

**HRSA SPNS US/Mexico Border Grantees Conference Call
September 13, 2004 at 10:30 am CST**

Participants:

Arizona: Steve Trujillo, Ken Burton, Barbara Estrada

New Mexico: Michelle Valverde, Veronica Salcido-Harding, Yvonne Moghadam

El Paso, TX: America Jones, John Wiebe

California: Alisa Olshefsky

Harlingen, TX: Elias Cantu, Yolanda Cantu, Lucia Bustamante

HRSA: Adan Cajina, Robyn Schulhof

OU: Morris Foster, Kermyt Anderson, Tim Brittingham, Lynda Williams,
Marguerite Keesee

Berkeley: Michael Tarter

Project Updates

Arizona Border HIV/AIDS Care Project

Trainings:

- On July 29th Dr. Carmichael and the 3C traveled to the Chiricahua Community Health Center site in Bisbee, AZ. Dr. Carmichael saw 11 patients with Dr. Avina. The 3C worked with the patients and CCHC social worker to discuss patient support service needs. Then on August 19 Dr. Carmichael saw 4 patients with Dr. Avina in Bisbee.
- Dr. Carmichael presented on the co-management model at the Border SPNS grantee meeting in August (Tucson).

AZ AIDS ETC

- Dr. Carol Galper presented on the Self-paced Training manual at the Border SPNS grantee meeting in August.

Project Collaborator Meeting

- Project collaborators presented at the August grantee meeting in Tucson. Next meeting of the project collaborators is scheduled for September 10 in Tucson.

Out Reach Activities:

- Locations and target populations remain the same.

Yuma – Outreach activities continue by YCHD, Puentes de Amistad and Campesinos Sin Fronteras in the border communities of Somerton, San Luis and Wellton, AZ. MSM, Latina Women, IDUs and their sexual partners continue to be targeted by outreach. Outreach in Yuma County occurs in agricultural fields, correctional facilities, bars, Marine base, and the college campus. The use of house parties continues to be an effective way of reaching women.

Santa Cruz – Mariposa Health Center staff from Platicamos Salud continue their outreach in the communities of Nogales, Rio Rico and Patagonia, AZ. Outreach targets MSM, IDUs, sexual partners and Latina women. Platicamos Salud staff participates when invited on the local Spanish radio program to talk about HIV/AIDS and testing. The HIV Positive support group at Mariposa clinic continues to be well attended by their patients.

Cochise – Cochise County Health Department and Chiricahua Community Health Center work jointly to conduct outreach in Bisbee, Douglas and Sierra Vista. CCHD promotoras (funded by ADHS) have joined in the outreach activities. Outreach targets MSM, IDU, sexual partners of IDUs, and Latina women. Case managers, Sofia Somerstein and Emma Ramirez have left CCHD. Brian Ortel has been moved into a case management position.

Dissemination Activities:

- ABHAC Project staff, Dr. Carmichael and project collaborators presented at the grantee meeting held in Tucson August 5th and 6th.

Project Enrollment:

- No new patients enrolled. To date 124 patients enrolled into the study.

Local Evaluation:

- Local and multi-site evaluation data continues to be submitted.
- Project collaborators informed of the FY05 OU medical record extraction scheduled for early fall. Collaborators to receive patient list of those eligible for study at September 10th meeting.

Announcement:

- None

Camino de Vida

Programmatic

- **Outreach:** We are in the process of conducting the annual Health Outreach Worker assessments. The SPNS team is preparing for the termination of the outreach activities on December 31, 2004.
- **Client Training:** October 20th we will be having our first Client Educational Series in Alamogordo, NM which is located in Otero County. The topic will be Drug Interactions, presented by Jaime P. Anaya, B.S., Pharm.D., CDE, Clinical Asst. Prof. of Pharmacy Cooperative Pharmacy Program, University of Texas El Paso/Austin who also works at La Fe Care Center.
- November 25th we will be having a Client Educational Series in Sunland Park, NM. The topic will be Adherence presented by Dr. Mesa from La Fe Care Center. This CES will be conducted in Spanish with simultaneous English translation.
- Preparing for the medical chart review.
- **Bi-National Health Week:** For Bi-National health week Camino de Vida will be collaborating with the Colonias Development Council, The New Mexico Department of Health, Southern Area Health Education Center as well as our partners on the Mexican side Centro de Salud, schools, and the federal equivalent to our Children Youth and Families. We are planning a bi-national health fair in the sister cities of Columbus, New Mexico and Palomas, Mexico. The health fairs will be held over a two-day period on October 15th and 16th.
- **Provider Training:** In collaboration with Abbott Pharmaceuticals, The New Mexico AIDS Education and Training Center, La Fe Care Center, and Southern Area Health Education and Training Center, we will be hosting a Clinical Update on November 12th. The one-day training will be modeled after La Fe's training that was held a few months ago.
- We will also be attending the Border Summit in El Paso on October 15th and 16th in El Paso, Texas.

Research and Evaluation

- Yvonne has been using the syntax created by Tim and Linda to clean the data. We anticipate cleaning multisite and local data over the next few months.
- Cheryl Cropper, our new Graduate Intern merged our local module 15 with the demographics module A and generated some basic frequencies. We are looking forward to merging other local and multisite data sets in the future (thank you Tim for the technical support!).
- Jennifer Felderman finished analyzing the qualitative responses from the provider follow up study. Cheryl Cropper will also analyze the data to ensure inter-rater reliability. Jennifer also integrated quite a bit of valuable feedback from Dr. Thomas from the New Mexico AIDS Education and Training Center into the report. We will continue working with Dr. Thomas in finalizing the paper for publication (Dr. Thomas is going to be a co-author). We will probably submit the manuscript to either the AIDS Care or AIDS Patient Care journals.
- Michelle has been working with the NMSU IRB on the issue of OU processing some of our local data. We submitted a progress report to the NMSU IRB on Friday. Michelle will follow-up with the NMSU IRB about the sharing of data as soon as she hears from OU.
- Veronica finalized the case example for the monograph and as soon as Michelle integrates it she will e-mail it to Herman and Evelyn.
- In the next few weeks Michelle hopes to work on the HOW paper #1 to get it ready to submit to the special issue of the Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services. She will also continue working on the manuscript about participatory evaluation with Dr. Frehill and Jennifer Felderman (Michelle is using the process of conducting the evaluation for the SPNS outreach component as my case example in this paper).
- We recently purchased N6, the qualitative software we will be using to analyze the qualitative data from the late entry study. Michelle expects the analysis process to take several months.
- One final point is that Jennifer Felderman is moving to California in early October - we are sad to see her leaving BUT we expect her to do great things in the arena of public interest law. We've really enjoyed having her on the team.

Tentative Data Summary FY1-5 (Compiled on 09/08/04)

- **Fiscal Year 1:** (3/2001-6/2001)
Number of Tests Administered: 89
Number of Contacts Made: 89
Rate of Return: 47%
- **Fiscal Year 2:** (7/2001-6/2002)
Number of Tests Administered: 180
Number of Contacts Made: 509
Rate of Return: 88%
- **Fiscal Year 3:** (7/2002-6/2003)
Number of Tests Administered: 337
Number of Contacts Made: 624
Rate of Return: 88%
- **Fiscal Year 4:** (7/2003-6/2004)
Number of Tests Administered: 444
Number of Contacts Made: 606
Rate of Return: 66%
- **Fiscal Year 5:** (7/2004-9/8/2004)
Number of Tests Administered: 60*
Number of Contacts Made: 121
Rate of Return: 31%

*27 (45%) individuals tested have consented to participate in the study
30 (55%) individuals tested have declined to participate in the study

- Total # of Tests Administered: 1,110 (modules submitted to OU)
- Total # of Contacts Made: 1,949 (1619 Contact 6 modules submitted to OU)

Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe

TESTING

| Month Year 2004 | Pre Test Counseling | Post Test Counseling | Result Negative | Result Positive | New Clients Enrolled @ LFCC |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| August | 66 | 66 | 63 | 3 | 3 |

The La Fe CARE Center's CDC Ora-Quick 20-Minute antibody Rapid HIV testing continues. The Mobile Testing Van tested 125 patients for HIV. Of those tested 125 returned for the results, 125 received non-reactive results and 0 had reactive results.

Development Activity

- Mr. Mark Alvarado, Health Education Specialist from La Fe CARE Center, was awarded a \$725.00 scholarship from the Association of Nutrition Services Agencies (ANSA) to attend its annual national conference in New York City from August 12th to the 15th. ANSA is dedicated to providing aid to agencies that provide nutritional support to clients who live with or are affected by HIV/AIDS.

Travel/Training

- La Fe CARE Center clinic and case management staff attended a three-hour workshop called, "Love Heals", sponsored by International AIDS Empowerment at the Culture & Technology Center. The speaker, Gregg Casin, facilitated an emotional and educational program about how to best connect with and care for patients who are infected with HIV/AIDS. The attendees were given the opportunity to explore their emotions and disclose how they felt when a patient died. This workshop was extremely important for the CARE Center Staff, as 17 patients have died in the since July of 2003. It is important to be able to have some grieving time to mourn those with whom we have become so close and to mourn for those who had no family but the CARE Center staff.

- La Fe CARE Center clinic and case management staff attended a luncheon presentation sponsored by Abbott Laboratories. Dr. Andrew Stubbs, an immunologist for Abbott Laboratories, reviewed the basic immune response and the immune response with HIV infection. Dr. Stubbs has been actively involved with the research to develop a vaccine against HIV/AIDS and he explained the reasons why a vaccine has not yet been developed. Ms. Nadine Thomson RN, FNP-c attended the evening presentation given by Dr. Stubbs.
- La Fe CARE Center staff attended the OSHA training presented by Mary Delgado, Compliance Officer at the Culture and Technology Center during the monthly departmental meeting. The training covered safety in the workplace and the procedures available at all La Fe facilities to cover those safety guidelines.
- Ms. America Jones, Administrator from La Fe CARE Center and Dr. John Wiebe, Evaluator attended the Special Projects of National Significance Grantee Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Programmatic and evaluation data was presented by all five US/Mexico Border Projects. The greatest impact came from the growth in numbers of clients by the projects over the last four years. The development of the models of care and production of a monogram for distribution and possible replication by other US HIV/AIDS programs were discussed. The loss of half a million dollars per project raised serious concerns and questionable sustainability after June 2005 for all projects. The need for future funding and initiatives targeted on the US/Mexico Border were discussed with Dr. Lois Eldridge, HRSA/SPNS Director and Adan Cajina, SPNS Project Officer.
- Ms. America Jones, Administrator, Ms. Nadine Thomson, FNP-c, and Mr. Ernesto Navarro, Case Manager from La Fe CARE Center attended the 2004 Ryan White CARE Act Grantee Conference "*We CARE, We Act, Putting it all Together*", in Washington, DC. The conference offered a variety of workshops which included such topics as access to care, program quality improvement, program development, administration program and fiscal management, data evaluation and outcomes, and a clinical update. During the conference a special meeting was scheduled with Dr. Elizabeth Duke, Administrator, Health Resource and Service Administration. The purpose was to discuss HIV/AIDS issues and challenges on the US/Mexico Border. Ms. Jones expressed the drastic need for future funding and attention to the entire US/Mexico region especially during a time when the border will lose 2.5 million dollars in federal funds in 2005 and infection rates continue to rise at alarming rates.

Community Initiatives

- Ms. America Jones, Administrator provided a tour of La Fe CARE Center and a presentation to 18 students of the El Paso Community College Cooperative Association of States for Scholarship Program. This is an educational program on HIV/AIDS for International Students.

Media

- El Paso Inc. — a business, lifestyle, and news feature weekly publication — featured the La Fe CARE Center, its staff, and facilities in a special report focusing on HIV/AIDS. That report, and the media relations with the El Paso Inc. news staff, served as the launching pad for two more HIV/AIDS reports in other El Paso, Inc.-owned publications: Southwest Senior Magazine and What's Up. The What's Up feature included an exclusive interview with a female La Fe staff member and client living with HIV/AIDS. She gave her permission to be interviewed on an anonymous basis and helped shed light on the often misunderstood impact of HIV/AIDS on women in our community.
- Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe and the La Fe CARE Center staff served as the exclusive source for a KVIA (ABC, Ch. 7) special report on the rising numbers of HIV/AIDS cases among Latino youths. The report featured an interview with a La Fe staff member and client who gave their permission to be interviewed on-camera about the importance of early testing and prevention for teens.
- KDBC (CBS, Ch. 4) covered La Fe's public outreach and education initiatives in HIV prevention and education via the Mobile Testing Van. The station's senior management has verbally expressed an interest in meeting with Ms. Reyes López to request our assistance in their health coverage.

San Ysidro Health Center

Evaluation Agenda Items:

- On September 2nd we submitted an amendment to our local IRB. This amendment included the issues discussed at the SPNS Grantee meeting in August. An additional section titled, "data flow and processing" was added under the research plan section. The application will be reviewed by full committee in the upcoming week.

- During the August 04 SPNS grantee meeting chart review lists were distributed to the partner sites. Partner site staff will confirm the location(s) of the medical record. By Sept. 20th we will have a final number of expected charts and locations.
- Evaluation staff is working with partner sites to obtain the last of the local data which includes HIV testing, results and local instruments administered during case management.
- Dr. Vanessa Litman, a medical resident at UCSD who has also been a provider at San Ysidro Health Center, will be conducting qualitative research with providers and staff at our partner clinics. Dr. Litman will conduct a series of 10-12 interviews and administer surveys to a sample of providers, case managers and social workers invited from each of the project sites to discuss perceptions on the efficacy of the SPNS project and explore issues pertinent to the care and access to care of this population. This qualitative approach will allow us to better understand the issues that the health care team faces in serving this population and will be used to enhance our understanding of the quantitative data that has been gathered over the course of the project.
- Critical incident: San Ysidro Health Center has decided to adopt the Treatment Adherence Counseling Form as part of clinical care documentation. The use of a locally created instrument even after the evaluation has ended is a great tribute to the utility of local instruments created collaboratively. UCSD Evaluation staff will work with SYHC to create a database to enter and analyze treatment adherence data.

Valley AIDS Council

SPNS Grantees Meeting: (August 4-6, 2004)

- Attended SPNS meeting held in Tucson, Arizona by University of Oklahoma, national evaluators.
 - In attendance were: Dr. Lois Eldred and Adan Cajina (Project Officer).
- University of Oklahoma: (August 11, 2004)
 - IRB follow-up from Tucson Meeting.
- South Texas HIV Planning Assembly: (August 13-14, 2004)
 - Attended STHPA held in Corpus Christi, Texas by Bexar County.
 - Next meeting scheduled in Eagle Pass, Texas on October 8-9, 2004.
- Progreso, Tamaulipas (Mexico): (August 18, 2004)

- Met with pharmacist, owner of yerberia, dental office staff in preparation for the Ryan White All Titles Meeting in Washington, DC.
- Ryan White All Titles Meeting: (August 21-27, 2004)
 - Attended RWCA Meeting held in Washington, DC.
 - Presented:
 - Cross Title RWCA Lessons Learned for International Work.
 - Multi-Tiered Adherence Model.
 - Cultural Competence Institute: The Business Case for Cultural Competency: Financial and Administrative Issues.
 - Poster Presentation:
 - Maximizing Ryan White Dollars to provide HIV primary care in Corpus Christi, Texas.
 - Partners include: Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation (Title II); University of Texas Health Science Center (Title IV).
- Qualitative Interviews:
 - On-going work scheduling patients for UTHSCSA qualitative interviews.
- Monograph: (September 30, 2004)
 - Working with Dr. Herman Curiel from the University of Oklahoma on the monograph due September 30, 2004.
- SPNS Partnership Meeting: (October 2004)
 - Currently scheduling meeting date and location still pending.
- Physician Precepting: (October 4, 2004)
 - Scheduled for United Medical Centers in Eagle Pass, Texas.
- Physician Precepting: (October 2004)
 - Scheduled for Nuestra Clinica Del Valle in Pharr, Texas
- Medical Chart Reviews: (October 25-29, 2004)
 - Scheduled for Valley AIDS Council in Harlingen, Texas.
 - Consultant: Annie Mendoza
- 12th Annual HIV/AIDS Update Conference: (October 14-16, 2004)
 - Conference will be held at South Padre Island, Texas during Binational Border Health Week.

OU Updates

- Morris stated that we are on track with OU IRB issues and will be meeting with the IRB this week to propose our solutions to the existing problems.
- Tim identified several areas they will be specifically discussed at the meeting with the IRB and thanked everyone for their patience and hard work in resolving the issues.
- Yolanda asked for clarification on the Data Intent form.
- The projects were reminded about the dissemination committee call scheduled for Tuesday at noon Central Time.
- Tim indicated that his goal is to not have consultants on site at the project for more than two weeks.
- Herman updated the projects on the status of the monograph and reminded projects that Evelyn is eager to assist.

HRSA Updates

- Adan reminded the projects that the deadline for the FSR (financial status report) is due by September 30th to grants management.
- He thanked everyone for the participation in All Titles.
- Adan said that he had not received notice that YR4 carryover funds weren't being processed and to continue with submitted the FSR.