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

1 + 1 + 1 = 5

Organized Dentistry
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
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 operatory 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?