

**US/Mexico Border Project Conference Call**  
**Monday, October 18, 2004 @ 10:30 am**

**Participants:** Barbara Estrada, John Wiebe, Elias Cantu, Michelle Valverde, Veronica Salcido-Harding, Steve Trujillo, Ken Burton, Adan Cajina, Mike Tarter, Elias Cantu, Yolanda Cantu, Lucia Bustamante, Rosana Scolari, Alisa Olshefsky, Mari Zuniga, Herman Curiel, Morris Foster, Lynda Williams, Tim Brittingham, Ahmad Saleem.

**OU Update:**

Morris Foster:

- OU IRB has revised the med chart outcome study so that OU can return each individual site's extracted site data to that individual site.
- OU's next modification will be to the multi-site data so that all the multi-site data can be returned to all the sites. OU will be working on that next week.
- OU had to get the med chart modified first since the last round of med chart extraction has started.
- Tim and Lynda have sent out suggested milestones for cleaning the multi site data. OU cant emphasize enough how much it depends on the projects to do local data cleaning of the multi site date before OU can have anything to be released back to anyone. Meeting the timeline or helping OU figure out a new time line is crucial to being able to have a complete and clean multi site dataset.

Tim Brittingham

- OU has developed some milestones throughout next few months by modules. Some of the modules haven't been administered to some of the clients yet so they are located at the end of the milestone sequence so projects will have more time to catch up on those. This is based on Time 1 data.
- OU staff is available to assist the projects in any way it can to apply the syntax it has created, shared with the projects, and posted it to the web. It will be easier if the data corrections came from the projects since OU staff doesn't have access to the clients' records. OU can identify errors but then it would have to email the projects, which then would have to review the files and email back to OU who will check back again with the projects to make sure that the data were corrected.
- Lynda and Tim are available to walk projects through the syntax if needed or to clarify anything from OU's end. OU doesn't want to simply give the projects a task and walk away but wants to facilitate the task.

Morris Foster

- Emphasized that if the projects have any problems with the syntax or with the process, it is a high priority and Tim will be sent to the projects if such assistance is needed since OU wants the data cleaned, ready, and out there.

Tim Brittingham

- Informed projects that if they have any additional checks, that OU didn't acknowledge or that they think will be beneficial to all of the projects to inform OU so it can design the syntax and add it to the data cleaning syntax so everyone can have it. OU is more than willing to design the additional syntax.

Morris Foster

- Med chart extractions – some sites may require a second visit during this round to ensure that we obtain as many of the consented charts abstracted as possible and not to clog up project sites more than a week at a time, particularly the sites with large number of participants.

Herman Curiel

- Monograph – The date on the monograph was September 30<sup>th</sup>. So far have only received materials from New Mexico and Arizona. Have heard from Rosana but haven't heard from El Paso and VAC. John Wiebe said that El Paso's draft was completed sometime ago, and has been sent to America for her to look over it carefully before sending it to Dr. Curiel. She is at a conference right now. As soon as she has examined it and there are no major changes, it will be forwarded to Dr. Curiel. Elias said VAC has been busy with a conference as well. Will be working on the manuscript to finalize it.

Tim Brittingham

- Multisite data – the projects have received some direction from the TA Center for local data processing. Appreciate working with the projects on clearing up things needed to continue to process data and to make the data the projects have to work. TA Center did stipulate that effective immediately, it will be able to house local data for a period of two weeks. Any data that is collected in the multi site module for local use can no longer be submitted in those modules. The Center would like to discuss with each site this week to see what can be done to facilitate the local data processing. For example, some of the projects use the risk module to capture their data and OU has started exporting a new module for the projects where projects can enter the same data. It will look a little different but it will capture the same information. OU will have to route the data outside the multi-site modules. The Center is available to the projects during this transition and steps are being taken at the Center to facilitate the process for the projects.

Morris Foster

- Reminder – the dissemination call has been moved from tomorrow (October 19<sup>th</sup>) to next Tuesday (October 26<sup>th</sup>). A reminder will be sent to projects regarding the change. Also sent will be a time line developed by the TA Center in collaboration with Adan for the various analyses that TA Center can carry out and utilized by the projects in terms of publications they want to generate using multi site and med chart outcome data. TA

Center is able to do some analysis of the multi site data at the request of various evaluators and it is able and willing to turn around a request within a couple of days. A recent request was completed in one day.

Ahmad Saleem

- Border Grantee Meeting - Thanked everyone for their input for next HRSA Grantee meeting dates. The next meeting dates are from April 6 (check-in date), April 7 and April 8 (Conference dates). The meeting will be held at the George Washington University Inn at Foggy Bottom. All the necessary information has been emailed to the projects.

Questions

- Alisa – December deadline for all data cleaned. Tim said the proposed time line is for Time 1 data and the syntax developed by Tim and Lynda only looks at Time 1 data.
- Mari – codebook committee.

Lynda Williams

- Codebook Committee - Thanked Alisa for setting and coordinating everything for codebook committee. Alisa hoped that all projects received the changes. Lynda said she resent them this morning and would like the feedback on the changes by October 29<sup>th</sup> which will be incorporated and reposted to the web so there will be an updated codebook to work from. Mari requested that institutions that participated in the project be acknowledged in the codebook so any other organization who may want to use it would know who to contact or to acknowledge.

## **Project Updates**

### **El Paso**

John Wiebe

- El Paso has been busy putting together a summit. Data from El Paso was presented. The project is in the midst of data cleaning. Have stopped collecting Time 1 data and have a total of 5 people working part-time on data cleaning. Appreciate the Timeline sent by Tim and would have no trouble meeting that. Trying to get as many Time 2 and Time 3 completed before December. The article for the monograph will be sent out as soon as America has had a chance to edit it.

### **New Mexico**

Veronica Salcido-Harding

- Programmatic - Outreach

Outreach continues at a smaller pace as we prepare to wrap up most outreach activities in December 2004. Although data modules continue to be collected no incentives are being offered.

- **Client Educational Series**

On September 20<sup>th</sup> we conducted our first Client Educational Series in Alamogordo, NM, “Drug Interactions” with Dr. Jamie Anaya. 16 people were in attendance, 9 clients, 1 client partner and 6 CdV staff.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> we are conducting our first Client Educational Series in Spanish in Sunland Park, NM. Dr. Meza will be presentation on “Improving Adherence”.

- **Provider Education**

Veronica and Yvonne have been working on the Southern New Mexico HIV Clinical Forum being held in Las Cruces on Friday, November 12. This all-day forum will provide clinicians and case managers with practical information regarding the accepted standards of medical care for treating those living with HIV/AIDS along the New Mexico/Mexico border region. The forum collaborators include the NMAETC, Southern Area Health Education Center, Abbott Pharmaceuticals, and La Fe Care Center.

For Binational Border Health Week, On October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Camino de Vida was an exhibitor at the Border Summit. Camino de Vida also collaborated with The Colonias Development Council, Southern Area Health Education Center, Ben Archer Health Center, and Centro de Salud in Palomas, MX to provide prevention education to the youth group on October 15<sup>th</sup> in Columbus, NM and an educational presentation on October 16<sup>th</sup> to the commercial sex workers in Palomas, MX.

Yvonne and Veronica have prepared everything for the medical chart reviews scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>.

Michelle Valverde

- **Evaluation**

Jennifer Felderman and Michelle finished coding the transcripts for 5 of the 10 clients in the late entry study. Michelle will be continuing to work on this over the next few months.

The manuscript about participatory evaluation with our SPNS outreach example is done – thank you to Robyn for reading our example. It is being sent out this week and hopefully we’ll know something in the next few months.

Michelle will also be finalizing the HOW descriptive paper for the special issue and the provider follow-up paper.

## Questions

### Rosana

- Will the client educational workshops be in Spanish or translated? Veronica said it will be presented in Spanish and translated simultaneously into English. Generally, it has always been the other way around. The topics focus on improving adherence.

### San Ysidro

#### Rosana Scolari

- Programmatic/Dissemination

Site Visit to Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo in Imperial County and Programa Amigo in Mexicali (9/24/04)

Stigma and Discrimination Training by the Border Health Initiative of Project Concern International for SYHC and Imperial County

Binational Conference Presentation

Website Issue

#### Maria Zuniga

- Evaluation

There will be a total of 221 medical records across 8 sites to be reviewed during November 15-19<sup>th</sup>.

SYH = 143

CSP = 11

VCC = 29

FHC = 4

Kaiser = 5

Owen = 23

CHC = 5

Robert Houghton, MD (private practice) = 1

The findings of Chesley Blevins's graduate student research were presented to SPNS partners on 8/3/04. The report highlighted the findings of the survey involving case managers and their work role and perceptions of client access to care, HIV/AIDS primary care and supportive services, mental health issues and HIV medication adherence.

As of September 30, 2004 all local testing demographics data has been submitted to the Evaluation Unit. During October 04 the sites will focus on obtaining pending HIV testing results on enrolled clients.

As a quality assurance mechanism, the Evaluation Unit will provide each site with a list of HIV+ client diagnosis dates by URN. Case management staff was asked to confirm the date of HIV diagnosis (v114). This date should reflect the date provided by client self-report, not the date of a confirmatory HIV test.

Note: Although data cleaning is an on-going process, final data cleaning cannot occur until all data has been submitted. Given that we will still receive T2 multi-site assessments through December 31, 2004 a final clean data set will be available in early January.

## Comments

Mike Tarter

- Problem that may occur later when statistical analyses are conducted are that what is the actual sample size. Client being the target means that the number of clients is the N, the sample size, in all these studies even though the give clients might have several visits or different records of different types for the client. The N is still going to be the sample size except if you are studying someone who is providing services. For most of the studies, the number of clients will determine the N. Later, when trying to get significant findings may mean doing some multivariate analyses.

## Arizona

Steve Trujillo

- Trainings:

Dr. Carmichael and the 3C traveled to the Chiricahua Community Health Center (Bisbee, AZ) on September 9<sup>th</sup> and saw 6 patients with Dr. Avina. He returned on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and saw 6 additional patients. The SIA 3C works with the CCHC social worker and CCHD case manager to discuss patient support service needs. On October 14<sup>th</sup> Dr. Carmichael saw 8 patients with Dr. Avina in Bisbee.

- AZ AIDS ETC

Dr. Carol Galper announced to the group that on May 6-7, 2005 that the AZ AETC, UCLA AETC, CA HIV/STD Prevention Training Center and the Francis J. Curry TB Center will sponsor a border conference in Rio Rico, AZ on Women and Children and AIDS.

- Project Collaborator Meeting

Next meeting of the project collaborators is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> in Tucson.

- **Out Reach Activities:**

Outreach activities for the project were discontinued as of September 30<sup>th</sup> and multi-site data collection will cease as of December 31, 2004. MAI outreach activities shall continue through June 30, 2005.

**Yuma** – Outreach activities continued through September 30<sup>th</sup> 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 were targeted by outreach. Outreach in Yuma County occurs in agricultural fields, correctional facilities, bars, Marine base, and the college campus. YCHD plans to continue house parties as a way to reach women in Yuma County.

**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 will continue to be offered to HIV+ patients in Santa Cruz County.

**Cochise** – The Cochise County Health Department and Chiricahua Community Health Center will continue to jointly conduct outreach in Bisbee, Douglas and Sierra Vista. CCHD promotoras (funded by ADHS) are participating in outreach and educational activities. Outreach targets MSM, IDU, sexual partners of IDUs, and Latina women. CCHD case managers Brian Ortel and Maria Harris will work with ABHAC collaborators to ensure the continuation of patient support.

- **Dissemination Activities:**

Tony (Chair) and Barbara Estrada continue to take the lead of the Multi-site Dissemination Committee.

- **Project Enrollment:**

Patients enrolled closed as of September 30<sup>th</sup> and to date 127 patients enrolled into the study.

- **Local Evaluation:**

Local and multi-site evaluation data will be collected through December 31, 2004.

FY05 OU medical record extraction occurred October 11 through the 15<sup>th</sup> medical data from Chiricahua Community Health Center will need to be collected in December.

- Announcement:

None

Questions, Responses, and Comments

Alisa Olshefsky

- Isn't all of that in medical record one and two?

Steve Trujillo

- Right, but if they are off-site then you have to bring all that information back to the location.

Tim Brittingham

- We ran into some medical records issues with Steve's project which were no ones fault but we are taking lessons learned from this project and apply them to other projects.

Steve Trujillo

- Make sure you have all your consents not only in the files but have your own separate file.

Tim Brittingham

- All of you will receive an email before the consultants come on site. VAC and New Mexico have received their emails with all that outlined as far as the future of the consents and some other issues like that. Steve's project, this particular protocol was being pushed through the IRB so didn't get all the communication to Steve that we wanted to. Have had extra time to work with the other four projects which will receive the needed information in a timely manner.

Alisa Olshefsky

- Requested scheduling information on based on estimate of how long does it to take the consultants to work with a medical chart.

Tim Brittingham

- Will provide that estimate based on information from two projects since Arizona had some unique circumstances.

Steve Trujillo

- They did say that since the medical chart record extraction was an afterthought and we had to go back and get consents for those who we consented after the first wave, it does take time to go back to do the intake and play catch up with all the quarters that they need to collect. Those charts can take between an hour and an hour and a half depending on how readily available the data they are trying to extract is in the chart.

Tim Brittingham

- They encountered different things in different sites depending on who is coding and all that stuff.

Ken Burton

- Not all the time they were in Tucson was spent on the charts. There was time spent coordinating with Steve, with OU, and rural providers.

Tim Brittingham

- The consultants seems to be much more impressed this time.

Barbara Estrada

- The consistency syntax is really helpful.

**VAC**

Elias Cantu

- SPNS Partnership Meeting:  
Held on October 16, 2004 at South Padre Island, Texas.
- Physician Precepting:  
Held on October 8, 2004 at Nuestra Clinica Del Valle in Pharr, Texas.
- Physician Precepting:  
Reschedule October 4, 2004 date for United Medical Centers in Eagle Pass, Texas.  
Reschedule for November 2004.
- Medical Chart Reviews:  
Scheduled for Valley AIDS Council in Harlingen, Texas.

Consultant: Annie Mendoza.

- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual HIV/AIDS Update Conference (Border Summit):

Held on October 14-16, 2004 at South Padre Island, Texas during Binational Border Health Week.

In attendance: John Fanning (HRSA); Barbara Aranda-Naranjo (Georgetown University); Jorge Saavedra (CENSIDA).

- South Texas HIV Planning Assembly:

Attended STHPA meeting on October 8-9, 2004 in San Antonio, Texas.

Next meeting scheduled in Laredo, Texas on November 12-13, 2004.

- Presentation:

Dr. Muhammad S. Motiwala presented on Viramune medication for Boehringer Ingelheim pharmaceuticals on October 5, 2004 in Harlingen, Texas.

- Presentation:

Dr. Fernando Garcia presented Post-Exposure Prophylaxis to physicians from Mexico at Best Western Hotel on October 1, 2004.

- Qualitative Interviews:

On-going work scheduling patients for UTHSCSA qualitative interviews.

- Mexican Physician Study:

On-going work for border study with Mexican physician experiences in providing care to HIV positive persons along the Texas-Mexico border.

Timeline: September 2004- June 2005.

- Monograph:

Due September 30, 2004 to University of Oklahoma.

- Adherence Study:

On-going data entry.

Preliminary: N = 36

- Data Cleaning:

Syntax (Local and National)

UTHSCSA (Anne Price)

Yolanda Cantu

- Primarily focusing on data cleaning and manuscript development. Scheduling a series of calls with VAC related to processes of data cleaning to make sure we are not creating extra work for everyone. Will need to talk to Tim to clarify the broader process. Attended border meeting last week and had good discussion around sustainability. Elias has been charged with follow up call on sustainability.
- During border conference, some physicians from Tamaulipas, a state in Mexico, expressed interest in physicians study that VAC is planning to conduct during the next several months. A proposal was sent to HRSA and was approved. The questions are being reviewed by IRB.
- Thanked OU for quick responsiveness to data questions and issues. The syntax has been helpful as well.

Question

Rosana Scolari

- asked if Yolanda or Elias were present for Dr. Saavedra's presentation if he had one. Yolanda responded that he did a slide presentation that had to do with prevalence, incidence, of HIV, focused on US/Mexico Border. Had a lot of concerns about the validity of data because the way surveillance systems are structured and the difficulty of reporting and tracking. The border data, at least on Mexican side, is suspect. The explanation of Mexican health care system will be useful for the paper Yolanda is developing. Also made contact with two Mexican physicians that talked about challenges of doing HIV care locally. There are still institutional and bureaucratic barriers as well as stigma. Yolanda also stated that it is critical for the projects to develop a white paper on policy. Discussion then revolved around HIV/AIDS medical care in Mexico.

HRSA Updates

- Adan Cajina – No HRSA updates.

The conference call ended at 11:45 am.

Note: Two presentations from the conference will be shared with the grantees.