Oral Health Committee update:

* The Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center (NTDSC) is in its 20th year of funding and the last year of this five-year grant cycle. We are waiting for the NOFA (notice of funding announcement) to be sent out this spring 2020.
* Historically, oral health has been underfunded and has received the same amount of funding for 20 years.
* The NTDSC offers a Baby Teeth Matter Initiative (BTM) and Elder Initiative for dental programs to participate in. Both of the Initiative’s objectives are to increase access and practice Minimally Invasive Dentistry. The Baby Teeth Matter Initiative also aims to decrease their referrals to below 10 %. As both Dr. Bruerd and Dr. Davis mentioned, it is not only very expensive to refer out of the dental clinic, there is evidence to show that there are health concerns to babies being put under anesthesia.
* There are currently eight programs participating in Baby Teeth Matter and ten programs in the Elder Initiative. We will recruit for new programs this year.
* If you would like a site visit, or phone conversation about your dental program, please contact Ticey Mason to set this up.
* The annual dental meeting will be on June 2-4, 2020 in Suquamish, WA. Dr. Darryl Tonemah will be one of the main speakers to present on Epigenetics and the historical trauma in AI/AN communities surrounding oral health. CDE will be provided to dental staff, as well as some travel awards for dental programs attending. We also invite tribal leadership to attend to hear Dr. Tonnemah on June 4th. Please contact Ticey if you are interested.