

**HRSA SPNS American Indian/Native Alaskan Grantees Conference Call
December 1, 2003 at 12:00 pm CST**

Participants: OU: Betty Duran, Marguerite Keese, Tim Brittingham, Lynda Williams, Gregg Fryday, – YK: Andrea Savage, Carl Evans – 4CC: Julie Lucero, Rebeccah Rodriguez – ANTHC: Tracy Speier – NAHC: Parousha Zand, Karen Saylor – SPIPA: Jutta Riediger, Carmen Kalama – Robeson: Millard Lowry, Robert Hunt, Jo Lentz – HRSA: Sandi Duggan, Adan Cajina, Sarah Hargrove

Project Reports:

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium:

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Travel:

- Two trips have been made to Nome since the grantees meeting in Washington, DC. The community seems very supportive of the project. Tracy traveled to Nome (October 13 & 14) to continue to work with a variety of providers in developing the community intervention. Tracy and Gloria traveled to Nome (Nov 23 to 25) to work with staff and administrators from the Norton Sound Health Corporation Behavioral Health Division to develop risk assessment instruments and to modify their standard intake form to include information that will be used to evaluate the intervention.
- For dissemination purposes, Tracy traveled to San Francisco to present at APHA with Dr. Barney.

IRB:

- Two IRBs have been approved by the University of Alaska for the analysis of baseline data.
- Two applications are pending with the Alaska Area IRB. Weekly meetings have been held with the Deputy Chair of the board to expedite the process.
 - One IRB under review is for the community intervention. This IRB was submitted Nov 4, 2003 and was tabled for consideration in the December IRB meeting. Tracy and Gloria met with the Deputy Chair of the IRB for her feedback on this submission and we have prepared a response to her questions to be presented at the IRB meeting in December.
 - The second IRB is for the Medical Outcomes Study (evaluation of Title III EIS data from ANTHC). This IRB protocol was originally submitted in January 2003 and has been modified and resubmitted twice, most recently, to include a HIPAA data sharing agreement rather than a consent form to allow for access to the entire data base. The IRB had several questions

about the data-sharing agreement and referred those questions to ANTHC's HIPAA coordinator (legal council). Gloria and Tracy have been working with the HIPAA coordinator who is drafting an amendment to meet the IRB requirements. Once the appropriate personnel at ANTHC and UAA sign the amendment, the HIPAA coordinator will write a letter of compliance as required by the IRB. The HIPAA coordinator is planning to have the amendment completed for signatures by December 5, 2003.

- One IRB is under development for submission in February for a data-sharing agreement with NSHC for access to clinical data to use in evaluating the intervention. This IRB could not be developed until Tracy and Gloria met with staff and administrators from NSHC to finalize risk assessment and intake instruments. Tracy, Gloria and the Behavioral Health Director will meet with the NSHC Research Advisory Board on January 19, 2003 to present the research and evaluation protocol for their approval. Once they approve the protocol, it will be presented to the NSHC Board of Directors for their approval as part of the Alaska Area IRB protocol. These documented approvals will be submitted to the Alaska Area IRB with signed data-sharing agreement and letters of support. Tracy and Gloria have a meeting scheduled with the IRB Deputy Chair on December 17, 2003 for preliminary review of that protocol.

Trainings:

- Training for the behavioral health providers, substance abuse treatment providers, correctional staff, and transitional worker is scheduled for January 27 & 28, 2004 in Nome.

Dissemination:

- Tracy will be presenting at the Alaska Health Summit today in Anchorage on the increasing issue and risk of infectious disease in corrections and about the SPNS project.

Future Plans:

- Tracy met with the Medical Director for the Alaska Department of Corrections at the APHA Meeting in San Francisco. He is interested in working with the project to provide the opportunity for sex offenders to be tested for HIV and referred for treatment services (as necessary) prior to release.

Data Analysis:

- Data analysis proceeding on offender interview data collected by ANTHC.
- Data analysis starting on offender and officer opinions about HIV-testing in correctional settings.

Native American Health Center:

Programmatic:

- Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration with Friendship House was November 26. Several hundred people attended.
- For World AIDS Day we are having a memorial to honor those who have passed. A quilt has been made for people to write the names of their deceased friends and relatives. This will be submitted to the AIDS memorial quilt.
- One of our SPNS patients passed away in November of heart problems.

Data:

- We are continuing to do follow up QOLs and identifying patients needing intakes.
- We are working on a Change Demographic form.
- Myra is using the new Teleform SPNS AIDS knowledge form with her clients this month.
- FH statistics - As of November we have received 47 referrals for testing, 34 client have been tested so far. An additional 16 have been screened and either declined testing or were tested recently.
- Karen's team is working on across-site tool for Native Circle, which includes aculturation scale similar to the Border scale, this data will also be available for SPNS use.
- We are interviewing for a new evaluation assistant.

Robeson Health Care Corporation:

Programmatic:

- To date, 50 sets of data have been collected. There are 4-5 awaiting submission. No new cases have been identified by testing to day. Seven positive clients have been enrolled in the program. These clients already knew their status.
- Tomorrow, Millard, Robert and another STD worker will be attending a symposium sponsored by the advisory board for AIDS research from Chapel Hill University.
- Robeson and BART have partnered to sponsor World AIDS Day activities that will take place this afternoon.
- Seven referrals have been received from the community in the last six weeks.
- Information about the program has been disseminated through university events and pow wows over the last month.
- Pastoral Training:
 - 31 enrolled for the last training and 11 attended.
 - There has been more lay involvement in this training.
 - Working to get more pastors.
- Millard is meeting December the 5th with Jo and Ottis to start the mid-year report.

Capacity Building:

- Attending a meeting on December 8th with North Carolina Mental Health System to examine Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement for capacity building.
- Attending a grant writing workshop in January provided by the North Carolina HIV Branch to facilitate the writing of state sponsored grants.

South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency:

- Change in staffing pattern from three part-time to one full-time position per tribe. Job descriptions have been written for these positions so hiring can begin.
- The logo has been chosen for the project. The final selection was the circle of fish with paddles, ribbons and tribal logos.
- Several well recognized tribal elders have agreed to be photographed for a poster being developed to raise awareness about the project.
- The site visit at Shoalwater Bay was conducted on November 11-12th. The clinic director was present for the visit.
- Exploration of possibility of pilot sites for rapid testing.
- World AIDS Day events: Several tribes are holding luncheons. This evening several tribal members will attend World AIDS Day vigil in Olympia.
- Data collection is ongoing. The survey timeline has been extended till the end of February. Tribes were asked how they would like the data presented. Some wanted it presented to the tribal clinic, others to the preferred it presented orally to the local tribal health board.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation:

- Provider training set for February 2004. Participants will include Doctors, Nurses and Behavioral Health staff. Two doctors and three behavioral health staff have agreed to participate. Nurses are currently being recruited. In answer to Marguerite's question, Andrea indicated that she attributed success in recruitment to extending the notice of the training to 1-2 months.
- New PI in place. His name is Joe Klaka. Alaska Area IRB has been notified of change.
- First focus group completed in mid-November. Plans for second underway. Mark discussed overarching themes and beliefs revealed in the focus groups.
- Outreach in sub-regional clinic planned for January 2004. Testing and enrolling will be done at this time. The clinic is also interested in having mid-level staff trained in risk assessment and reduction.
- Outreach planned for village two of the study in mid-December.
- Initial steps have been taken to establish a relationship with Therapeutic Court and the sexual assault response team.
- Changes to the OraQuick have been noted and this information has been conveyed to the laboratory.

- Discussion of the need for the final version of the Demographics TeleForm for IRB submission.

World AIDS Day:

- Flyers placed in church bulletins.
- Posters place around town
- Candle light vigil at Watson's corner during "rush hour".
- Screening of ANHB documentary "Breaking the Silence".
- Participating in a radio program addressing HIV in the Delta this afternoon.
- The PSA developed from the filmed version produced for the Delta has been playing for several weeks on the radio in both English and Yupik.
- Carl will be attending a conference today hosted by the CDC regarding OraQuick and counseling and testing.

Four Corners American Indian Circle of Services Collaborative:

Data:

- 53 pre and post questionnaires have been collected from NCI
- 1 HIV positive has been identified
- Currently formalizing referral and coding system to track positive clients
- The data analysis plan has been revised to include the provider level evaluation component.

Programmatic:

- UNM IRB has approved 4CC's informed consent form for the coming year.
- Beginning the process of developing MOU's with collaborative to better track and document referrals, access medical charts and administer questionnaires.
- Developing confidentiality training for cart extractors.
- Preparing for the Barriers Interviews on Monday, December 8th. Betty indicated that she is still awaiting consent forms for Melvin, Kevin and Pricilla.
- World AIDS Day: A pow wow and health fair is scheduled in Gallop for Saturday, December 6th. The event is sponsored by NAN and the Navajo Nation HIV Prevention Program. The Navajo Nation has also sponsored several programs at local high schools.

HRSA Updates:

- Sandi inquired as to if grantees have received the “Save the Date” information for the meeting in August. She reminded the group she is taking suggestions for tracts to cover during the meeting.
- Adan reminded grantees the semi annual reports are due by the end of March. HRSA will be providing an outline by the end of December or early January. The report covers the period from July 1 – December 31.

Evaluation Center:

- The University of Oklahoma will be closed for the holiday from December 22-January 2. Both Betty and David will be available by email and cell phone.
- Dr Huba is still working on the medical instrument. Betty will try to get a commitment from him on when the instrument will be complete so training can be scheduled for grantees who wish to conduct medical outcomes evaluation.
- Several interviews for the Barriers Report still need to be scheduled. Betty will be contacting those still needing to schedule an interview.