Tributaries for Local Dental Programs
State Dental Director’s Perspective

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State Oral Health Programs

- ASTDD Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs
- Building Infrastructure & Capacity in State and Territorial Oral Health Programs
- Guidelines for Community Oral Health Programs
ASTDD Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs

- **Assessment**
  - Assess oral health status and needs
  - Implement an oral health surveillance system

- **Policy Development**
  - Provide leadership
  - *Mobilize community partnerships*

- **Assurance**
  - Inform, educate and empower the public
  - Link people to oral health services
  - Assure that the public health and personal health work force has capacity and expertise
Building Infrastructure & Capacity in Oral Health Programs

- State based oral health surveillance system
- Leadership
- State Oral Health improvement plan
- Develop and promote policies to improve Oral Health
- Provide Oral Health communication and education to policymakers and the public
- Provide population based interventions
- **Build community capacity**
- Develop health system interventions to facility quality dental care
- Leverage resources
Guidelines for Community Oral Health Programs

- **Assessment**
  - Community wide, building partnerships

- **Planning**
  - Roadmap to achieving desired outcomes

- **Policy**
  - Policy, laws, regulations and ordinances

- **Evaluation**
  - Program goals and objectives

- **Research**
  - Benefits to the local program
State Oral Health Programs
Public Health Competencies

- Evidence Base for Services
  - Surveillance; Determinants of health
- Clinical Preventive Services
  - Exams, Prophys, Fluorides; Oral Cancer Screening; Anticipatory Guidance
- Community Preventive Services
  - Fluoridation; Sealants; School based programs
- Access to Care/Health Systems
  - Facilities; Workforce; Reimbursement; Health Policy
State Oral Health Programs
Linking Professions

- Dentists and Dental Hygienists
- Other Health Professions
  - Physicians, Nurses
- Public Health
  - Epidemiology, Health Education, Health Promotion
- Education, Research, Evaluation
  - Universities, Community, Colleges
State Oral Health Programs
Dental Resource for Government Agencies

- Health Agencies
  - Human Services, Medicaid, PCO, Dept of Health

- Dental Regulators
  - Prof Reg; Insurance; Higher Ed; Radiation

- Elected Officials,
  - Governor, Legislators

- Other State Entities
  - State University System; State Board of Ed; EPA; Aging; Justice; Veteran affairs
State Oral Health Programs
Supporting Communities

- Collecting, Analyzing & Providing Data
- Training & Education
- Program Support: Grants, Materials, TA
  - Sealants, Clinics, Health Ed Materials
- Building Partnerships
  - State & Local Coalitions
State Oral Health Programs
Leveraging Resources

- Federal Funding
  - CDC, HRSA (MCHB)

- State Funds
  - General Revenue; Tobacco

- Foundations and Grants
  - RWJ; others

- Other Resources
  - Medicaid; Head Start; Special funds
State Oral Health Programs
Requirements for effectiveness & longevity

- Leadership and Authority
- Oral Health and Public Health Expertise
- Credibility & Accountability to the Public and Profession
- Consistent Goals and Objectives
State Oral Health Programs
Goals and Objectives

- Eliminate oral health disparities
- Improve the quality and quantity of life for all Americans
- Promote oral health as integral to health
- Promote optimal oral health for all as a public good
Responsibility of State Oral Health Programs

- Influence policy at state and local levels in order to improve oral health for all residents.
- Promote evidence-based practice.
- Enhance state/local oral health program infrastructure.
- Better meet the needs of COHP.
- Continue to develop, strengthen, and evaluate partnerships with relevant organizations and agencies.
Effective State Oral Health Programs can:

- Provide accountability for limited state financial resources
- Build and foster partnerships between federal, state and local governmental entities to improve oral health
- Build and foster partnerships between state government agencies & communities, practitioners, and dental education
Effective State Oral Health Programs can:

- Act as a “focal point” & provide oral health expertise for state and community action to improve oral health
- Provide continuity for moving a comprehensive oral health agenda forward
- Convene a broad array of stakeholders to improve state and community oral health
Effective State Oral Health Programs can:

- Promote legislation and policies to improve oral health
- Serve as a non-biased information "broker" to state/community officials and legislators
A Model Framework for Community Oral Health Programs

- Provides clear and practical assistance for local public health officials
- Offers flexibility in creating community oral health programs
- Promotes collaboration between state and community oral health programs
- Help assure education and access to appropriate oral health care where it is most effective...at the local level