

**HRSA SPNS HIV/AIDS AI/AN Project Conference Call
Monday, September 11, 2006 @ Noon CST**

Participants	
SPIPA	
NAHC	Maritza Penagos, Chirag Patel
ANTHC	Gloria Eldridge
4CC	
YK	Carl Evans
NC	Bruce Swett
HRSA	Sandi Duggan
OU	Nancy Sonleitner, Ahmad Saleem

Project Updates

YK

- Carl talked about RWCA. He found it to be a good conference. He had a poster at the conference.
- Outreach Activities – Carl met with YK Delta STD Taskforce and looked at outreach at schools. They are working on surveying the students at the schools in the villages on what is the best way to disseminate information to the students. A state epidemiologist is assisting with the effort.
- Project’s NGA has been approved for the 5th year. The project will be requesting assistance with dissemination efforts.
- Testing – 97 quick tests has been performed at the hospital since the last All Grantee Conference Call. Responding to Nancy, Carl will check if there were any positives. Responding to Sandi, Carl said he will check on the return rate. Responding to Saleem, Carl said the hospital provides pre and post test counseling. He said the CDC may be moving away from the requirement for the pre and post test counseling. Gloria agreed. Carl said one of the complaints at the hospital was that they didn’t offer the HIV testing because they didn’t have time to do pre and post test counseling. They are now doing a shortened version of the counseling.

Healing Lodge

Native American Interfaith Ministries: The Healing Lodge

Director Report

Sept 11th, 2006

Data Collection Activities: *Client*

Demographics	6	Risk Behaviors	6
Spirituality	6	Self Value	6
Belief & Behavior	6	Client Satisfaction	6
Attitude & Knowledge (pre)	6	Testing/Counseling	6
Attitude & Knowledge (post)	0	HIV+ clients enrolled to date	5

Data Collection Activities: *Pastor/Lay*

Demographics	0	Pastor/Lay Care Inventory (pre)	149 to date
Spirituality	0	Pastor/Lay Care Inventory (post)	149 to date
Attitude & Knowledge (pre)	0	Number of new HIV+ clients (as a result of SPNS)	
Attitude & Knowledge (post)	0	HIV + clients enrolled to date	3

Spiritual Connection Activities:

- The Spiritual Connection Advisory Board:
- The advisory board generated many good Ideas: contacting the Assemblies of God churches, particularly pastor's butler and Brewer and the Church of God in Saddletree whose pastor is Kenneth Locklear. The board discussed hosting a pastor's breakfast whereby local ministers can be introduced to the program. The board meeting focused on the promotion of the Healing Lodge weekend.
- Also discussed was the ideal of joining Rev. Jerry Scott in the "Union Chapel Make a Difference Day." The Healing Lodge staff will set up an information booth and participate in a community awareness walk and offer testing on that day.

- Bruce Swett, Healing Lodge interns and Melanie Locklear were interviewed at the UNCP television station whereby a 30 minute TV public service announcement was taped to promote the Healing Lodge weekend. This program began airing August 1st.
- Bruce Swett prepared and coordinate with local radio station WSTS to air and promote announcements to encourage support and attendance at the upcoming fund raising events.
- Bruce Swett and Melanie Locklear attended the Burnt Swamp Association Union meeting that was held at the West Saddle Tree Baptist Church which is located in the Rennert community. In a 30 minute presentation, Melanie Locklear promoted the Healing Lodge and the SP program. Spiritual Connections brochures and "Healing Lodge Weekend" 150 pcs. of materials were distributed. As a result of this meeting, Baker Ten Mile has become very interested in hosting Spiritual Connections. Conversations have ensued between Ms. Locklear and two members of the congregation. Ms. Locklear will continue to follow this lead in hope to present the entire SP program to this church.

It never cease to amaze me how powerful Spiritual Connections and the work of the Healing Lodge is. Just the other day I was approached by a woman in a convenience store who told me how deeply the training had affected her and others in the Mt. Airy congregation. On July 30th I was called by two women who heard me speak at the Burnt Swamp Union meeting. There women "just called to say how powerful the message was" and that they were eager to bring it to their church. (i.e., Barker Ten Mile)

Our focus in 2006 has been upon "Light the Way", with the emphasis toward reaching our youth, thereby preventing these social issues that the SPNS project is trying to address.

The "Healing Lodge Weekend" was a tremendous success as it generated lots of interest and publicity for the Healing Lodge ministry. We had in attendance to the Youth Rally 1200 plus. The Dinner Theater attendance was 225 and the Walk a Thon participation was 45. We had 50 volunteer to help with the overall events.

We gave out 1,500 pcs of materials for all events.

Although no Spiritual Connections workshops have been conducted since Mt. Airy in May, there is a great interest. Tentative workshops include: St. James, and Union Chapel. Rev. Roger Strickland is coordinating a community effort in his district to conduct spiritual connections at a central church, so that the Native churches of Columbus county can benefit form the training.

UNCP was awarded a Youth Empowerment Demonstration grant which names the Healing Lodge as a partner to reach the youth of the immediate area. Further investigation will be made as to whether testing youth under the age of 18 is feasible and viable for the SPNS project. A Spiritual Connection workshop can also be presented to the parents of the youth enrolled in the UNCP youth Empowerment Program.

Dissemination Activities:

- Trisha has administered 6 OraSure Tests, we have two negative and four pending.
- Trisha has held the PLWA support group meeting.
- Met with American Indian Mother to participate in the Talk Circles and offer outreach testing.
- Have had counseling sessions clients made referrals and follow up.
- Transporting Clients to
- Attended the Tack Force meeting that was held at the Robeson County Health Dept. There was 20 in attendance
- Will be setting up an information booth and display at the UNCP Pembroke Day at UNCP of Sept. 13th

- Staff will be participating in a partnership outreach at the Bill Sapp Rec. Center in Lumberton on Friday Sept. 15th. We will be doing door to door.
- Bruce Swett will be attending the HIV/STD Region 5 meeting in Fayetteville, NC on the 15th.

- Bruce said there were about 25 participants in the Spiritual Connections piece that weren't included in the reported in the number that attended the training at Mount Airy at the end of last fiscal year. They will be included in the next report.
- Further Lay Health Advisory training hasn't been scheduled yet but there is a strong possibility that the training sessions may take place since there are two churches that have indicated interest in it.
- Dr Dan Bartlett was one of the speakers at the Healing Lodge weekend.
- The project has developed a shorter version of the outreach survey so it can be conveniently used at the project's events to gather information which is inline with not only pre and post test but also could be used to apply for future funding.
- The project has also put together an action plan for "Healing Lodge Rapid Testing Counseling Protocol." It also puts in place the length of time the project should wait before following up with clients.
- The project continues to gather some information on pre and post test.

ANTHC

- Gloria reported on completing a poster for RWCA conference. She has been working on Alaska cross-site paper. She will be meeting with Mark to work on it this week. Following this, a meeting will be held involving Sherry, Carl, Dr. Berner, Mark, and herself.
- People have been interviewed for Aldrich's position.

NAHC

- Maritza, Nalini, and Chirag looked at the 4CC collaborative paper. They also discussed future dissemination plan.
- Karen's position is being posted. Preliminary interviews will begin shortly.
- Data Collection Activity – Maritza is setting up a meeting with San Francisco Department of Public Health to compare SPNS participants with others with HIV in

San Francisco in the Public Health Department's REGIE database which contains information regarding those receiving services under RWCA.

- Maritza presented at RWCA with Healing Lodge and 4CC and reported that the presentation went really well.
- The outreach worker is undergoing training to become a certified HIV tester. This will be completed next week. This will increase number of certified testers at the facility to 3.
- There was another false positive. This is being followed closely and the project is working with the Department of Public Health on how to address false positives when they occur.
- Maritza and Nancy worked on an abstract for the methamphetamine conference which is this Friday.
- Responding to Saleem, Maritza said Karen won't be working on the collaborative paper with 4CC but her part has been covered.

OU Updates

- Moment of Silence
- Final Report by OU regarding lessons learned and sustainability as required by HRSA. This builds on barrier reports done two years ago. A copy of report protocol will be sent out to grantees. Later on, conference calls times can be scheduled to go over the items listed in the protocol.
- Final Grantee Meeting – This would be held from Wednesday, April 25 – Friday, April 27, 2007. Grantees will arrive on Wednesday, April 25. Lodging and meeting space will be provided at the Doubletree in Rockville. On Thursday, the projects will work with HRSA & OU staff from the hotel to finalize presentations. Final presentations, reports, and findings will be presented to HRSA on Friday, April 27 at the Parklawn Building in Rockville Maryland.

Attendance is limited to 2 people per project as stipulated under conference/meeting travels under HRSA RFA.

- Special issue of Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services – it is a special issue on historically underserved populations. Deadline for submitting articles is Oct 1, 2006 but will be extended according to the editors. This provides an opportunity to further disseminate findings.
- Individual conference calls – Conference calls scheduled for Monday next week have been shifted to Tuesday, September 19. Conference calls will take place at

regularly scheduled time slots. Individual conference calls for NAHC, SPIPA, and YK will take place on Tuesday, September 19, while calls for Healing Lodge, 4CC, and ANTHC will take place on Wednesday, September 20th.

- The web address for the project website as changed. The new website address is <http://casr.ou.edu/hiv/> .
- Responding to Bruce, Saleem said he will find out the status of data entry from Healing Lodge and get back to him.
- OU will be mailing the copies of monograph on CD to the projects.

HRSA Updates

- HRSA IHS AI/AN workgroup will reconvene today at 3pm EST. Sandi is one of the HIV AIDS Bureau representative for the workgroup. The purpose of the work group is to market the work of SPNS and collaborate with other HIV experts and agencies in the AI/AN community.
- HRSA will be taking a year off between funding another AI/AN Initiative. Pending reauthorization, planning with HIV experts in the community and other fiscal factors, another AI/AN initiative could be funded in 2008 or possibly within a larger focused initiative.
- HRSA is working with OU on a consultative meeting scheduled to occur in DC sometime November 2006. The purpose for the meeting is to convene a panel of experts with experience and knowledge in the AI/AN community, specifically to address relevant issues and successful community mechanisms for engaging and retaining HIV positive persons into care. Information learned will be used to develop the next AI/AN SPNS initiative.
- Responding to Maritza about the Jail Initiative, Sandi said HRSA has just funded the evaluation center for that initiative. This is a multi-site demonstration initiative. The release date for that initiative will be at the end of October. HRSA is also working on new information technology RFP. There may something involving women but Sandi wasn't sure about it.
- Sandi said the RWCA plenary sessions were very SPNS focused.

Conference call ended at 12:46 pm