

**HRSA SPNS American Indian/Native Alaskan Grantees Conference Call
March 1, 2004 at 12:00 pm CST**

Participants: OU: Marguerite Keesee, Tim Brittingham, Lynda Williams, Herman Curiel, Saleem Ahmad, – YK: Andrea Savage, Carl Evans – 4CC: Julie Lucero, Rebeccah Rodreguez, Kevin Foley – ANTHC: Tracy Speier, Gloria Eldridge – NAHC: Parousha Zand – SPIPA: Jutta Riediger, Karina Udall – Robeson: Jennifer McLamb, Robert Hunt, Jo Lentz, Dewayne Lowry - HRSA: Sandi Duggan, Adan Cajina, Sarah Hargrove

Sandi began the call by discussing the recent change in leadership at OU. She stated that HRSA will assist with continuity and will keep the grantees updated with developments.

Project Reports:

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium:

Summary of activities according to ANTHC's approved Logic Model.

- Goal 1: Medical outcomes analysis of ANTHC's Title III Early Intervention Services After a year, several resubmission's, and the need for legal counsel, ANTHC's SPNS project final received IRB approval from the Alaska Area IRB for the medical outcome analysis piece of this project. It is currently under expedited review from the University of Alaska's IRB and as soon as we have UAA's approval, we will be ready to begin working with ANTHC's TitleIII EIS program on doing data analysis.
- ANTHC's Title III EIS program is applying for some additional funds for capacity building to ensure data is clean, consistently input, and up-to-date. If funded this will help a lot with the data analysis that the SPNS project will be doing.
- Goal 2: Relationship building with Norton Sound Regional Health Corporation and the Department of Corrections. This goal has been completed. The Tribal Health Consortium's Board voted to develop a task force to address the overwhelming needs of Alaska Native offenders being release from prison. These needs include; housing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, sex offender programs, and employment opportunities, just to name a few. Consequently, ANTHC with other representation around the state will be developing this task force over the course of the next year. The SPNS project will work with ANTHC Prisoner Outreach Project and DOC to provide information from the existing data

collected by ANTHC as well as additional new data on available services within the Tribal Health System and gaps in services and linkages between the Tribal Health Care System and DOC.

- Goal 3: Community Intervention (two tiers - 1. NSHC providers and 2. DOC). Initial community training was provided in Nome, other providers who attended the training included, probation officers, youth correctional facility staff, half-way house staff/case managers, and a couple of village-based providers. In total 23 providers attended the training. The Project Coordinator also did a follow up training with correctional officers at the prison located in Nome. In total, in addition to the two-day community provider training, there were six training sessions done in two days at the correctional facility for DOC staff. It was done this way to accommodate the different shifts at the prison. The reviews of both trainings have been very positive.
- The Project Coordinator has met with the BH Director at NSHC to revise the intake form used by NSHC to collect data specific to HIV/AIDS risk, pre & post test counseling, and referrals to testing to meet the goals and objectives of the SPNS project. The ultimate goal is to integrate HIV risk assessments, pre & post-test counseling and referrals to testing into existing services as a means of ensuring sustainability of the health transitions project within NSHC.
- The Project Coordinator has been working with the BH Director and one of the medical doctors in developing a referral system into HIV testing so that when BH providers refer individuals into testing, there is a way to track the information confidentially. The SPNS project is collaborating with ANTHC's AETC program and the medical staff at NSHC, as well as, the local prison in Nome to develop an HIV/AIDS community response team. The Project Coordinator is coordinating this process with designated medical staff and the Behavioral health Director from NSHC, and specified staff from the Department of Corrections. The Public health nursing program in Nome will also be involved with the SPNS project.

Other

- The Project Coordinator traveled to Washington DC to attend HRSA Consultative Meeting in Rockville on how HRSA can work better with AI/AN project.
- The evaluation center at UAA is currently working on the technical summary of the SPNS training held in Nome, which will be included in the semi-annual report; as well as, the technical reports from the preliminary data sets that will be presented to DOC and ANTHC members and other tribal members around the state and included either in the semi-annual report or the continuation application. The preliminary report will be used to help guide the development of the SPNS survey that will explore how to

connect high risk Alaska Natives being released from prison into health care services such as substance abuse, mental health services, and other health including HIV testing. The correctional phase of this project will resume this summer once the NSHC community intervention piece is implemented.

Four Corners American Indian Circle of Services Collaborative:

- the UNM evaluation team conducted a data collection training Monday 2/23/04.
- 2 new staff members from NAN, 1 staff member from Navajo Nation Social Hygiene in Chinle, and 1 health educator from the Navajo Nation HIV prevention program attended & were trained.
- new data collectors will be conducting the Health Survey on HIV positive clients, in the Chinle area.
- previously, the Chinle clients were a barrier to survey, but we are better equipped to reach them now with this staff.
- we have collected data from 18 HIV positive clients (Health Survey). Have had 5 follow ups. About 61 clients from NCI who have been screened for HIV and all those have been analyzed.
- we are consulting with a professor from the Univ of Washington regarding measuring the Adherence section of the Health Survey, & will complete the analysis this week.
- we have collected data on 61 clients/relatives at NCI (at-risk for HIV) & data has been analyzed.
- Dr. Bonnie Duran & Julie Lucero presented data to the Navajo Nation IRB on Feb 17th & we received re-approval of our project, pending sending a few documents to them.

Native American Health Center

Program Updates:

- Parousha Zand is leaving NAHC and we are currently in the process of recruiting for this position. Her last day will be March 5. Karen Saylor is involved in the recruitment process and there is some reorganization happening to provide additional support for the new director.
- Myra Smith has accepted a new position within Friendship House, that of Director of the Healing Lodge, a treatment program for mothers and their children, in Oakland. Friendship House is currently recruiting for the Health Educator position.
- The FH/NAHC policy for interagency referrals has been finalized and is in the signature process.

Data:

- 39 HIV positive clients have been enrolled in the SPNS program.
- 27 of these clients have had subsequent follow up QOL visits.
- 156 clients have received pre & post AIDS education tests through FH.
- 53 clients have received HIV testing at NAHC via FH referral.
- Groups and activities are continuing as usual

Needs:

- Medical indicator form has not been received from the evaluation center.

Robeson Health Care Corporation:

- Robert said that five new clients were enrolled in January and that current numbers total 68. Three clients are currently waiting to get into drug treatment. The average wait is around 5 weeks.
- The next pastor/lay training is in March. The project is in collaboration with the Scotland County Drug Task Force. Another event planned for May is a community church.
- Dewayne Lowry (Millard's cousin) is the acting director of the project.
- Jennifer stated the Healing Lodge is rallying around the project, especially since the recent death of Millard. The board also continues to really support the project during this time of transition/loss.
- The Project expressed its thanks to everyone for their support during this time.
- Jo will be leaving the project at the end of March.

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency

- The project has received permission to change the (3) part-time positions to (1) full-time position. (carry-over approved by HRSA)
- More surveys and focus group information continues to be captured and is being submitted to OU shortly. An interesting spin off of focus groups has been local advisory boards.
- The project will meet the projected numbers for two of the tribes, but indicated that they may not meet the numbers for the third project.
- The project continues to provide statewide presentations, regional presentations and presentations to planning councils.
- The Shoalwater Bay and Nisqually Tribes have a Bear project and a SPNS project.
- Infected/affected people from the community presented on their experiences at a recent community luncheon (one native and one white).

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation:

- Three out of the four villages have been tested since June. About 100 people have been tested.
- With help from the ANTHC, the project has provided training to hospital staff, school social workers, domestic violence agency, and staff at the half way house.
- The project would like to soon provide quick testing at the regional clinics, and has been working with CDC for testing in rural villages.
- Working with local hospital to change policies to allow HIV as an opt-out during exams. Two thirds of people testing for STD are not tested for HIV.
- IHS preceptor ship in Phoenix
- Positive Hepatitis and TB should be tested for HIV

- The project recently worked with the Bethel AIDS Task Force and raised 3 thousand dollars.
- Mark is currently on vacation.
- The project is working to schedule 2 or 3 more focus groups over the next 3 months.
- Andrea clarified that the project is actually providing testing and the ANTHC project is providing support in Alaska for testing.
- Andrea requested a copy of the barriers protocol questions.
- Tracy f inquired about what collaboration exists between CDC and HRSA regarding how funding is distributed from CDC and HRSA to ensure there is not duplication between the different Native organizations in specific regions of Alaska. Sandi stated the several HAB staff are working with CDC on different initiatives, but didn't have complete details at the moment. Sandi will look into it and get back with Tracey.

HRSA:

- Sandi reminded the projects about the Ryan White CARE Act meeting in Washington, DC on August 23-26th. She indicated that 2 people per project could attend and that they are currently accepting applications.

OU:

- Working to secure the changes in the Barriers Interview consent then will submit to projects and secure interview dates.
- Need to begin exploring site visit dates.
- After the carry-over budget has been approved, we will begin to work with the projects on the Seattle Meeting.