

ASTDD Dental Public Health Policy Committee Annual Report
Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 2024

Chair: Harry Goodman Consultant: Judy Feinstein

Members: Tracy Anselmo (CO), Eric Biagioli (MD), McAllister Castelaz (WI)*, Chris Farrell (MI), Debono Hughes (MD), Shelley Guinn (WA), Pedro Medina-Cuevas (IL)*, Nicole Payonk (PA), Anubhuti Shukla (IN)*, Kristi Sutton-Thomas (MI)*, Mona VanKanegan (IL)

1. List any new members or subcommittee members: McAllister Castelaz

2. Describe the purpose of your committee:

To develop, promote and support resource and policy-related documents to assist state and territorial oral health programs to improve oral health, in support of ASTDD's objective to reflect the Association's priorities and stance on dental public health issues. These documents are intended for directors of State/Territorial Oral Health Programs (S/TOHP) and their staff to support them in describing the issues and evidence base at a high level. Documents may include examples, recommendations, strategies, and/or information that S/TOHP can use to assist decision makers (such as healthcare providers, federal, state or private agencies, employers, public health officials), or the public, in developing further understanding of dental public health issues or in choosing between alternative courses of action in specific situations. The committee routinely evaluates older policies to ensure that they continue to reflect the latest science. The Committee works in collaboration with other ASTDD committees and/or individuals and the Board of Directors to oversee the creation of resource documents and policy statements for use by the ASTDD membership.

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

- The Committee met eight times during 2024.
- The Committee contributed to four new or updated policy statements during 2024:
 - *Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care*, completed in collaboration with the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC), was posted to the ASTDD website in February. The older statement (2016) was archived.
 - Judy and Harry co-presented an ASTDD Spotlight presentation of the policy statement in May. Katrina Holt, Katy Batani and Ruth Barzel from the OHRC were the primary writers.
 - *Preventing Tobacco/Oral Nicotine Use to Promote Oral Health* was posted to the website in June. This paper replaced the previous policy statement on tobacco use and eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke from 2013. The new statement provides information about the impacts on oral health and overall health of nicotine containing products (including combustible tobacco cigarettes, pipes, cigars, and various types of smokeless tobacco as well as electronic cigarettes), along with guidance documents and resources that identify selected effective strategies designed to assist states, territories and communities in prevention and control efforts of their use.

- The policy statement was the topic of a Spotlight in October, presented by the contributing author, Rebecca Boulos, MPH, PhD. The session was attended by close to 85 people and was very well received.
- *Integrating Oral Health into School Health: Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child School Health Model*, updated and replaced a similarly titled 2015 policy statement and its 2013 precursor. The new statement, completed in collaboration with the School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee, was posted to the website in December.
- *Older Adults and Oral Health: A Continuing Challenge*, developed in collaboration with the Healthy Aging Committee and supported by a grant from the Gary and Mary West Foundation, was posted in December. This statement replaces a 2018 statement on improving oral health access and services for older adults, which has been archived. It also is intended to complement ASTDD's 2023 "Best Practice Approach Report: Improving the Oral Health of Older Adults."
- Judy and Harry, along with Lori Cofano and Chris Wood collaborated on planning and reviewing ASTDD's CareQuest funded Minimally Invasive Care (MIC) project, coordinated by Steve Geiermann. They reviewed and commented on section drafts as the document was developed between January and October. The paper, intended to serve as a resource to support advocacy for the adoption of MIC in the health care delivery system, was posted in November.
- On behalf of the Committee, Judy reviewed the ADA's toolkit on dental amalgam, posted on ASTDD's website, and recommended changes that should be made; pending those, the toolkit has been removed from our website.
- Judy participated in a CDC OSAP listening session on May 10, one of several ASTDD participants invited to provide feedback on existing CDC resources.
- Judy revised the policy statement template, adding additional comments for guidance to writers. This guidance is not posted on the ASTDD website but will be provided to primary authors and is available on request from her or from Chris Wood.
- The Committee reviewed 14 proposed resolutions as presented to the ADA's House of Delegates for their Annual Session in October 2024. Three were identified for testimony. Following the discussion, Judy drafted brief testimony for Chris to forward to the BOD for their approval, and then submitted it to the appropriate reference committee at the ADA. Committee member Debony Hughes attended, monitored the meeting, and submitted ASTDD's testimony verbally. Judy reviews the HOD documents each year and identifies those of potential interest to ASTDD. Usually, these resolutions are on the ADA's consent agenda, so little or no discussion is expected at the meeting. ASTDD will submit brief testimony on those which we perceive relate to the work of ASTDD members and or have implications for dental public health. Testimony is usually supportive, stating why we support the ADA's position; by submitting testimony, ASTDD is "on the record" related to the issues the resolutions address. We continue to keep AAPHD informed of the resolutions for which we provide testimony.
- In preparation for attending the CDC NOFO "Kick-off" meeting in Atlanta (Oct. 29-31), Judy participated in a training webinar on AMP (CDC reporting system), a video call with the grantee states to introduce states to ASTDD resources, and then two video calls with DOH staff to introduce CDC staff, preview the meeting, and review the NOFO expectations. With Chris

Wood, Sandy Tesch, Kathy Phipps and Maggie Pustinger, she attended the meeting. Initially more of the NOFO's work seems to focus on the Fluorides Committee than on the DPHPC, but the Committee will have a role as the work gets further along.

- On behalf of the Committee, Judy attended a webcast, "How to Counter Public Health Myths and Elevate Science Now," sponsored by Frameworks. Among the topics addressed were cultural mindsets and communication "traps." The information should be useful as we consider future products for the Committee.
- The Committee began a discussion of the processes that have been and might be used in the future, such as standards for drafts and a process for reviews, what a policy statement should cover (e.g., actionable steps) and related concerns. This will be a focus next year.

4. Describe the future activities planned by your committee:

- Update/revise ASTDD's Perinatal Oral Health and policy statement in collaboration with the OHRC with attention to the concurrent update of the related BPAR.
- Review updated/revised documents in collaboration with the Fluorides Committee as they become available.
- Pursue updates for two policy statements, "Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and Oropharyngeal Cancer" (2017) and "Teledentistry: How Technology Can Facilitate Access To Care" (2019).
- Continue to evaluate older policy statements and resource documents (publication dates older than 5 years) to identify those likely to need revisions/updates.
- In lieu of drafting a policy statement on health equity, the Committee will focus on creating an annotated webpage on health equity, e.g., by reorganizing and briefly annotating ASTDD's Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health webpage, into appropriate categories. (Carried over from previous year.)
- In lieu of an issue brief on oral health literacy, the Committee continues to be interested as time permits, in undertaking drafting a short document (one to two pages) to summarize the many and multi-faceted issues around oral health literacy and describe ASTDD's resources, using an annotated webpage. (Carried over from previous year.)
- Along with Committee processes, as noted above, consider how the relationship among various related Committee documents and other resources (e.g., Best Practice Reports and others to be determined) can be presented.

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

- Subcommittees are established as needed to work on specific statements or other activities, e.g., an ad hoc subcommittee to review the ADA's proposed resolutions. The DPHPC did not use any subcommittees in 2023.

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

- The Committee may recruit new members in 2025.