

**HRSA SPNS American Indian/Native Alaskan Grantees Conference Call
August 11, 2003 at 12:00 pm CST**

Participants: OU: Betty Duran, Marguerite Keese, Tim Brittingham, Gregg Fryday, Lynda Williams – YK: Carl Evans, Andrea Savage – 4CC: Julie Lucero, Rebeccah Rodriguez – ANTHC: Tracy Speier, Gloria Eldridge, Joan Domnick – NAHC: Karen Saylor – SPIPA: Jutta Riediger, Debbie Gardipee – Robeson: Millard Lowry, Robert Hunt – HRSA: Kathleen Handley, Sandi Duggan

Project Reports:

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation: (Andrea Savage)

Upcoming Events

- Meetings/Travel set for two of the projects villages. Completed a meeting with one village where the project was presented, the timeline discussed for conducting surveys was discussed, and recruiting of participants. The village wants YK back for a community presentation. Another village council will receive the presentation tomorrow.
- Presentations planed for Public Health Nurses, The Tundra Center and at the Health Aide Conference.
- BATF will be making plans for this falls outreach.

July Activities

- Unofficial MOA set with Public Health Nurses and with Tundra Women's Coalition.
- Michael Covone from ANHB has agreed to train providers in "The Fundamentals of HIV Prevention Counseling" set for this fall. Curriculum will be tailored for rural communities. Michael with also help with training for the community advisory board.
- The project has applied to use of unobligated year one funds (FSR sent to HRSA). This has been approved.
- The call address issues related to the OraQuick test in terms of possible additional survey questions related to client motivation to test and tester training.
 - National Testing Day increased public interest in the test.
 - Joan reminded YK that ANTHC has resources for medical provider HIV training (which is different than the village based ANHB training). This training resource is funded through the University of Washington NW AETC. Joan further offered that ANTHC has also submitted a proposal to develop additional capacity to provide specialized training and technical assistance for the implementation and use of HIV rapid testing throughout Alaska (as requested).

Robeson Health Care Corporation: (Millard Lowry and Jo Lentz)

- Pastoral Training (Jo Lentz)
 - Have had conversations with a local Native American Bible college to incorporate pastoral training a part of classes.
 - Looking at the possibility of 3 training sessions for the fall.
- Programmatic (Millard Lowry)
 - Four testers have been trained to use OraQuick.
 - Have 22 complete data sets. 16 sets are awaiting update. Hope to have these completed by the October meeting.
 - Site visit scheduled for September 9-11.
 - Interest in pastoral training has increased.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium: (Tracy Speier)

- Goal 1: Title III medical Outcomes analysis
 - Resubmitted this month.
- Goal 2: Relationship building with DOC and Regional Health Organizations
 - Met with DOC, MOA will be in effect on August 22
 - The data from ANTHC's Prisoner Outreach project that was collected last year is being entered by UAA and is about 80% completed. We are hoping to have some of this data analyzed and ready to present at the October meeting in Washington DC.
 - The second survey that is part of ANTHC Prisoner Outreach Program has also been given a green light. The Project Coordinator for this project is temporarily out on medical leave so Tracy is assisting this project stay on track. Consequently, Tracy will be working with the Behavioral Health Consultant in putting together a separate MOA with DOC for this pre-release survey. Dr. Eldridge and the UAA staff will be instrumental in the development of the survey and ANTHC will work closely with DOC's rural Cultural Liason on the implementation of the survey. It was decided that the survey will be conducted on persons on probation, parole, in community-based residential centers and minimum security correctional facilities. There are just 1,000 transitional prisoners involved in corrections at this level and approximately 35 to 40% are Alaska Natives.
 - Once the MOA is signed we will begin the development of the IRB process for this component of the project.
 - Now that we have permission from DOC to allow us access to DOC staff and prisoners, the second draft of the key informant questions will be developed and submitted to OU for review.
 - Submission of the IRB for the Key Informant interviews will be submitted to UAA and should have a quick turn around, since these are exempt. Once we receive IRB approval, I will begin collecting qualitative data for program development purposes.
 - The community jail in Kotzebue closed down recently due to budget cuts; we have had to reanalyze the approach to be used in Kotzebue considering there

are currently very limited to no services in the region for transitional prisoners. Instead we are going to try and work with the regional health corporation's substance abuse in-patient treatment center. All of this is still being discussed, but all of the changes this project has experienced in the first year, might result in two models. One model for rural communities with correctional facilities and another model for rural communities without correctional facilities but that has substance abuse or behavioral health treatment centers.

- Goal 3: Over the course of the next six to nine months we will be working with DOC and the regional health corporations in moving towards goal three: development and implementation of the community-based intervention.
- Key informant interview should be completed within the next month. The corrections component should be ready for implementation by the end of the year.
- Sandy stated that the request for extension of the IRB has been approved. The site should be receiving written notice soon.

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency: (Jutta Riediger)

- Approval of Survey Instruments has been received.
- Training on Survey Instruments has been conducted with all staff.
- Negotiating with the University of Washington regarding publishing.
- First use of Survey Instruments at with Women and Girls Gathering.
- Local communities are conducting the surveys. Most are being conducted through the CHRs. Community Dinners with HIV+ Speakers was successful, but it was decided that surveys should be conducted separately.
- Connection with Native American Treatment Center. They will participate in monthly training. They are also interested in being a pilot site for Oraquick testing.

Native American Health Center: (Karen Saylor)

- Parousha Zand is on vacation in Guatamala for three weeks. Cecilia Santos is in charge of the SPNS project in her absence.
- More intakes have been collected in the past month, so that now we have enrolled 23 clients in the SPNS project.
- Alta Mira press has negotiated a contract with the Native American Health Center's Family & Child Guidance Clinic for 2004. This book will include several articles on HIV services provided to Native Americans. Ethan Nebelkopf, the clinic director, will edit this book, entitled Speaking in Red.
- We continue to pilot test our FCGC adult intake form, to be used with SPNS clients. Karen is changing some of the questions to correspond more closely with another instrument that we are using as part of the cross-site evaluation for our CMHS project serving HIV positive Natives.
- At the Friendship House, the Health Educator continues to conduct monthly HIV awareness classes. 27 pre- and post-tests were collected this month.

- This Friday CMHS is providing a Neuropsych training for our mental health clinicians.

Four Corners American Indian Circle of Services Collaborative: (Rebecca Rodriguez)

- Data collection is ongoing: 25 pre and post test from NCI and 14 surveys from NAN
- In the progress of working out MOAs to get surveys collected on 15 additional clients.

HRSA Updates: (Kathleen Handley)

- Please advise HRSA and the Evaluation Center of any particular subject matter that you would like covered related to skills building for October's conference. Dan Simpson has been asked to present.

Evaluation Center:

- Time has been set aside for grantees to meet with their project officers at October's grantees meeting on Wednesday between 8 and noon. Schedule an appointment with your project officer for a meeting.
- Site Visits:
 - San Francisco – November 6
 - Robeson - Sept 9-11
 - Bethel and ANTHC - 1st week in December. Exact dates to be determined.
 - 4CC - will check on September 4th and get back to Betty.
 - SPIPA - will discuss the timing and contact Betty.