

HRSA SPNS HIV/AIDS AI/AN Project Conference Call Monday, December 13, 2004 @ Noon CST

Participants:

SPIPA	Jutta Riediger
NAHC	Maritza Penagos
ANTHC	Gloria Eldridge
YK	Andrea Savage, Carl Evans
4CC	Julie Lucero
NC	Dwayne Lowry, Robert Hunt, Michael Gross
HRSA	Adan Cajina, Sarah Hargrove
OU	Glenn Solomon, K G Anderson, Ahmad Saleem, Tim Brittingham

Project Updates

SPIPA

Nisqually

- Button Blanket Event (community members making button blanket wall hangings with traditional symbols and AIDS ribbons) (25 participants)
- World AIDS Day Dinner (60 participants) with Native American HIV positive Tribal Speakers
- Contest and Award for best Button Blanket Hanging
- Incentives for Testing on World AIDS Day
- Newspaper Article

Squaxin Island

- World AIDS Day Luncheon with HIV Positive Local Tribal Speaker (25 participant)
- Newspaper Article

Shoalwater Bay

- Button Blanket Making Event (15 participants)
- Ribbons and Red Carnations Give Away at World AIDS Day

Tribes are continuing to do surveys, about 200 hundred have been completed, 100 more to go with a deadline of Jan. 5th.

Tribal Staff are attending BEAR Training sessions at the local tribes. Squaxin Island Tribe is considering becoming a BEAR Tribe.

The project coordinator participated in a TOT for Rapid Testing and Shoalwater Bay is working with DOH on getting the system set up.

Tribal staff is meeting on December 20th to set up the workplan for the second half of the fiscal year.

Responding to Glenn's question if there have been any HIV positive people in that area. Jutta responded there are several in different tribes that come in for different services, not necessarily for HIV services. Glenn also asked how does the project separates the Bear and the SPNS project clients if it's the same. Jutta said the Bear project brings the training for the clinicians while SPNS is more community outreach and testing. These are two separate grants that do not overlap.

NAHC

Native American Health Center: Holistic Native Network

Project Update

Conference Call Date: **December 13, 2004**

Data Collection Activities

Outreach Contacts	205	Clients Referred for HIV CTR from F/House	1	Clients referred substance abuse svcs	0
Health Surveys	unk	Total Clients receiving HIV CTR	14	Clients receiving substance abuse svcs	0
SPNS Clients Cumulative total	44	Clients receiving Mental health svcs	15	Clients receiving HIV Program Services	33
Number of new SPNS clients	1	Clients receiving dental svcs	3	Clients receiving medical svcs	22

Other Data Collection Activities:

- Meeting with SF Department of Public Health...discovered that NAHC HIV CTR stats are not included in county data, only statewide data. Therefore, stats of Natives being tested in SF are severely under-counted. We mapped out way to fix this problem and will be collaborating on data as well as rolling out Rapid Test HIV CTR.

Dissemination Activities:

- Meeting with HIV Data Manager and Dental Director for dental chart review for journal article
- Peer Advocate spoke at UCSF to students of Native Cultural Alliance re: HIV & Bay Area Natives (18 people in attendance)

Training Activities:

- Director attended three-day HIV Prevention Case Management training
- Medical providers & HIV Staff trained (11/3) on Partnership for Health initiative, which is a prevention

for positives CDC intervention.

Outreach Activities:

- Blanca, new Friendship House Health Educator began attending beading group. This will now be facilitated by SPNS/HIV Prevention Outreach Worker and Blanca (28 outreach contacts)
- Given Reggie database read out of organizations that have served HIV + clients in San Francisco. There are two organizations from this list who serve higher numbers and so we are targeting them for outreach.
- SPNS Outreach worker attended Friendship House community event and tabled/outreach (127 outreach contacts)
- HIV services collaborated with NAAP re: thanksgiving community event (50 outreach contacts)

HIV Program Services Activities:

- PCM began 11/15....SPNS outreach worker began 11/22...we are fully staffed
- Meeting with Friendship house (11/16)
- Psychiatrist began offering services here 1/2 day a week (11/30)...we've referred 2 clients so far
- Meeting with NAAP (11/18) to discuss rapid testing and integration of Prevention Case Management Services
- Coordinated efforts to increase number of clients receiving flu shots

Contact with other AI/AN SPNS Grantees:

Contact with OU TA Center/HRSA

Other items to be discussed:

Glenn confirmed with Maritza that the third week of March 05 is available for a site visit.

YK

The hospital has placed a bid to purchase a new instrument to conduct STD testing. Currently, cervical swab is used in the villages to conduct STD testing and the sometimes the health aides don't feel comfortable collecting the swab and therefore many people in the villages do not get tested for STDs. This can be used to correlate HIV testing with other STDs.

Carl is still doing case management for 17 HIV+ clients in the delta. He has just returned after doing a preceptorship in Seattle with the University of Washington Virology clinic. It was a three day training sponsored by AETC.

Community surveys – one village is left which will be done in January. Expect to analyze data in the early part of next year.

The project held a candlelight vigil for the World AIDS Day. This was followed by a concert and an Alaska Native speaker from POL (Peer Leadership Outreach) which is sponsored by ANHB. The event gets bigger every year.

Beth Shank with Early Intervention Services who has the Ryan White Grant (Title III) in Anchorage will be visiting the project in January to conduct an all day training/conference for the providers and the project will participate in it. The project will also conduct some chart reviews.

Jutta said she has used some of Beth's material for training in the Bear project. She is part of the Northwest AETC system as well.

ANTHC

Tracy has been in Nome often for last several weeks. She has met with the CEO of Norton Sound Health Cooperation to get more buy-in from the organization into the project. There have been some administrative questions but she is getting them straightened out. Following the training at the end of October, behavioral health staff has started to do risk assessments and has had quite a number of testing referrals. As often turns out, the person who was most resistant and skeptical during the training has taken the project on and has had four testing referrals within the last couple of weeks. The staff member is currently working with the Department of Correction Halfway House right now. There are four more individuals there who are interested in testing. Currently trying to get the Norton Sound system to be able to accommodate the testing. There is also a very active training program that has been set up for next spring which will begin in February with medical management of HIV and involve someone from Title III EIS to do additional case management training for people with HIV. It is something that the behavioral health staff has identified that they need more information on. Sixteen people are enrolled in rapid testing training. IRB renewal will go into ANTHC at the beginning of January to analyze Title III EIS data to examine patterns of what services are needed and where people are going for services.

Glenn asked if there was any anecdotal information as to where HIV+ people go for treatment. Gloria replied that it is suspected that they come down to Anchorage for treatment. She added that the need to analyze Title III data is due to fact that as more people are tested and test positive, it will place additional burden to the EIS locally, and this is also Tracy has been working with Beth so she can work intensely with behavioral and medical providers to prepare for that.

Responding to Glenn, Gloria said that Beth is very familiar with the Nome area. Glenn also asked if there were any fliers regarding where she presented for documentation. Gloria said that should be in the year-end report. Glenn said that the TA center doesn't receive it.

4CC

Just recently had 4CC monthly meeting. Accomplishments include provider survey and the project is getting ready to sent out the pre and post test surveys, manuals, and a contract to all the providers that Dr. Iralu has identified. The project is getting ready for a retreat next month with all the collaborating member agencies of 4CC (4th of Jan in Gallup, NM). NCI is collecting data for high risk individuals and NAN is collecting data HIV+ needs assessment. The project is still trying to figure out the referral process and that is on the agenda for the retreat. It has a good idea for the process but needs to be approved by the agencies that will be involved. Dr. Iralu presented some of the data at the TB-HIV conference that was held on Nov 14th – 15th in Flagstaff, AZ. There was a great turnout and the data was well received by the participants who were primary care physicians and HIV practitioners. Dr. Iralu is also going to give a presentation at the retreat on the current status of the Navajo Nation regarding HIV, syphilis, and TB.

Healing Lodge

Dwayne said he will send the data sheet to Glenn following the conference call. North Carolina State Secretary of Health and Human Services visited Healing Lodge last Friday. The project shared all its activities with her, particularly the SPNS project including the Lay Health Advisory and HIV testing and outreach. She was very receptive and emailed the project about how impressed she was with the project. Dwayne thanked everyone involved for making the SPNS project a success.

Healing Lodge is working on a new project in collaboration with the Robeson County Health Department called “My Fair Lady Project.” The project is taking commercial sex workers off the street and providing them with alcohol and substance abuse treatment. Healing Lodge has hired a new full time employee as a peer outreach worker to conduct outreach with commercial sex workers. The churches have signed MOAs to provide rental assistance, utilities assistance, and local telephone service, and rental insurance for one year to support the commercial sex workers who have decided to get off the street and into the treatment programs as long as they stay drug free and do not cohabit in the housing provided by the project. Additionally, the local community college will also provide them with lifestyle training. Other agencies will address any medical needs. The commercial sex workers had cited the lack of a support system in order for them to avoid being back on the street. This project provides the support needed for the lifestyle changes for the commercial sex workers. Dwayne added that the local health agencies will see that the cost of providing such support will having outweigh the cost of having a commercial sex worker become infected and potentially infect her other clients.

The project also has had a lot of success with its Lay Health Advisory piece. The project sat down with Michael Gross regarding the goals of this piece. There has been a lot more requests for Lay Health Advisory training than what has provided by the Healing Lodge. Due to these requests, the number of participants for the training will be raised from 30 to 40 for each session and the training will be provided every two months than on quarterly basis. Dr. David Wong from CDC has expressed interest in evaluating the Lay Health Advisory piece to examine the difference in the churches and

communities where this piece has been implemented compared to those Native American communities that haven't implemented the piece yet.

The project will provide an STD 101 training on January 25th, 2005 for the local health department. The project will conduct follow up visits and evaluations from the previous Lay Health Advisory training.

Jutta reminded that it is illegal to ask someone's HIV/AIDS status for employment purposes in Washington and Dwayne may want to check what the law is in North Carolina.

Glenn and Tim suggested that Dwayne explores the issues related to having employees from the target population.

Maritza said she use to work on a program that assisted women coming out of prostitution and can provide Dwayne with some information. Dr. Arnold, a professor at Wake Forrest created a program with the police officers to help get women off the streets and she can be contacted for information as well.

HRSA Updates

Adan said the February meeting is quickly approaching and the agenda topics are being set.

OU updates

Glenn reminded everyone to make their hotel reservations. Saleem said that the reservation deadline is Jan 3.

Glenn expressed the need to set up dates for site visits. The initial site visits will be formal. Suggested months include April, May, and June.

Jutta said she needed information regarding traditional healers. Glenn said that Maritza has good resources on traditional healers. Maritza said NNAAPC can be contacted for information on traditional healers. Glenn said NNAAPC will be attending the grantee meeting in February.

Reservation deadline for grantee meeting is January 3rd. APHA will start accepting abstracts on December 17 for its conference in November 5 – 9, 2005 in New Orleans. Same conference call scheduled will be maintained for the next six months. The next conference call with SPIPA, NC, and YK in January will have to be rescheduled since January 17 is a holiday (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day). All the individual project conference calls will take place as scheduled.

The call ended at 12:50 pm