2014 AAPHD Public Service Award winner:
Children’s Dental Health Project

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The AAPHD Public Service Award is presented to an individual or organization for substantial contribution through action related to public health dentistry issues.

I am so very pleased to announce the recipient for the 2014 AAPHD Public Service Award is the Children’s Dental Health Project, a non-membership non-profit organization that provides a voice for dental public health stakeholders in Washington DC to achieve optimal oral health for children and families. CDHP was founded in 1997 by Dr. Burton Edelstein,* a pediatric dentist who also received the AAPHD Distinguished Service Award in 2009.

As a catalyst to founding the CDHP, Dr. Edelstein served as a Robert Wood Johnson public policy fellow in the office of then Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle. There, he witnessed the passage of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, without a guaranteed pediatric dental benefit. Dr. Edelstein founded CDHP to ensure that children’s oral health would be represented in future policymaking.

Executive Director Patrice Pascual and all of the awesome staff at CDHP specialize in policy research, communications and stakeholder engagement. In 2007, CDHP convened federal, national, state and local partners including the spectrum of dental professional membership organizations to push Congress to enact a dental health guarantee through the reauthorization of children’s health insurance program in 2009. More recently, CDHP fought for children’s dental coverage as an essential health benefit in the Affordable Care Act.

CDHP collaborates with CDC and ASTDD to support state oral health departments in 21 states, for example, advocating for dental care for pregnant women with the Michigan Department of Community Health and assisting states with using evidence on community water fluoridation.

CDHP’s many contributions reflect the highest ideals of AAPHD’s competencies in public policy. We are proud to recognize the Children’s Dental Health Project with the 2014 AAPHD Public Service Award.