

**HRSA SPNS HIV/AIDS AI/AN Project Conference Call
Monday, June 6, 2005 @ Noon CST**

Participants	
SPIPA	Jutta Riediger, Debbie
NAHC	Karen Saylor
ANTHC	Tracy Speier, Gloria Eldridge, Aldrich Mazonna
4CC	Julie Lucero, Bonita Baxter
YK	Andrea Savage
NC	Bruce Swett
HRSA	Adan Cajina, Sarah Hargrove, Sandi Duggan
OU	Glenn Solomon, K G Anderson, Nancy Sonleitner, Ahmad Saleem

Project Updates:

SPIPA

- Client Activities – tribal staff will be planning activities for summer for the youth programs. Both tribes have established good relationships with education director. Lisa will become part of the education process for Shoalwater Bay. Raylene will work with the youth programs for Nisqually.
- Site Visit – The site visit went well. Glenn said the two activities he attended were well planned and executed. Jutta said they met with the clinic staff, including PA for Nisqually tribe, and the clinic manager, and discussed rapid testing issues. Met with the medical director at Shoalwater Bay, discussed interest in rapid testing process of Hepatitis C patients. Both clinics see quite a few Hepatitis C patients. Both meetings were productive. Glenn said he agreed, and added that regarding Shoalwater Bay, Lisa, Jutta, and the clinic director are on the right track. Jutta said the concern in the discussion was Hepatitis C, there is a track record of treatment, the PA felt good about the meeting and will continue the discussion on rapid testing. Glenn said the project has come a long way since his last site visit. Jutta said the staff has worked hard to make it happen in the community.
- Data Collection Activities – Data collection for 4/2/05 is totally done. Went through the documents with staff, and everything is up to par. Will present it to SPIPA board on July 8, and then it will go to the health boards. Will make appointments with both health boards and clinics. Tribal staff will begin new data collection in July which sooner than last year.

- Dissemination Activities – Have an article in review stages with SPIPA. It's now at _____ management and will be brought to SPIPA board at the next meeting. Karina is also reviewing it. It is research paper which compares the process used by SPIPA SPNS project with other Native American guidance.
- SPIPA annual report will contain information about the SPNS project. SPIPA newsletter will also contain an article.
- Training Activities – will have staff meeting tomorrow prior to SPIPA conference call with OU. Will be meeting with Mason County HIV/AIDS Education Director who has established a youth council that does peer education in schools at summer camps for kids at different venues, He will talk to tribal staff about using his skills for their summer engagement.
- Outreach Activities – Glenn talked to the elders who then heard from elder Native American HIV+ person. They also asked what they can do to talk to their children and their grandchildren.
- A luncheon was held at Shoalwater Bay to thank the tribe and the participants, especially the stakeholders, with their advisory board.
- Outreach Activities Planned - Drum paintings and paddle paintings in Nisqually, and Nisqually joining the canoe journey that Squaxin Island staff did last year (taking over from Squaxin Island since it is no longer part of the SPNS project). Nisqually staff discussing with supervisor to take staff time to do that. Jutta will be planning outreach for youth for Shoalwater Bay as well.
- Contact with other Grantees – Contact with Alaska, contact with OU regarding the site visit.

Healing Lodge

- Had 3 data collection activities, have had 2 clients enrolled to date. Hasn't had a Spiritual Connections training but it will be taking place on June 9 and June 25 in Fairmont. Had a training /public awareness meeting working with Scotland County Health Department hosted by a church and attended by 210 people. They incorporated youth talent to help draw the crowd. Talked about STD, HIV, and the risks behaviors. Interviewed for two minutes on Channel 13 evening news about HIV/AIDS and what the project is doing. Responding to Glenn, Bruce said he has ordered a copy of the tape.
- Two participants in the program came in to be tested. Did so because they believed they need to be tested before asking their congregations to get tested as well.
- Conducted a screening at a church last month. The screening was requested at a Spiritual Connection training. The church designated a room for HIV/AIDS testing. Three people were tested.

- The project will be participating in the upcoming June 27 HIV testing (National Testing Day) in collaboration with Robeson County Health Department. They have a mobile unit for HIV/STD in the county. Robert will be going out with them and they will conduct HIV and STD testing in the mobile unit.

ANTHC

- Have completed focus groups in four villages. Some people have never ___ HIV and don't know how it is transmitted. Will analyze data.
- Had a site visit from KG
- Have to reschedule next week's Title III data analysis meeting to this Thursday. Reprinted 100 extra posters at request of community. Have developed three other posters besides the one presented in February.
- Involved in collaborative effort with the state department of epidemiology and ANTHC to develop 4 to 5 posters regarding HIV and STD. These posters will be done by the end of this month and distributed statewide.
- Sent PSA program in the Norton Sound Region. It includes factoids in newspapers encouraging people to get tested, and facts about HIV/STD in the Norton Sound Region.
- Completed first round of Inupiaq ____. Will do an Inupiaq PSA on the radio as well as one in Siberian Yupik and English to reach all the different populations in the Norton Sound region.
- Expecting to get data Risk Assessments Forms by Wednesday's meeting for the single site teleconference.
- Aldrich, Gloria, and Tracy will be attending the meeting in New Mexico. Tracy has been working with people from Norton Sound to develop a manuscript for a conference taking place next May.
- KG stated that the site visit helped him to understand the spatial dynamics of the project.

YK

- Andrea just returned from a social work on HIV/AIDS conference in Chicago which was sponsored by Boston College. Not a lot of information of Native Americans or Alaska Natives. Would like to increase amount of information available regarding Native Americans, and more specifically Alaska Natives.

- Carl attended a conference week before last in California on encouraging patients to disclose their status.
- For the month of June – getting ready for the National HIV Testing day. Will go out to some of the subregional clinics and provide training to mid-level providers on rapid test and offer testing in two villages, as well as doing testing in Bethel on 27th. It has expanded in the last three years where testing was offered only in Bethel. The subregional clinics are very interested and project is hoping that they will offer testing at least at subregional level if not at the villages. Subregionals do have PA's and nurse practitioners. There are five subregionals now in the area.
- The Rural Provider Conference is taking place this week in Bethel for rural providers in Alaska. There are 500 rural providers attending the conference. Andrea and Carl will present an overview of HIV counseling (6 points of HIV counseling), talk about the project, and hopefully provide some basic skill on Wednesday. The an hour and a half presentation is not enough to offer training but to expose them to words used in counseling, risk assessment, and risk reduction.
- For preparations for National HIV Testing Day, Carl will have a radio program.
- The project has also submitted articles to hospital Messenger, Thunder Drums, and Delta Discovery about HIV, and HIV in the delta.
- On Friday, the project will be working with public health nursing who are working with a women's grant. They will fly in women in from the village and the project will offer them HIV testing.
- Carl and Mark will be attending dissemination meeting next week. Andrea will be out of country and will be back on the National HIV Testing Day.
- Tracy asked Andrea how does Bethel region feels about community health aides doing testing. Andrea said they are not allowed to draw blood for HIV. They are very nervous about letting health aides do testing, and lack of training among health aides for pre and post test counseling. The project will train the health aides in pre and post test counseling by the end of summer. The biggest concern is clerical, and has to do with labeling of specimens. Responding to KG, Andrea said labeling problem is not due to sloppiness but it is cultural because a lot of people have many different names. Labeling problems can also be caused by using wrong medical record number.
- Tracy asked Andrea if community health aides draw blood on pregnant women. Andrea said they do. They send in specimens all the time but not for HIV. Tracy said she will follow up with Andrea later.
- Andrea said she would like to talk to Tracy about focus group because it seemed to her they had similar focus groups. Mark has finished the analyzing the focus groups. Will like to compare results.

- Aldrich asked how well informed were the villages about HIV/AIDS. Andrea said villages that have someone with HIV seemed more informed but there were other villages that clearly don't understand the transmission, how it is related to alcohol abuse, or depression, or other mental illnesses. They didn't see the complexity of the issue. There is a big need for HIV 101 in all of the villages.
- Tracy agreed that there is not enough basic education going on. Jutta said it is not just Alaska but at her project as well. Project data shows huge misunderstanding of transmission. That is the project focused on transmission during the first year.
- Tracy said the major finding of focus groups is that communities are really concerned about TB more than HIV. Jutta added Hepatitis C due to its high numbers.

4CC

- Working on HIV health survey brochure. Will start with language on the health survey consent form to make sure that the language is same as the one used in the brochure. This is to recruit HIV+ clients who are not under case management. This way they will know about the survey and hopefully would want to contact the project.
- House surveys are moving along. Case managers have started collecting a lot of health survey data with HIV+ clients. Have about 33 baseline and have about 25% for the second stage follow up and perhaps one or two for the third stage.
- HIV provider study guide – just sent four packages to doctors. Dr. Iralu will try to reach four more. The article for Journal of Psychoactive Drug by Bonnie and Kevin was approved by Navajo Nation IRB and will be presented at the Navajo Nation IRB Conference (June 21st and 22nd). Getting ready for meeting in Albuquerque.

NAHC

- Karen was in DC for CMHS HIV Mental Health project for Native Circle. Started large scale data collection project for CMHS project which will be helpful for SPNS project as well for being able to look at overarching issues. There are many demographic, sexual risk behavior, and service utilization questions. Working with Maritza's team to do some medical data extraction for medical care provided in-house as well as mental health data extraction that Karen's team is working on. This also includes client satisfaction survey to complement the one which has been used for the past 3 or 4 years. Have been working on it for the past few months and will start working on the data in a couple of months.
- Maritza and Karen have talked about trying to provide some support for CSAT grants around HIV testing. There is a large movement within SAMHSA for treatment and doing rapid testing as a component of treatment grants. CSAT has been very vague in looking at who is doing the testing and the counseling. It is very undefined so the project is trying to establish some in-house policies so the HIV team which

does testing can be involved in the process of training and making sure the feds are looking at all the factors that need to be taken into consideration. Sandi said she thinks it is not something which is clearly delineated, it is being worked out at the federal level with the funding.

- Looking forward to the meeting next week. Karen will be staying over for the Navajo Nation IRB Conference.
- Still getting changes from authors regarding the articles for the Journal of Psychoactive Drugs. is going to publish the special edition in September. The journal coordinator is working on its summer edition right now, giving the projects a little time to update the articles. Working on introduction for the journal. Will send numbers for the coordinating center tomorrow.

HRSA

- Sandi said HRSA is getting ready for the meeting in New Mexico next week. Looking forward to the meeting.

OU

- Glenn announced that projects should bring laptops to the meeting if they have them.
- Sandi asked Jutta if she will bring the manuscript the project has been working on. Jutta replied she doesn't know what stage of ___ it will be in but she will try to bring it as well as the latest poster. Sandi said she is looking forward to reading it.

The conference call ended at 12:44 pm.