

2024 ASTDD Best Practices Committee (BPC) Annual Report

Chair: Steve Geiermann

Coordinator: Lori Cofano

Members: Zachary Brian, McAllister Castelaz, Christina Demopoulos, Russ Dunkel, Carrie Farquhar, Chris Farrell, Irene Hilton, Samantha Jordan, Shillpa Naavaal, Julie Reynolds, Gina Thornton-Evans, and Kathy Weno

New BPC members: In January 2024, McAllister Castelaz joined the BPC. In April, Carrie Farquhar rejoined the committee after taking a hiatus.

Transitions: In January 2024, Christine Veschusio resigned after many years serving on the BPC and is now an Emeritus Member. She has agreed to remain available as a subject matter expert for the BPC.

Purpose: The BPC supports more effective state, territorial and community programs through the development and sharing of Best Practice Approach Reports (BPARs). The collection of descriptive reports (DRs) promotes the integration of oral health best and promising practices into other programs.

The BPC supports the ASTDD Strategic Plan by encouraging the use of evidence-based and evidenced-informed policies and practices, identifying emerging issues and promising approaches, identifying cross-cutting issues and providing tools and technical assistance to improve state and territorial oral health program policies, plans, programs and partnerships.

Accomplishments: The committee held its annual face-to-face meeting at the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) in St. Louis, Missouri and one meeting via Zoom in July. The committee works efficiently and effectively through Dropbox. Committee members volunteer to serve as liaisons on projects. The BPC members provide a range of subject matter expertise.

- As of February 2024, state activity submissions were deleted, and only descriptive reports (DRs) are linked on each state's page. A column was added in the DR sections to indicate which BPAR a DR is linked to. States were notified to download their activity submissions by February 1, 2024, if they wished to keep a copy for their programs.
- Several members of the committee participated in an ad-hoc workgroup funded by the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health (CQI). The workgroup developed a white paper, [Championing Minimally Invasive Care: Aligning Advocacy to Transform Oral Health](#). The white paper contains multiple sections written by various contributors/authors:
 - **Foreword:** Tim Ricks, DMD, MPH, FICD, FACD, FPFA, Rear Admiral (ret.), U.S. Public Health Service 20th USPHS Chief Dental Officer/Assistant Surgeon General, 2018-2022.
 - **Introduction:** Steve Geiermann, DDS, Captain (ret.), U.S. Public Health Service, Chair, ASTDD Best Practices Committee.
 - **Implementing Advocacy Messaging:** Grace Linn, MA, President of Creative Medica Solutions, Inc.

- **Policymakers and Payors:** Kasey Wilson, MSW, Senior Policy Analyst at Community Catalyst.
 - **Educators:** Judith Haber, PhD, APRN, FAAN; Executive Director, Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Program, Professor Emerita, New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing.
 - **Oral Health Care Professionals:** Paul S. Casamassimo, DDS, MS, Professor Emeritus, Pediatric Dentistry, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
 - **State Medicaid and Oral Health Programs:** Bob Russell, DDS, MPH, MPA, CPM, Public Health Dental Director, Chief Oral & Health Delivery Systems, Iowa Department of Health (ret.).
 - **Community Advocates:** Anita Glicken, MSW, National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center.
 - **Evaluation Considerations:** Maggie Pustinger, MPH and Kristin Giordano, MPH, Evaluation Specialists, Emory Centers for Public Health Training and Technical Assistance.
 - **Subject Matter Expert Reviewers:** Zachary Brian, DMD, MHA, Associate Professor and Director of the Dentistry in Service to Community program, University of North Carolina at Chappel Hill Adams School of Dentistry; Katrina Holt, MPH, MS, RD, FAND, Director, National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center; Sarah Kolo, Communication Specialist, Georgetown University, Matt Jacob, Jacob Strategies, Public Health Communications consultant.
 - **Advisory workgroup:** Lori Cofano, Judy Feinstein, Steve Geiermann, Harry Goodman, Bev Isman, Grace Linn, Josephine Wolfe (representing CareQuest Institute for Oral Health) and Chris Wood.
- In February, an ASTDD Spotlight featured Dr. Brian Novy presenting a 15-minute overview of the BPAR on [Early Childhood Caries: Prevention and Management](#). Over 100 people logged on.
 - Two sessions based on BPARs created in 2023 were presented at the 2024 NOHC: *Early Childhood Caries: A Paradigm Shift*, presented by Dr. Brian Novy and *If I Had Known I Was Going to Live This Long, I'd Have Taken Better Care of Myself!* presented by Dr. Lenny Brennan. Both sessions were well attended and received excellent evaluations.
 - Katrina Holt at the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) included funding to support a new Best Practice Approach Report: Integrating Oral Health into Primary Care—Focus on Advocacy and Education. The project will begin in July 2025 and go through June 2026.
 - An update to the Perinatal Oral Health BPAR may be added to the 2025 BPC project list if the OHRC has funding available to support the project.
 - The BPC Evaluation Workgroup, formed in 2022, recommended the use of pop-up evaluations for various ASTDD documents. In August 2024 funding became available, and the pop-up questionnaire was implemented in September. It opens when people access BPARs. Questions include name, email address, employment setting, the source used to find the document (i.e., peer/colleague, internet search, ASTDD website or other), and how they intend to use the document. A follow up survey is sent two weeks after the initial survey is completed.

- In place of the annual compendium update for the NOHC, ASTDD created BPC “business cards” that include the BPC webpage QR code.
- The BP committee provided technical assistance on the use of Dropbox to those working on the minimally invasive care (MIC) project. Dropbox allows multiple people to provide input on documents, allowing for a more collaborative approach.
- Lori facilitated a dental directors meeting on June 26 with Dr. Nicholas Conte, Delaware’s state dental director; Dr. Kathy Phipps, an ASTDD consultant; and Janette Gomez from Nevada’s state oral health program. They presented on the use of black lights during oral health screening.
- An abstract for a 90-minute session at the 2025 NOHC has been accepted. *Championing Minimally Invasive Care: Aligning Advocacy to Transform Dental Health* will be presented by Kasey Wilson, Anita Glicken and Grace Linn. Steve Geiermann will moderate the session.
- Lori will present a roundtable at the 2025 NOHC, *Minimally Invasive Care: What is it and Are You Using it?*
- Links to descriptive reports in BPARs were checked and updated or archived.
- The BPC will hold their annual face-to-face meeting at the 2025 NOHC in Orlando, FL.

Current activities:

- [Championing Minimally Invasive Care: Aligning Advocacy to Transform Oral Health](#) document is posted to the ASTDD Dental Public Health Policy Committee webpage. It is also available under the “C” and “M” sections of the A-Z tab of the ASTDD website. Discussions on how to continue the dissemination of this document continue.
- BPC members serve as liaisons to review drafts and provide subject matter expertise on various ad hoc BPAR advisory workgroups and subcommittees.

Future Activities:

- An ASTDD Spotlight on the MIC advocacy document is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 1pm ET. (Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89931945699?pwd=6trIJ0CQpDtKV4ClBnzKYA3ncgWDSel.1>)
- Possible collaboration with the Healthy Aging Committee on an advocacy playbook. Funding for the project is currently being sought from the Gary and Mary West Foundation and several other organizations with a decision expected in January 2025.
- Review and monitor BP webpages for revisions.
- Continue to provide technical assistance around BPARs, DRs, Dropbox and other areas as needed.
- Katrina Holt at the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) included funding to support a new Best Practice Approach Report: Integrating Oral Health into Primary Care—Focus on Advocacy and Education. The project will begin in July 2025 and go through June 2026.
- An update to the Perinatal Oral Health BPAR may be added to the 2025 BPC project list if the OHRC has funding available to support the project.

Unmet committee needs:

- Funding to support honoraria for primary authors writing and presenting BPAR materials. The BPC is thankful for entities such as the National Oral Health

Resource Center, CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, and the Gary and Mary West Foundation for past support, but future fiscal collaborations cannot be guaranteed.

- Additional funding outside of the CDC cooperative agreement is needed for ASTDD consultant hours to provide technical assistance and oversight on BPC projects. This may be vital as CDC funding has changed.