny Johnson, Tracy Boehmer and Matt Zaborowski were also present, and Howard Pollick

participated by Zoom. NFAC will be concentrating on updating the ADA's publication, *Fluoridation Facts*, with assistance from Matt Jacob.

### Communications Committee (CC)

The Social Media Workgroup met March 6 to discuss social media at the NOHC and developed a landing slide reminding attendees to promote NOHC through social media. Several people posted lots of photos and messages on various social media platforms during the meeting. The CC met on March 7 and informally during the NOHC. Members were busy

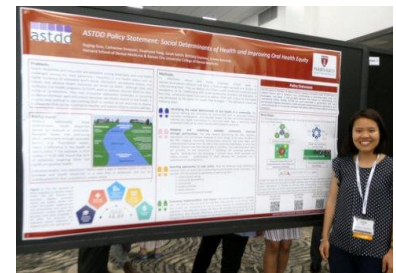


at the NOHC presenting roundtables (Creating Your Best Messages, and ASTDD Resources Galore), workshops, and panels as well as coordinating the ASTDD exhibit table. To save some trees, we primarily provided display copies of exhibit materials with QR codes for easy retrieval from our website. View the updated [ASTDD Communications Committee Resources](#). The next Communications Community of Practice (CCoP) is scheduled for May 24; the topic is QR codes.

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

The DPHPC held meetings in March and April. View the updated Compendium of [ASTDD Dental Public Health Resource Documents for State Oral Health Programs](#). A new policy

statement, [Social Determinants of Health and Improving Oral Health Equity](#), was approved by the BOD and posted to ASTDD's website. One of the writers, Yuying Guo, Harvard DMD candidate, presented a related poster at



the NOHC (pictured). Judy Feinstein and Harry Goodman continued working with Dr. Linda Kaste and her student, Lydia DeJonge, DDS, a pediatric dental resident/MPH candidate at the University of Illinois-Chicago, who is revising/updating ASTDD's policy statement on Dental Amalgam and Restorative materials that will address the known benefits and risks to environmental and human health of restorative materials. Judy and Harry provided input for Lydia's competitive poster at UIC COD 2023 Clinic and Research Day, which received the "Best Resident Literature Review" award! Congratulations to Lydia!



BPC workgroups and authors have continued working on two BPARs: Oral Health of Older Adults (Age 65 and Older) and the update to Prevention and Control of Early Childhood Tooth Decay (ECC). The BPC members attending the NOHC also held a meeting.

### Healthy Aging Committee (HAC)

The HAC met in person and Lori Cofano conducted their NOHC roundtable based on their toolkit [Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration](#), and updated their [Compendium of ASTDD Healthy Aging Resources](#).





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

Sandy Tesch attended the National Mobile and Teledentistry Association Conference, Momentum Twenty23, in Frisco, TX March 2-4. The purpose of the conference was to explore innovative care delivery and business models, virtual technologies, and equipment within mobile and teledentistry programs. The SAOHC and the Mobile/Portable workgroup both met during the NOHC to discuss progress. Melissa Fahrenbruch from the CDC Healthy Schools Division and Marcia Parker from the CDC Division of Oral Health (DOH) presented on the SAOHC Zoom on March 23. They offered information on collaboration between state Departments of Education and state Oral Health Programs. Healthy Schools has a new Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and expects to announce the grantees soon as funding begins July 1. Healthy Schools and the DOH collaborated on the FOA to include some oral health components. Dr. Jeremy Horst presented during the April 28 Sealant CoP on alternative interventions for sealant programs including information on povidone iodine, silver diamine fluoride, GI sealants, and use of blacklight for checking GI sealant retention. Lori Cofano presented to the Connecticut Dental Sealant Advisory Group in early April on the School-Based Dental Sealant BPAR. Note [Ohio's newly updated School-Based Sealant Manual](#).

## **Basic Screening Survey (BSS) and Oral Health Surveillance Technical Assistance (TA) and Training**

Kathy Phipps and Mike Manz, ASTDD data subject matter experts, provided TA to 10 states for BSS or other surveillance assistance in March and April. ASTDD contracted with two new part-time Data Consultants in March who have already been oriented to their roles and will be mentoring with Mike and Kathy to assist with or take the lead on projects. Brooke Mehner BS, MPH, recently served as an epidemiologist and data analyst for the Iowa Department of Public Health and prior to that as a research assistant focusing on ALS research at the University Of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. Sahiti Bhaskara MPH, BDS, Diplomate of the ABDPH, is pursuing a dual PhD in Evaluation and Health Promotion Sciences at Claremont Graduate University. She is a senior evaluation consultant with the social impact firm Intention 2 Impact and also leads several multi-year evaluation projects as a senior evaluation associate with the Claremont Evaluation Center. She has several years of experience with oral health needs assessments and BSS in CA.

Kathy Phipps and Mike Manz facilitated the weekend workshop From Sampling to Analysis during two half-day sessions.

Participants learned how to select a representative sample, manage data collection, clean and weight a data set, conduct appropriate analyses, generate data tables, and prepare data reports. Kathy, Mike, and Shannon Conroy from CA and Maryanne

Goss from CT presented a panel at the NOHC on Optimizing Methods to Collect Demographic Data for the Children's Basic Screening Survey that addressed potential challenges and solutions for collecting BSS child-level demographics.



In addition to her consulting with ASTDD, Kathy Phipps also consults to the Indian Health Service and recently co-authored an IHS data brief, [The Oral Health of American Indian and Alaska Native Adult Dental Patients 35 Years and Older: A Follow Up Report to the 2015 Survey](#).

## Evaluation Activities



The ASTDD evaluation consultants continued to provide general assistance to CDC-funded states through listserv posts and emails, as well as meeting with some state teams during the NOHC. A March listserv post focused on Intention vs. Impact in Data Visualization. Their workshop, Evaluation Report Makeover Bootcamp, was highly interactive with 20 participants working in small groups and in larger group discussions. Contributing to the fun was JoAnna Hilman's two-year old son Luca who showed his enthusiasm for attending his first NOHC.



## Updating and Fieldtesting Key ASTDD Tools

ASTDD consultants are in the process of updating some key guidance documents and materials relating to the Seven-Step Model of Oral Health Needs Assessment and State Oral Health Improvement Plans. During the weekend workshop on these topics, Beverly Isman, Kimberlie Payne, and Sahiti Bashkara walked attendees through the new materials and solicited their feedback on the best way to package the information to be most useful to a variety of audiences. The group provided wonderful feedback as the 36 attendees represented state oral health programs, local health departments, oral health coalitions, community health centers, private practices, universities, the armed forces, national organizations, and other groups. Look for announcements when the new materials are posted this spring and summer.



## RESPITE Project

During the NOHC, Deborah Polk and Bruce Austin, with Judy Feinstein serving as moderator, presented an overview of the RESPITE project, A Collaborative Research Project to Reduce Opioid Use by Dental Providers in Managing Dental Pain. In addition, they described ASTDD's roles in the project and referenced a 2021 ASTDD Policy Statement on [Reducing Opioid Prescribing by Oral Health Professionals](#). The project team now have five manuscripts accepted for publication, one under review/responding to feedback and one remaining to be submitted for review. ASTDD will provide links when the papers are published.



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

In addition to the critical but routine work of administration and providing technical assistance to all the state Dental Hygienist Liaisons (DHL) and regional DHL Coordinators (RDHLC), Kathy Hunt (Lead) and Gina Sharps (co-lead) also oversaw the following activities:

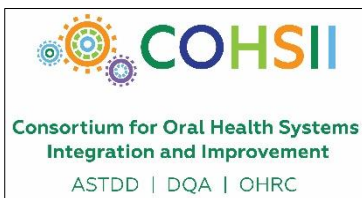


- Created and presented an NOHC roundtable Oral Health and Head Start: Something to Smile About!
- Hosted a DHL gathering at NOHC
- Continued planning for an exhibit at the 2023 American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) Conference in Chicago in July
- Continued planning for the RDHLC annual meeting to be held in Salt Lake City in August
- Created a summary for the RDHLC and DHL Progress Reports
- Prepared and facilitated an RDHLC call the end of April
- Hosted a DHL Webinar, [Head Start Resources are Just a Click Away.](#)

We currently have a DHL vacancy in Wyoming. Gina and our Region III RDHLC are looking for a hygienist in their states of Maryland and West Virginia to take on the state DHL role so they can devote more time to their RDHLC positions. If you know of anyone that might be interested in filling this volunteer role, let Gina know ([sharpsg@marshall.edu](mailto:sharpsg@marshall.edu)). They need to be a member of ADHA.



### Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII)



ASTDD consultants continued to participate in learning collaborative webinars and to gather at the NOHC with colleagues and share information about the COHSII activities. See the list below of presentations and links to resources shared:

- Oral presentation: Does Oral Health Goal Setting Motivate Parents to Improve Oral Health Behaviors: Results of an Intervention, speaker: Patty Braun. Find patient engagement resources on the [NOHI webpage](#)
- Roundtable: How to Conduct a Medical-Dental Integration Environmental Scan in Your State, speaker: Kera Beskin. View the [environmental scan tool](#) and [chartbook](#)
- Roundtable: Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care Learning Collaborative: A State and Local Partnership: Project Framework and Early Findings, speaker: Sarah Kolo. [Learn more](#) about the project
- Roundtable: Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) Within the MCH Safety Net and the NOHI Learning Collaborative: An Overview, speaker: Susan Lorenzo. [Learn more](#) about the project
- Roundtable: Public Oral Health Crisis in Guam and Efforts to Facilitate Preventive Oral Health Care to Children, speaker: Ohnmar Tut, Reg Louie and Peter Milgrom. Learn more about the [national performance measure on oral health](#) (NPM 13)
- Roundtable: School-Based Dental Sealant Programs: A Best Practice Approach Report Update, speaker: Beth Lowe. Read the [best practice approach report](#).



## Another Blast from the Past

Some of you might recognize the three amigos in this photo. In addition to my husband Bob, we visited **Don Schneider** (on the left) and **Jim Crall** (on the right) after the NOHC as they have retired to the Gulf Coast of Florida. Both long-time friends and supporters of ASTDD, Don served in many roles in HRSA and CMS, and helped to provide funding to initiate the Medicaid/SCHIP State Dental Association. Jim recently retired from his department chair position at UCLA but is still consulting; he previously served as director of the National Oral Health Policy Center and has a long history advocating for early childhood programs, especially Head Start families, recently partnering with Sesame Street. Maybe we can entice them to join us at the 2024 NOHC.



Look for the next issue of *Roundup* in July 2023

Send any questions, comments, or articles to Bev Isman at [bev.isman@comcast.net](mailto:bev.isman@comcast.net)

## More Faces of the 2023 NOHC

