

**US/Mexico Border Grantees Conference Call
December 1, 2003 10:30 am CST**

Participants: Arizona Border HIV/AIDS Care Project: Steve Trujillo - Camino de Vida Center for HIV Services: Veronica Salcido-Harding, Yvonne Roacho - Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe: America Jones, John Wiebi - San Ysidro Health Center: Alisa Olshefsky, Mile Tarter - Valley AIDS Council: George Losoya, - Evaluation Center: Betty Duran, Herman Curiel, Marguerite Keese, Tim Brittingham, Gregg Fryday, Saleem Ahmad - HRSA: Adan Cajina

Project Reports:

Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe

Testing:

Month Year 2003	Pre Test Counseling	Post Test Counseling	Result Negative	Result Positive	New Clients Enrolled @ LFCC
January	29	21	26	3	3
February	46	39	44	2	2
March	27	26	26	1	1
April	27	25	25	2	2
May	36	27	25	2	2
June	29	24	29	0	0
July	33	29	33	0	0
August	25	21	21	4	4
September	22	21	22	0	0
October	47	34	46	1	1
November	19	19	19	0	0

Development Activities:

- November 10 and 11, 2003- Ms. Nadine Thomson RN, FNP-c facilitated a psychiatric preceptorship with two psychiatrists from the AIDS Education & Training Center in Dallas for the CARE Center staff which included the clinical staff, case management and the two counselors from Family Services of El Paso. This was arranged to help the staff in working with HIV clients who also suffer from a number of psychiatric disorders as well as substance abuse and chronic pain. Dr.'s Noss and Bennett were able to share their knowledge and expertise in a meaningful way and the staff received them quite enthusiastically. On day one, the topics covered were: HIV: A Psychiatrist's Perspective; Mood and Anxiety Disorder in HIV Disease; Substance Use, Abuse, and Addiction Overview and Chronic Pain. On day two, Nadine, Dr. Anaya (clinical pharmacist) and the counselors spent the morning doing anonymous case presentations of their most difficult clients to get some consultation on medication management and therapies. The experience was extremely helpful for all who attended and

- especially for the direct care providers. Drug interactions, best drug choices and differentiating between a pre-existing psychiatric problem and HIV/AIDS dementia was discussed at length. The hope is to have the doctor's return to El Paso and provide a seminar for the community psychiatric providers and other healthcare providers for CME credit.
- November 3, 2003- Ms. Nadine Thomson RN, FNP-c gave a dinner presentation sponsored by Bristol Meyer Squibb Virology to the group Positively Sisters. Thirty-five HIV infected women attended the event and the topic reviewed was stress management in HIV infection. The audience was shown the stress response, how it affected the immune system and ways to reduce and manage stress. The presentation was well received and Ms. Thomson has received an invitation to repeat the presentation for a group of HIV care providers.
 - November 14, 2003- Nadine Thomson RN, FNP-c gave a power point presentation "HIV and Women" to 12 Family Nurse Practitioner Students at UTEP. This was part of the students' female health rotation and the students responded enthusiastically to the information. Brochures about the CARE Center services were also provided.
 - November 14, 2003- Ms. Nadine Thomson RN, FNP-c, Ms. America Jones RN, and Ms. Cristina Ramirez RN took the Association of Nurses in AIDS CARE (ANAC) and the HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board (HANCB) Examination. The certification focuses specifically on the individual and is an indication of current competence in a specialized area of practice. Board certification in HIV/AIDS nursing is highly valued and provides formal recognition of HIV/AIDS nursing knowledge. Results are pending and due in six weeks.
 - November 17, 2003- Nadine Thomson RN, FNP-c facilitated a luncheon presentation by Gilead pharmaceuticals for all the CARE Center staff. The presentation reviewed the new HIV medication, Emtriva, a nucleoside- reverse-transcriptase- inhibitor released this summer and approved by the Texas AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in September. Seven staff members were able to attend. The company representative will return in January to address some of the clinic staff who was unable to attend.

Travel/Training:

- Ms. Gloria Hinojos, Data Entry Specialist, attended the HRSA/HAB 2003 CARE Act Data Report (CADR) Training in Phoenix, AZ on November 10 – 11, 2003. The HIV / AIDS Bureau (HAB) offered the training in preparation for the 2003 CADR due March 15, 2004. This training included a review of all requirements of the CADR, a review of online submission through the HAB Website, addressed data collection issues, and answered questions based on the 2002 reporting. The second day of the training was a session on Ryan white CAREWare, the software that generates the required Ryan White CARE Act Data Report.
- November 19-23- Ms. Nadine Thomson RN, FNP-c, Ms. America Jones RN, and Ms. Cristina Ramirez RN, attended the Sixteenth Annual Association of Nurses in

AIDS CARE (ANAC) Conference in New York City, titled “*Spotlight on HIV/AIDS Nursing*”. The conference offered workshops which included information on clinical benefits of current and emerging treatment strategies for the management of HIV disease and its complications, issues that shape the unique needs of diverse populations, and the challenges associated with the biopsychosocial clinical management of HIV and co-occurring morbidities and complications. The urgent issues facing the global communities challenged in the management of HIV disease and the political, social, and economic forces influencing HIV policy development in the United States and abroad were also discussed.

Community Initiatives:

- El Paso Mayor Joe Wardy accepted, and approved, a city proclamation put forth by La Fe CARE Center proclaiming Dec. 1 through 7th El Paso AIDS Awareness Day. Not only did this action serve as an official recognition of the importance of AIDS/HIV awareness in our community, it served as an added leverage for requesting media coverage throughout the entire week following World AIDS Day (Dec. 1, 2003).
- Mr. Mark Alvarado, Health Education Specialist, conducted outreach services at the University of Texas at El Paso Fall 2003 Health Fair. Approximately 1200 staff, students, and faculty were served at the La Fe CARE Center information booth. They were provided information regarding HIV/AIDS education, prevention, testing, counseling, and services.
- Mr. Mark Alvarado, Health Education Specialist, conducted an HIV 101 presentation at El Paso Community College for their Health Conference on November 19, 2003. A total of 10 people were in attendance for the presentation.
- Mr. Mark Alvarado, Health Education Specialist, served as a liaison for a group of Health Education Specialist Students from UTEP, who conducted a Healthy Living Conference on November 5, 2003 at the La Fe Culture and Technology Center. The event had over 60 participants in attendance.
- Mr. Mark Alvarado, Health Education Specialist, conducted outreach services at the El Paso Community College Education 1300 Classes Health Conference on November 25, 2003. A total of 120 students, staff, and faculty were served at the La Fe CARE information booth.

HIV Testing:

- The La Fe CARE Center and LAMBDA provided 87 free and confidential HIV OraQuick Rapid Test screenings during the Health Expo. La Fe CARE Center staff members also performed 21 HIV screenings at a satellite site at the University of Texas at El Paso campus targeting college students and area youths.
- Additionally, ALIVIANE provided an estimated 38 blood-drawn (Non-OraQuick) HIV screenings in their ALIVIANE Van. All three sites provided confidential or anonymous testing based on the client preference.

- By all accounts, all three HIV testing sites drew large numbers of people — many of whom were willing to wait in long lines. On-site personnel reported that these individuals represented mostly mainstream communities as well as the gay community. A large number were Latino men, women, and youths. When asked how they had learned about the event, the majority of the event attendees reported they had either learned about the event as a result of the large amount of advance media coverage or had been told by a friend or relative.

Media:

- La Fe CARE Center Public Information Officer Estela Reyes Lopez coordinated with the UTEP Student Publication, the Prospector and with the El Paso Times for upcoming coverage of La Fe CARE Center's HIV/AIDS Awareness, Testing, and Services.

Evaluation:

- On November 15-19, 2003, Dr Wiebi presented a poster at the Annual APHA meeting in San Francisco. The Poster will be reproduced and displayed at La Fe Clinic.
- Recruitment of patients for time 3 assessment is ongoing.
- Completing a paper addressing the bilingual patient knowledge measure. Dr. Wiebi will be sending the paper to America Jones for review. The paper may be submitted to *AIDS and Behavior*.

Camino de Vida Center for HIV Services:

Programmatic:

- The agency is going through a lot of changes. If you will recall, we hired a new bilingual case manager, Norma Amador, several months ago to assist in serving our Spanish monolingual clients. In October two of our other case managers (Evelyn and Cheri) resigned. We hired Tim Didario to replace Cheri and Norma has taken Evelyn's place. In addition to these changes, Kari Maier has resigned effective 12/19/03 and Paul Trujillo, the Finance Director, is the Interim Director until Kari's position is filled. Our lease expires 9/04 so the Board of Directors is also exploring whether to open up a medical clinic or merge with an already established clinic.
- In terms of the outreach component, one of our veteran HOWs, Mona Cluff, resigned at the end of October. She had been with us since the beginning of the SPNS project so it was hard to see her go. She was basically overwhelmed physically since she is a nurse on staff at the Main Street Methadone Clinic.
- Through our new state Prevention grant, we've hired two new Health Outreach Workers/Peer Advocates who start on contract today. They will be trained as Health Outreach Workers to assist with the SPNS activities in the field and they will also be assisting with the ILIs and GLIs with clients.

- CdV cosponsored a HIV Testing and Counseling Training in Spanish for the first time in New Mexico. Some of our key collaborators including MUACES and the Promotoras from BAHC attended the training. This was a big step toward capacity building in southern New Mexico in terms of offering HIV Testing and Counseling in Spanish.
- Dr. Thomas conducted a provider training for BAHC, one of the local CHCs on 11/17/03. The topic was Risk Assessment and Sexual History Taking.
- Eduardo Pinal and Veronica attended the USMBHA Enlace Training in St. Paul Minnesota on 11/13/03. The training focused on how to get Latino communities involved in HIV prevention through the community planning process. USMBHA will continue to help provide technical assistance to CdV to strengthen the regional planning group.
- CdV has a Client Educational Series scheduled for 12/09/03 with Denise Chavez (the author, playwright, actress, and teacher) from 5:00 to 8:00pm. The topic is Healing through Journaling with the purpose of exploring journaling as a part of maximizing the benefits of health care.
- CdV will be joining Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe and several other agencies at El Paso Community College in observance of World AIDS Day.

Evaluation:

- Michelle, Marguerite, and Herman are continuing to make progress on the Barriers paper. It appears that three papers instead of one may come out of the first set of analyses.
- Out of the 82 annual CdV client satisfaction questionnaires sent out, 49 have been returned. Michelle has entered all of the data and is almost done with a very condensed report for the agency and Board. The questionnaire is an expanded version of last year's survey and includes questions about the services received at CdV and the medical services received through the contracted providers.
- The follow-up survey instrument we are going to use with the providers who have been attending the trainings is still under construction. The NMAETC is helping us develop questions and they may be contributing some funds to the project. We're making arrangements to include them in our IRB application and to provide them with aggregated data only.
- Jennifer Felderman, our Graduate Research Assistant who presented at the all grantee meeting in El Paso, is presenting her research paper today to her committee and will be graduating in two weeks. The title of her paper is "Does HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Work?" We hope to continue to have her assist us with the SPNS project until the end of this fiscal year when she will be moving to start law school.
- Michelle is gearing up to submit the annual IRB progress report. It will include the modified module 15 (we are resending it out), the provider follow-up, the qualitative protocol, and an update about the outreach component. We hope to have it in by the end of December.

Data Update:

- 82 clients have been enrolled into SPNS Program (several are pending interviews); Fiscal Year 4: 207 Tests to date/213 Contacts to date.

Arizona Border HIV/AIDS Care Project: (Steve Trujillo)

Trainings:

- On November 6th Dr. Carmichael traveled to Douglas and saw 3 patients with Dr. Avina and on November 20th traveled to Nogales and saw 4 patients with Dr. Pimenta. Dr. Carmichael will return December 2 from family leave.
- The physicians at the CHCs are providing care with consultation from Dr. Carmichael. The co-management model seems to be working well

AZ AIDS ETC

- No trainings reported in the months of November.
- Dr. Carol Galper, distributed and reviewed the self-paced training manual at the November 14th collaborators meeting. Jerry Ramirez from Chiricahua Community Health Center volunteered to have the training manual translated to Spanish. He will distribute the Spanish version to collaborators upon completion.

Out Reach Activities:

Yuma – Outreach activities continue by YCHD, Puentes de Amistad and Campesinos Sin Fronteras in the communities of Somerton, San Luis and Wellton. Populations targeted are MSM, Latina Women, IDUs and their sexual partners. Outreach is conducted in fields, correctional facilities, bars, Marine base, college campus and use of house parties. Staff of YCHD conducted an educational program at Yuma High School and students made two quilts containing HIV/AIDS information. Quilts were displayed at the school. Community is planning World AIDS Day activities and activities for Dia de Campesinos (December 6th).

Santa Cruz – Mariposa Community Health Center staff continue outreach in the outlying communities of Rio Rico and Patagonia. Populations of outreach activities are MSM, IDUs, sexual partners and Latina women. Participation on the local Spanish radio program continues to occur when staff is invited. Staff continues to work on activities for World AIDS Day. HIV Positive support group at the clinic is going well.

Cochise – Cochise County Health Department and Chiricahua Community Health Center are working jointly on outreach activities in Bisbee, Douglas and Sierra Vista. CCHD, Southern Arizona HIV Consortium and Agua Prieta Mexico are working on World AIDS Day activities. CCHD has received funding from ADHS-OBH to hire two promotoras. CCHD has also implemented the house party concept.

Dissemination Activities:

- Project evaluators presented at the APHA conference in San Francisco, CA in November.

Project Enrollment:

- One enrollment pending in Cochise County and one pending at SIA.

Local Evaluation:

- Local and multi-site evaluation data continues to be submitted.
- Project collaborators continue to work on wave 1 consents for medical data extraction outliers. To date 15 consents have been signed and 9 have been identified, as consents will not be obtained because patient has died, moved away or incarcerated. Twenty-two (22) consents are still outstanding in Yuma County. Yuma collaborator SCHC is working on obtaining signatures. Project is scheduled to have OU consultants on site the end of January 04.
- Health provider assessments will be conducted in January at the CACs and at the county health departments.

Valley AIDS Council:

Project Data Collection Activities

- As of November 24, 2003, unduplicated records in the Local Evaluation database were 240. Qualitative interviews are near completion with three remaining.
- A total of 1670 forms have been entered into the National multi site database as of 11/21/03. The following table summarizes this data: 237 unduplicated records in the National Database.

Module	Start Date	Totals Reported Previous Month				New Activity Since last Report				Totals to Date			
A - Demographic	030101	237				0				237			
B- Lifestyle	030101	233				0				233			
C- Change	030103	67				1				68			
D- Risk Factor	070101	Time				Time				Time			
		1	2	3	Total	1	2	3	Total	1	2	3	Total
		235	107	27	369	1	7	6	14	236	114	33	383
E -Quality of Life	070101	Time				Time				Time			
		1	2	3	Total	1	2	3	Total	1	2	3	Total
		217	98	23	338	4	6	6	18	221	104	29	354
F- Barriers to Care	110101	215				3				218			
G -Client Satisfaction	070101	Time				Time				Time			
		1	2	3	Total	1	2	3	Total	1	2	3	Total
		125	31	8	164	7	6	0	13	132	37	8	177

Critical Incidents: None reported at this time

Other Evaluation Activities:

- There 3 of 5 remaining interviews with clients identified as seeking HIV care in Mexico have been contacted and are scheduled for interviews for early December.
- Evaluation staff continues to monitor data input activities and reviews data submissions for quality assurance on a weekly basis.
- Transcriptions of the qualitative interviews are ongoing.
- Local Evaluation site visit was made by Dale Schweers and George Losoya for completion of training for data entry and maintenance for Linda Martinez and Elias Cantu. Queries were created in ACCESS identify data quality issues such as incorrect time series, duplicate entries and unmatched URNs between Local and National data sets. Planning session for completing remaining Proyecto Juntos activities was conducted between Elias Cantu, Project Coordinator and George Losoya, Project Evaluator.
- Ongoing activity on dissemination paper “Use of Healthcare Services in Mexico by HIV Positive Persons Living Along the United States Mexico Border”. Associated issues include:
 - Should we be concern about pre/post SPNS participants in the analysis
 - Need to set up a discussion around the cross site numbers in general
- “Implementing Continuous Mentored Patient Care along the US-Mexico Border” was accepted for publication for the January 2004 Texas Journal of Rural Health edition.
- Progress Report for Continuing Review was submitted to the IRB on **12/01/03**.
- Traveled to Brownsville on November 14 to receive technical assistance with data entry and quality assurance.
- Yolanda and Dr. Sinclair will have the paper they have been working on published in January of 2004.

San Ysidro Health Center:

Programmatic/Dissemination:

- Maria presented her poster on Health Care Utilization and Border Crossing Behavior at the Annual APHA meeting in San Francisco

Evaluation:

- Progress continues on evaluating the social marketing campaign. The facets of the campaign under consideration include: 1) cost assessment, 2) impact on clinic HIV testing numbers, 3) impact of campaign on individual tested. Currently in the process of building databases and documenting “background noise” for other campaigns going on concurrently.

- Evaluation activities during the month of November including reviewing the protocol for administration of the Treatment Adherence Form.

Multi-site Data Update: 7/1/01- 11/24/03

- Number of HIV + persons enrolled: 225 enrolled in SPNS
- Number of persons enrolled through HIV testing: 3,429
- Number of results through HIV testing
 - HIV positive- 38
 - HIV negative- 2,364
 - Inconclusive- 12
 - Total- 2414

Local Data:

- Number of outreach contacts (estimate):
Approximate total = 6,361

HRSA:

- Steven Young, Director of the Office of Science and Epidemiology will be taking the position of Director of the Division of Training and Technical Assistance at HRSA.
- Joe Baldy has retired. Jennifer Fagan will be taking his place.
- Robyn Schulhof has given birth to a baby boy. She will be on maternity leave until March or April. During this time Sandi Duggan will oversee her project responsibilities for San Ysidro and the Arizona HIV/AIDS Care Project. Adan will oversee Valley AIDS Council until her return from leave.

Evaluation Center:

- Dr, Barney and Betty Duran presented Saleem's Border poster at the APHA meeting in San Francisco.
- Reminder: The next grantees meeting is January 8-9, 2004. Those attending should be sure that they have reserved their lodging. Information about reservations is available at <http://www.ou.edu/border/hrsamtg.htm>. The agenda should be out by the end of the week. The meeting will focus on presentation requested by grantees as well as dissemination. Grantees will not be expected to present as they have at previous meetings.
- The Evaluation Center is awaiting it's carryover request for the supplemental medical cart review. Tentatively, the center plans to proceed with the reviews on the dates that individual sites have provided. As soon as carryover approval has been issued and the reviewers have been contracted, sites will receive an email notifying them of the dates for the extractions.

- The Ryan White All Titles Meeting will be August 23-26, 2004. Grantees should be receiving calls for abstracts with in the next month.
- The Research and Evaluation Center will be closed December 22-January 2. Betty and David will be available by cell phone or email should any needs arise.
- In answer to America's question, Betty stated that Adan and David have be working on an outline for the monograph. This outline should be available before the January meeting.