The American Association for Community Dental Program’s (AACDP’s) annual symposium was held on April 22–23, 2017, in Albuquerque, NM, preceding the National Oral Health Conference. AACDP’s symposium kicked off with a New Mexico welcome from Rudy Blea, program director for the New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Oral Health, and Cindy Vigil, president of the New Mexico Dental Hygienists’ Association.

In today’s unpredictable political climate, funding for local programs serving vulnerable populations is likely to be hit hard. With their funding in jeopardy, how do community programs continue to advocate for and serve the underserved? In planning the symposium, AACDP made an effort to focus on raising awareness of vulnerable populations that lack access to oral health care. These populations include people of color, individuals and families with low incomes, people living in rural communities, people with disabilities, and older adults. Evaluations from 120 attendees came back insightful, provocative, and positive.
Health care, including oral health care, is a human right that we must all recognize and advocate for. Solutions to the problem of lack of access to care must be supported through open ideas and evidence-based science. There is no single solution; each community needs to determine what may work optimally for that particular area. Whether the focus is rural, urban, or frontier communities, AACDP will continue to work with its members and other organizations to improve oral health.

In closing, I wish to give special recognition to Myron Allukian Jr., Ruth Allukian, Baharak Amanzadeh, Debi DeNure, Sarah Dirks, Judy Gelinas, Larry Hill, Katrina Holt, Eve Kimball, and Josefine Wolfe for their help and guidance in organizing an excellent symposium. To AACDP’s speakers and Neal Demby and Mark Doherty, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and a heartfelt thank-you for all that you have accomplished and all that you continue to do to improve oral health for all people.

AACDP 2017 Symposium

Following is an overview of the AACDP symposium that was held on April 22–23, 2017, in Albuquerque, NM. Many of the speakers’ slides are available on AACDP’s Meetings webpage.

April 22, 2017

Nuts and Bolts: Essentials of Successful Grantsmanship: A Panel of Grant Funders and Writers

During this interactive session, Larry Hill (AACDP), Beverly Isman (Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors), Renee Joskow (Health Resources and Services Administration [HRSA]), and Mike Monopoli (DentaQuest Foundation) provided information on how to produce successful grant proposals. They discussed principals of grantwriting and tips for writing a successful grant, the grantwriting and grant review processes, and tips for searching for funding opportunities.

April 23, 2017

Welcome and President’s Message

Nancy Rublee welcomed attendees to the AACDP symposium. She shared AACDP's mission to support the efforts of those serving the oral health needs of vulnerable populations at the community level and emphasized the importance of AACDP members, including staff of city, county, and community-based health programs with an interest in oral health issues and access to care, who are involved in this work.

Welcome to New Mexico

Rudy Blea (New Mexico Department of Health, Office of Oral Health) and Cindy Vigil (New Mexico Dental Hygienists’ Association) provided an overview of oral health in New Mexico. They presented basic facts about the state’s demographics, history, and economy; provided an overview of oral health

Useful Grantwriting Resources

- Apply for a Grant Online: https://www.grants.gov
- Grant Reviewers: http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/reviewers
professionals and oral-health-education opportunities in the state; discussed the mission and activities of New Mexico’s Office of Oral Health; and offered information about oral health advocacy organizations in New Mexico.

**Perspectives from an Indian Health Service Clinic and a Safety Net Dental Clinic in New Mexico**

Mary Altenberg (Community Dental Services) and Darlene Sorrell (Society of American Indian Dentists) provided background information about the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Albuquerque IHS dental clinic (AIDC). They discussed AIDC services, staffing, outreach, and funding.

**Dental Therapist National Movement**

Tera Bianchi (Community Catalyst), Barbara Webber (Health Action New Mexico), and Michelle Fay (Voices for Vermont’s Children) offered a variety of perspectives on the dental therapy movement. In addition to summarizing what Community Catalyst does, Tera Bianchi provided an overview of the dental therapy movement. She shared a brief history of dental therapy and explained how using mid-level oral health professionals can be a solution to the problem of inadequate oral health care access. Barbara Webber focused on issues of the New Mexico legislature and important dental therapy milestones in the state, such as the passage of the first dental therapy licensure bill and the introduction of a dual-licensure bill including both dental therapists and dental hygienists. Michelle Fay talked about the authorization of dental therapists by the Vermont legislature, legislation details, the implementation timeline, and challenges (e.g., inadequate access to care) and opportunities (e.g., high percentage of dentists enrolled as Medicaid providers,
dental therapists expanding access for children and adults enrolled in public health insurance programs).

**Improving Access to Care Through Interprofessional Collaboration**

Ann Battrell (American Dental Hygienists’ Association [ADHA]), Marcia Brand (National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health), and Patricia Braun (University of Colorado) discussed ways that engaging in interprofessional collaboration can improve access to oral health care. Ann Battrell talked about what ADHA is doing to further medical-dental integration through providing interprofessional education, promoting health professional awareness and readiness, and promoting statutory and regulatory authorization. Marcia Brand focused on the importance of medical-dental integration and progress that has been made toward increasing integration.

She talked about making the case for integrating oral health and primary care and resources to support work being done in this area. Patricia Braun discussed the Colorado Medical-Dental Integration Project and its services and medical-dental integration in Colorado. She talked about differences between coordinated, co-located, and integrated care and described the project’s progress toward its goals.

**Roundtables: “Lunch with the Bunch”**

Roundtables: “Lunch with the Bunch” focused on a wide variety of topics, including dental therapists, Health Resources and Services Administration activities, New Mexico local oral health programs, oral health literacy challenges, partnering with the American Dental Association (ADA) to improve access to care, lessons learned from school-based dental programs, implementing silver diamine fluoride programs, and strategies for dealing with antifluoridationists.

**Silver Diamine Fluoride: A New Prevention and/or Treatment Program**

Jane Gillette (clinical research dentist and practitioner), Sharity Ludwig (Advantage Dental), and Peter Milgrom (University of Washington School of Dentistry) discussed issues related to silver diamine
fluoride. Jane Gillette provided information about its use in community settings for high-risk population. Sharity Ludwig talked about Advantage Health, whose mission is to provide oral health leadership, service, and access to care in a professional, entrepreneurial, and sustainable manner for communities in rural Oregon; she also discussed silver diamine fluoride in the real world. Peter Milgrom provided information about the latest science related to silver diamine fluoride.

The Public’s Health vs. Corporate Wealth: Lessons from Oakland’s 2016 Soda Tax Campaign and the Pivotal Role of the Dental Community

Jared Fine (Coalition for Healthy Oakland Children) provided background information about the soda tax imposed in 2016 in Oakland, CA. He discussed framing successful public policy action, research on the relationship between dental caries and sugar-sweetened-beverage consumption, social infrastructure and programs to reduce soda consumption, and the political will needed to effect change. He also talked about the phases of a political campaign, what was involved in getting the measure to pass in Oakland, and the pivotal role of the oral health community in the effort.

Hot Topics: Late Breaking News

Alice Horowitz (School of Public Health, University of Maryland) discussed the new oral sex, oral cancer, and HPV epidemic. Johnny Johnson Jr. (American Fluoridation Society) talked about challenges to community water fluoridation (CWF) posed by fluoridation opponents. He discussed the science showing that CWF is safe and effective, attempts by fluoridation opponents to undermine CWF efforts, and effective methods for combating fluoridation opponents and supporting CWF. He recommended the American Fluoridation Society as a reliable source of evidence-based information on fluoride and all aspects of CWF. James Willey (American Dental Association Practice Institute) discussed oral health for older adults, including what ADA is doing in this important area, such as introducing new case-management codes that are relevant to oral health among older adults and providing a continuing education course on dentistry in long-term care facilities.
AACDP Awards

Myron Allukian Jr., AACDP awards committee chair, presented Neal Demby with the Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dental Programs and Mark Doherty with the John P. Rossetti Community Oral Health Impact Award during the AACDP Symposium on April 23, 2017, in Albuquerque, NM.

Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions in Community Dental Programs

Neal Demby has devoted his career to improving the oral health of vulnerable populations at the local, state, and national levels. Early on, he developed an innovative service-learning model of community-based dental residency programs located in community health centers throughout the nation. These programs not only significantly increased the capacity of community health centers to meet the overwhelming demand for services among individuals with low incomes but also resulted in a high-quality, community-oriented oral health work force. Dr. Demby went on to create the largest post-graduate dental program in the United States and the world, with about 400 dentists in CODA-approved residencies serving some 400,000 underserved individuals a year in about 300 community health centers. Beginning with a single general practice resident in 1974, his program is now a national resource that has created a pipeline of community-oriented dentists. Many program graduates work in community oral health programs after their residencies, providing a badly needed addition to the work force focusing on the underserved. Dr. Demby has had a lifetime of outstanding contributions to community oral health programs and has volunteered for missions to Belarus, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras.

John P. Rossetti Community Oral Health Impact Award

Throughout his long career, Mark Doherty has made it his mission to improve the oral health of those who need it most, beginning with his work as a community health center dental director in Boston in 1979. Since 2005, he has led Safety Net Solutions, a program of the DentaQuest Institute, and has worked tirelessly to transform it from an obscure start-up into a nationally recognized leader in the field of safety net dental practice technical assistance, helping community health center oral health programs become more efficient and effective while maintaining the quality of their services. He has also provided expertise to improve access to, quality of, and productivity of over 500 safety net programs in 42 states. Dr. Doherty’s efforts have resulted in the creation of numerous new dental safety net programs. Over the years, he has been a tremendous mentor and role model to young dentists; many have followed in his footsteps by entering the field of public health dentistry.

If you would like to join AACDP, complete the membership form. Membership is free, and benefits include information about AACDP’s annual symposium, publications, and a subscription to the Community Oral Health Programs discussion list.
AACDP 2018 Symposium—Save the Date!

The next AACDP symposium will be held on April 14–15, 2018, in Louisville, KY.

New and Noteworthy Resources

Health Center Program Fact Sheet: America’s Primary Care Safety Net Working to Address Oral Health
Bureau of Primary Health Care

This fact sheet describes how health centers increase access to oral health care in the communities they serve. Contents include information about oral health services provided and the number of visits and patients served. Topics include activities to increase access to oral health care for underserved populations, modernize the safety net infrastructure and delivery system, improve oral health outcomes, and promote an innovative organizational culture. Links to resources for general information and technical assistance for health centers are also included.

Kids and Drinking Water: A Glass Half Full or Half Empty?
Grantmakers In Health

This paper discusses the importance of water consumption for children. Contents include information about the importance of water consumption in preventing chronic disease, obstacles to ensuring that students have access to clean, safe drinking
water in schools, drinking water challenges in communities, and opportunities for health funders to increase children’s access to and consumption of free, safe drinking water. Topics include improving access, prioritizing education, funding data collection and research, promoting multisectoral partnerships, and advocating for supportive policies. A policy framework to support healthy development in all children by investing in accessible, safe drinking water is included.

**Oral Health Coalitions & Community Advocates: A Key Element of State Oral Health Infrastructure**

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

This fact sheet for oral health coalition members and community advocates presents recommendations for enhancing the ability of state and local programs to fulfill critical roles. Contents include 10 recommendations and suggestions for how coalition members and community advocates can support state oral health infrastructure and capacity building.

**Oral Health in Rural Communities**

Rural Health Information Hub

This resource identifies factors that contribute to problems accessing oral health care in rural communities and provides answers to frequently asked questions. Topics include oral health disparities present in rural America, barriers related to care in rural communities, how to start an oral health service in a local community, how mobile programs and other strategies have been used to increase access to care in rural communities, emerging and alternative oral health professional types that have been used to provide care to rural populations, loan-repayment programs for dentists, where to find information about fluoridation of rural-community water supplies, and who to contact for information about oral health programs.

**Rural Oral Health Toolkit**

Rural Assistance Center

This toolkit includes modules designed to help professionals identify and implement an oral health program. Topics include an overview of oral health in rural communities, program models and ways to adapt them to meet community needs, resources to support implementation of programs, and strategies to ensure program sustainability. The toolkit also includes a framework for evaluation, methods for disseminating results, and examples of programs that have been implemented in rural communities.

**Seal America: The Prevention Invention (3rd ed.)**

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

This manual is designed to assist health professionals in launching and sustaining school-based dental sealant programs (SBSPs). In addition to offering a step-wise approach for planning and implementing SBSPs, the manual addresses issues related to referring students with unmet oral health needs to a dental clinic or office. Health professionals working in established SBSPs may also find the manual of interest as they work to improve specific aspects of their programs.
Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) Fact Sheet
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

This fact sheet defines silver diamine fluoride (SDF) and describes the evidence base for using SDF to control dental caries. Topics include indications, contraindications, and other considerations; recommended protocols; using SDF in addition to fluoride varnish, other professionally applied fluorides, or dental sealants; Medicaid reimbursement; and who can apply SDF.

AACDP Executive Committee Members 2016–2017

Officers
President
Nancy Rublee, Price County Health and Human Service Department, Phillips, WI
E-mail: nancy.rublee@co.price.wi.us

Executive Director/Symposium Planning Committee Chair
Lawrence Hill, Consultant, Cincinnati, OH
E-mail: larryhill66@icloud.com

At-Large Members
Awards Committee Chair
Myron Allukian Jr., Consultant, Boston, MA
E-mail: myalluk@aol.com

Newsletter Committee Chair
E-mail: kholt@georgetown.edu

Additional At-Large Members
Baharak Amanzadeh, Alameda County Department of Public Health, Oakland, CA
E-mail: Baharak.Amanzadeh@acgov.org

Debra DeNure, Public Health—Madison and Dane County, Madison, WI
E-mail: ddenure@publichealthmdc.com

Sarah Dirks, Geriatric Dental Group of South Texas, San Antonio, TX
E-mail: dirks.dds@hotmail.com

Eve Kimball, Children’s Pediatric Partners, Wyomissing, PA
E-mail: ekimball2@aacpp.com

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The Bellwether: Leading Local Efforts to Improve the Nation’s Oral Health

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center
Georgetown University, Box 571272
Washington, DC 20057-1272
Phone: (202) 784-9771
E-mail: OHRCinfo@georgetown.edu
Website: http://www.mchoralhealth.org

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