

**US/Mexico Border Grantee Conference Call Notes
March 1/2004 @ 10:30 am CST**

Location	Participants
Arizona	Steve Trujillo, Ken Burton, Barbara Estrada
New Mexico	Yvonne Roacho , Dr. Michelle Valverde, Paul Trujillo
El Paso, TX	American Jones, Dr. John Wiebe
California	Rosana Scolari, Dr. Maria Zúñiga, Alisa Olshefsky
Harlingen, TX	Elias Cantu, Dr. Yolanda Cantu, George Lasoya
HRSA	Adan Cajina, Sandra Duggan
OU	Dr. Herman Curiel, Tim Brittingham, Lynda Williams, Marguerite Keese, Ahmad Saleem G. Ahmad
Berkeley	Dr. Michael Tarter

I. HRSA Announcement

Adan Cajina said that he wanted to make an important announcement to all conference call attendees regarding the Technical Assistance Center. He stated that HRSA is working with OU and OU has assured him that the grant is going to continue without any major interruption. HRSA stays neutral regarding internal personnel matters. Dr. Barney has been removed from the project. The university has the prerogative to replace its personnel because the grant is through the university. HRSA is monitoring that whoever replaces Dr. Barney has the qualifications to carry the grant. We are going to focus on the grant and going to continue the work. Dr. Yolanda Cantu and Dr. Maria Zúñiga stated that they fully supported OU and HRSA. Adan added that HRSA's responsibility is to ensure that the grants continue without major interruptions, and HRSA does not foresee any problems. Dr. Eldred is in Mozambique, Africa, right now until March 15th and will be working with the other project officers through e-mail. Hopefully everything will be ironed out in a few days. Rosana Scolari voiced concerns about continuity of the grant and requested the need to be posted about new developments.

II. Project Reports

A. Valley AIDS Council, Harlingen, TX

Semi-Annual Progress Report

Due March 19, 2004

Dissemination:

2004 National HIV/AIDS Update Conference (NAUC 2004):
Miami, Florida.

Poster Presentation: Proyecto Juntos: "Addressing Challenges in Providing Care and Services to HIV Positive Individuals in South Texas Along the US-Mexico Border."

University of Oklahoma (Site Visit):

Scheduled for May 10-11, 2004

Technical Assistance

University of Texas at San Antonio (Site Visit):

Scheduled for April 6-7, 2004

Technical Assistance

Nuestra Clinica Del Valle (Pharr, Texas)

Physician Precepting

April 30, 2004

United Medical Center (Eagle Pass, Texas)

Physician Precepting

May 14, 2004

AETC Conference (Dallas, Texas)

1st Annual Women & HIV Symposium

VAC and UMC Staff attended.

AETC Nurse Training (Eagle Pass, Texas)

Rescheduled from March 15, 2004 to May 14, 2004.

SPNS Partnership Meeting:

April 16, 2004 at Nuestra Clinica Del Valle

B. El-Rio Health Center, Tuscon, AZ

Trainings:

On December 18th Dr. Carmichael saw 8 patients with Dr. Avina and on January 15th saw 11 patients in Bisbee, AZ. January 22nd Dr. Carmichael saw 5 patients with Dr. Pereida in Nogales, AZ.

AZ AIDS ETC:

No trainings reported in the months of December and January.

The Pacific AETC and AZ AETC have scheduled an HIV Update at the Yuma Regional Hospital for March 26/27, 2004.

Jerry Ramirez's staff (Sandra Garcia) from Chiricahua Community Health Center translated the self-paced training manual to Spanish. Spanish version of the manual was distributed to the collaborators at the January 16th meeting.

Out Reach Activities:

Yuma – Outreach activities continue by YCHD, Puentes de Amistad and Campesinos Sin Fronteras in the communities of Somerton, San Luis and Wellton. Populations targeted are MSM, Latina Women, IDUs and their sexual partners. Outreach is conducted in fields, correctional facilities, bars, Marine base, college campus and use of house parties. Major activities included World AIDS Day (12/1) and Dia de Campesinos (12/6).

Santa Cruz – Mariposa Community Health Center staff continue outreach in the outlying communities of Rio Rico and Patagonia. Populations of outreach activities are MSM, IDUs, sexual partners and Latina women. Participation on the local Spanish radio program continues to occur when staff is invited. Major activity World AIDS Day, activities ran for one week. The HIV Positive support group at the clinic continues to be well attended. Carlos Tapia has left the employment of Mariposa Clinic.

Cochise – Cochise County Health Department and Chiricahua Community Health Center are working jointly on outreach activities in Bisbee, Douglas and Sierra Vista. CCHD, Southern Arizona HIV Consortium and Agua Prieta Mexico held World AIDS Day activities on both sides of the border. Event was very well attended and was supported by many community agencies. CCHD hired two promotoras with funds from ADHS and is in the process of training new staff. House parties were placed on hold until after World AIDS Day activities.

Dissemination Activities:

Barb/Tony/Steve will submit an abstract ABHAC findings to the Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference and Dr. Carmichael is also planning on submitting abstract on the co-management of HIV patients.

Project Enrollment:

To date 118 patients have been enrolled into the study. One new patient in Cochise County and two patients pending.

Local Evaluation:

Local and multi-site evaluation data continues to be submitted.

Barbara Estrada distributed to the collaborator project data and site- specific data at the January 16th meeting.

OU consultants were on site on January 29th and 30th to complete outliers from year 3 medical record data extraction. Collaborators were able to get 16 consents signed of the 39 outliers, 9 were lost due to various reasons (moved, died, etc.).

C. Camino de Vida, Las Cruces, NM

Programmatic:

First Draft of the Health Outreach Worker Manual is complete. Veronica, Michelle and Yvonne met with the consultant to review the manual. Jennifer Felderman will be developing the evaluation component of the manual, a pre/post assessment will be used for each module. We anticipate the manual to be completed by June 2004.

Two new H.O.Ws have been hired on contract. One will focus on reaching the IDU population and the other will be working with the MSM population. Although Eduardo Pinal a former HOW continues to dedicate 1/4 of his time to SPNS he has been hired full time to work as the Spanish-Speaking Prevention Specialist.

Provider trainings continue. We are working closely with Camino's new Client Service's Coordinator in educating providers on the Standards of HIV Care. Michelle will give an update about the provider follow-up survey we are launching in March.

As far as the Executive Directorship position. The search committee has narrowed the candidates to four individuals. The next step is for the four finalists to meet with the Camino de Vida staff.

We are working on the semiannual report.

Two positive individuals found through outreach and one indeterminate.

We have experienced an increase in client enrollment since the end of last year. The State of NM is looking at major budget cuts that will impact CdV.

Research and Evaluation:

We submitted the IRB annual progress report last week. In the report we described phasing out the study in both outreach and with clients. In the report we are also seeking approval to do the qualitative study with clients and the provider follow-up survey. We will begin both the qualitative study and provider follow-up immediately once we get IRB approval.

We are collaborating with the NMAETC on a provider follow-up survey to find out if the providers who have attended the trainings are using what they've learned to improve the care they provide to clients and to document specific examples. The NMBHI newsletter for providers that is going out next week includes a letter from Veronica describing the survey and encouraging the providers to participate. We included the main questions from the survey in the newsletter to give the providers time to think about specific examples they could use. Once we get NMSU IRB approval and the cooperative agreement is approved by the University of New Mexico (NMAETC) we will begin conducting the interviews.

Our site visit with David and Betty went well as usual.

The SPNS team provided a PowerPoint orientation for the 5 new CdV staff members (the Interim Director, Client Services Coordinator, Title III Coordinator, and 2 Case Managers). As a result of the orientation, Yvonne has interviewed 4 clients and has a number of referrals pending. We are hoping to reach 100 by the end of the year.

The barriers committee (Barbara, Mari, John, and myself) is looking at the questions and will be making recommendations to the Dissemination Committee as to which questions to throw out. Anyone else who has input, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or by phone.

Data Update:

85 Enrolled into SPNS Program (several are pending interviews and referrals to SPNS)

Fiscal Year 4: **260** Tests to date/ **351** Contacts to date

D. Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, El Paso, TX

Jan 28, Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe had 10 visitors (representatives of AETC) to see a local performance site on the border.

Training has been carried out for entire staff on working with HIV+ clients. Second training will be held in Dallas on March 25th. Three people will be attending the second training.

Setting up a conference on June 4 and 5 for advocates and case managers to bring awareness to the community about HIV/AIDS. Some community based organizations are requesting information on HIV/AIDS. The conference is targeted towards service providers.

Medical chart extractions: 96 cases are ready for review. They were down to 63 complete medical charts, and 33 had only the first sheet completed.

Evaluation: At the end of 2003, there were 128 new clients which makes it 578 unduplicated clients.

Submitted proposal to the city of El Paso for expansion funds for 6 new examination rooms. Plan to open the pharmacy by the middle of this month.

E. San Ysidro Health Center, San Ysidro, CA

Programmatic/Dissemination

- 5yr renewal of our Coordinated Services Center (CASA) effective March 1, 2004. The total grant amount is \$350,000/year for a five year total of 1.7 million. Closing of the FY 2003-04 with 158 unduplicated clients, 75 of which were new to the program an average of 6.25 clients per month.
- New CDC Behavioral Surveillance Project, a collaboration between the State Office of AIDS, SYHC and Velasco Consulting (Project Evaluation). The collaboration started in mid-February, have received funds and hired five staff members. The aim is reach 500 MSM's during the the first year of the collaboration, 500 IDU's during the second year, and 500 heterosexual men during the third year.
- SPNS staffing for last fiscal year (2004-05). Staffing would probably go down by December 31 (tentative date).
- Dr. Duke visit to SYHC in March 2004. Two SYHC projects were selected to make presentations to Dr. Duke, dental and HIV/AIDS.

Evaluation

- 1) Preliminary evaluation of the social marketing campaign has been completed. Once the impact on HIV testing and cost assessment is completed a final report will be generated.
- 2) Evaluation site visits were conducted with each partner agency during

the month of January. The goal of the visits was to review goals and objectives for the last six months of data collection. We also discussed local evaluation requests.

- 3) SYHC is in the process of approving funding for a .3 FTE Statistician on the SPNS project. As of February 2004 he has begun analysis on HIV Testing per site, per quarter and year. We found a decrease in quarters 3 and 4 for 2002 and 2003. Seasonal flow and other site specific factors play a role in the decrease in testing by quarters.
- 4) UCSD IRB has approved the additional research of Ches Blevins (SDSU graduate student). The clinic staff consent form and key informant survey was also approved. Clinic staff will be asked to participate in focus groups during the last part of 2004.

Multi-site Data Update: 7/1/01- 2/27/04

- 1) Number of HIV + persons enrolled: 243
- 2) Number of persons enrolled through HIV testing: 3651
- 3) Number of results through HIV testing
 - HIV positive- 47
 - HIV negative- 2696
 - Inconclusive- 12
 - Total- 2755

There was a decline in last quarters of 2002 and 2003. This has been associated of migrating patterns of migrant farm workers.

Key Informant Interviews will be conducted with project staff.

The supplemental data has been submitted to Dr. Barney.

III. HRSA Updates

Sandi stated that All Titles meeting is coming up and 2 representatives from each SPNS grant sites (August 23 – 26). She will be giving the All Titles meeting website information to Tim to post on the website. The deadline to confirm participation is April 2nd. The due date for progress report is March 31st for project sites. The deadline for submitting an RFA for Young Men of Color grant is March 22nd. Applications can be sent in even if a letter of intent was not sent.

IV. Evaluation Center:

A. Updates

1. Medical Chart Reviews – Tim thanked everyone for their hard work
2. Dr. Herman Curiel (Dissemination Committee)
 - i. Dr. Curiel announced that he has been selected as co-editor for a special issue on HIV/AIDS on US/Mexico border being published by the Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services. Dr. Curiel requested submissions of papers to the journal.
 - ii. Dr. Curiel also announced that he is moving ahead with the HRSA monograph. He is currently working with Evelyn Seaton on the project. Dr. Zúñiga said that she has a completed manuscript and asked when she can send it in for review. Dr. Curiel replied that he is still negotiating with the journal and he will put something together in probably next three weeks. Steve asked about the monograph outline that was discussed during Border Grantees meetings in January. Marguerite replied that the outline has been posted in the web.
 - iii. Marguerite asked the conference call participants to think about the what they would like to be included in next Border Grantees meeting agenda.
 - iv. Tim was asked about the medical chart review date for fall and he replied he will get back with grantees about the dates.

B. Upcoming site visits – Lynda requested conference call participants to consider site visit dates. She would contact them to finalize the dates.

1. Proposed Dates:
 - i. Harlingen (March 12/04)
 - ii. Tuscon (Later part of May)
 - iii. San Ysidro (Later Part of May)