

Finding Common Ground

**Linda C. Niessen, DMD
Vice President, Chief Clinical Officer,
Dentsply International &
Clinical Professor, Texas A&M Health Science
Center, Baylor College of Dentistry**

Purpose

- **Discuss common ground between ADA and dental public health**
- **Provide examples of partnerships in Dallas**
- **Identify ways in which we can work together**

Disclosure

AAPHD

- **Past President, AAPHD**
- **Past President, American Board of Dental Public Health**
- **Foundation Chair, AAPHD**

ADA

- **Past President, Dallas County Dental Society**
- **Delegate, NE District, TDA House of Delegates**
- **Alternate Delegate, 15th District, ADA House of Delegates**

Thesis

- ADA
- AAPHD
- ASTDD
- ADHA
- HDA
- NDA



Organized Dentistry

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 5$$

Mission

ADA

Committed to public's oral health, ethics, science and professional advancement; leading a unified profession through initiatives in advocacy, education, research and the development of standards.

AAPHD

Committed to promotion of effective efforts in disease prevention, health promotion and service delivery; education of the public, health professionals and decision-makers regarding the importance of oral health to total well-being; and expansion of the knowledge base of dental public health and fostering competency in its practice.

Strategies & Issues

ADA

- Dentist membership base
- Patient focus
 - Private practice solutions
 - Individual needs
- Access to care
 - Advocacy IHS, VA, FQHCs
- Prevention
- Perception
 - Advocate for private practicing dental community

AAPHD

- Dental public health base
- Patient focus
 - Public health patients
 - Population needs
- Access to care
 - Advocacy for underserved
- Prevention
- Perception
 - Advocate for underserved population and dental public health issues

BCD/DCDS Seal Mobile

Grant to Baylor College of Dentistry

- Dental students provide sealants to 2nd graders in DISD
- DCDS members volunteer as attending faculty
- DCDS members advocated for the program to granting agency
- Program ongoing, run solely by BCD



Making Dallas Smile Mobile Van



- \$300,000 grant to the DCDS
- 2 operator van + xray unit
- DCDS volunteers to provide comprehensive dental care
- Underserved patients treated at no charge

Making Dallas Smile Mobile Van

- **Dental public health program run by local dental society**
- **Staffing issues**
- **Volunteer issues**
- **Scheduling issues**



Making Dallas Smile Mobile Van



- **Lessons learned**
 - DCDS did not have the core competency to run a mobile dental van
- **Community Dental Care**
 - Van given to CDC to operate
 - DCDS provides grant to CDC for operating van

Observations from the HOD

- **TDA and ADA issues are public health issues**
- **Dental public health community has much to contribute to discussions within state and national delegations**
- **Why are oral surgeons overrepresented in the ADA House of Delegates and public health dentists underrepresented?**



**“All politics are local,
including dental politics.”**

Thomas P. (Tip) O’Neill-ish

Finding Common Ground

- **Membership based voluntary organizations (including AAPHD/ASTDD) are always looking for good workers.**
- **Recognize the cultural differences between organizations and respect them.**
- **Volunteer for a job and do it well.**
- **Don't be afraid to start at the bottom and work your way up!**

Think Networks

- **How can you contribute your skills to your local dental society?**
- **How can you expand your network to include your local dental society (remember those access to care and prevention missions)?**



Conclusion



- **What one action can you take to support your local dental society?**
- **What one activity can you invite your local dental society to participate in with you?**