December 13, 2012

Therese M Long MBA CAE
Executive Director
Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention
1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Ste. 300
Post Office Box 6297
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Ms. Long:

On behalf of the members and Board of Directors of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), I would like to thank the Organization for Safety, Asepsis, and Prevention (OSAP) for our successful partnership on the ASTDD-OSAP Infection Prevention and Safety Project.

The overarching goal of the project is to enhance efforts to incorporate infection prevention and control, and patient and staff safety into state oral health program infrastructure. Specific activities include:

(1) Obtain input from state oral health programs on current infection prevention and safety strategies, their roles in these strategies, who they partner with, gaps in knowledge, practices or policies, and need for more focused efforts;

(2) Develop recommendations to integrate appropriate resources and policies from OSAP and US Public Health Agencies into ASTDD (a) Individual Best Practices Approach Reports, (b) Competencies for State Oral Health Programs, (c) Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs, (d) Website pages and resources on Infection Control and Worker Safety, (e) Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual, (f) Mobile-Portable Dental Manual, (g) other relevant ASTDD and partners’ committees and documents, e.g., school health and healthy aging documents and policies, and state documents or activities such as oral health plans and coalition membership;

(3) Evaluate, disseminate and promote the new resources and their optimal use through (a) Webinars, (b) Presentations at the National Oral Health Conference and other conferences or workshops (c) Dedicated sections on both the ASTDD and OSAP websites describing this project and its outcomes.

To assess the status of infection prevention and safety efforts in State Oral Health Programs (SOHP) and efforts by ASTDD, the project team looked at current ASTDD surveys, guidelines, policies and competencies and reviewed OSAP information for relevant applications. The team reviewed the current ASTDD policy statements and issue briefs, the ASTDD webpage on infection control, the Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual, the Mobile-Portable Dental Clinic Manual and the Basic Screening Survey documents and identified gaps in infection control information. Each document was scrutinized to determine if infection control information was included, if the content was adequate, and recommendations for additions/changes were noted. A tickler file of

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Infection control enhancement opportunities beyond the scope of this project was created for future reference.

The review of ASTDD documents found that a number of issue briefs, strategy documents and the infection control area of the website needed to be updated to include current infection prevention and safety information. In order to assure continued integration of infection control information, the team concluded that an infection control review protocol should be included in the final review of all ASTDD documents and projects.

General information about the ASTDD/OSAP Infection Prevention and Safety Program was shared with members of the Associations through their newsletters. Specific findings from the document review process were shared with the ASTDD committees and consultants to inform them of the recommended changes. The Policy Committee updated the policy statement review form to include the infection control review protocol and the ASTDD Board of Directors agreed to consider the need for infection prevention and safety information in future projects and contracts. ASTDD collaborated with OSAP to develop Guidance on Infection Control Considerations for Dental Services in Sites Using Portable Equipment or Mobile Vans to include a checklist and program assessment form. These documents were shared with ASTDD members via the listserv at the annual meeting state sharing session, to attendees of the 2011 National Oral Health Conference and the AACDP meeting, and posted to the ASTDD website. This included a link to the OSAP website where infection control information could be maintained on a regular basis. In order to keep the ASTDD information current, OSAP is providing a quarterly update to post on the ASTDD infection control page. In addition, a public health portal was created on the OSAP website so that current infection control information is available to all public health providers.

Project products were disseminated among the ADA, ADHA, NDA, HDA, ADAA, NNOHA and ASTDD members, committees and consultants, and to those companies that market products and equipment to portable and mobile oral healthcare programs. During the many natural disasters this past year, information on responding to boil-water advisories and information about OSAP infection and prevention resources were distributed to these groups.

In summary, this was a highly successful collaborative project with documented products and outcomes among a broad spectrum of stakeholders. ASTDD wishes to thank OSAP for its expertise and willingness to work with us and our member SOHPs to improve the oral health and safety of the residents of the United States.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Snow, D.M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.
President, ASTDD

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