

**US/Mexico Border Project Conference Call (Final)
Monday, December 13, 2004 @ 10:30 am CST**

Participants:

HRSA	Adan Cajina, Robyn Schulhof
San Ysidro	Alisa Olshefsky
Arizona	Steve Trujillo, Ken Burton, Barbara Estrada
New Mexico	Michelle Valverde, Veronica Harding
El Paso	American Jones
VAC	Lucia Bustamante
Berkeley	Mike Tarter
OU	Morris Foster, K G Anderson, Tim Brittingham, Ahmad Saleem

Project Updates

Camino de Vida

Programmatic

Outreach - Yvonne Moghadam's last day with Camino de Vida was November 26th. Yvonne was our veteran team member who had been on the SPNS project since its inception. Veronica has been busy taking over Yvonne's administrative duties especially in processing and logging all of the incoming data from outreach.

Outreach activities will cease at the end of the month with the exception of one Peer Advocate.

Health Outreach Manual - Veronica has formed a review committee that consists of one Health Outreach Worker/Peer Advocate, a Prevention Program Manager, and a graduate research assistant to work on improving the Health Outreach Worker training manual. The goal is to have the completed version by the end of the funding year for HRSA distribution.

Client Educational Series - Our next Client Educational Series is scheduled for January 25th, "HIV and Your Heart" will be held in Las Cruces.

Provider Education - The Southern New Mexico HIV Clinical Forum held on Friday, November 12th was a great success. The forum provided clinicians and case managers with practical information regarding the accepted standards of medical care for treating those living with HIV/AIDS. The forum collaborators include the NMAETC, Southern Area Health Education Center, Abbott Pharmaceuticals, and La Fe Care Center.

Agency Update - As mentioned last month Camino de Vida was awarded funding from the Office of Minority Health for a bilingual/bicultural HIV demonstration project. As

previously mentioned this grant will assist CdV in sustaining two of the SPNS goals, client education and provider education. Yvonne Medina, Project Director of the grant, started last week. It is encouraging to see how being a SPNS grantee has increased the agency's capacity. Michelle Valverde will be the local evaluator on the grant.

As part of the OMH grant, CdV staff will be attending the SoAHEC Cultural Competency Training on January 21st.

Evaluation

Evaluation - Right now we are focusing on local data entry and some multisite cleaning. Except for a couple of possible time series, multisite data collection has stopped. We are looking forward to the new Data Manager beginning on January 10th.

We are also fine tuning the provider follow-up article and the first HOW paper and continuing the coding of the qualitative data from the late entry study.

Arizona

Trainings - Dr. Carmichael saw 5 patients with Dr. Avina in Bisbee on November 10th. Will try to retain patients at Chiricahua as well as Sunset, but there may be more discussions regarding the status of AIDS patients in Nogales.

AZ AIDS ETC

Project Collaborator Meeting -Project collaborators met on November 19th continued discussion of sustainability of some of the activities, dissemination activities and data analysis. Yuma County Health Department conducted a survey of its clients and presented the summary of their findings. Next scheduled meeting of the collaborators is January 7, 2005.

Out Reach Activities - Multi-site data collection will cease as of December 31, 2004. MAI outreach activities shall continue through June 30, 2005.

Yuma – Educational activities by YCHD will continue to target MSM, Latina Women, IDUs and their sexual partners in the communities of Somerton, San Luis, Wellton and Yuma. The only outreach activities that are planned are those associated with MAI. Puentes de Amistad will cease all project activities December 31, 2004.

Santa Cruz – Mariposa Health Center/Platicamos Salud are to continue counseling and testing in the communities of Nogales, Rio Rico and Patagonia, AZ., outreach to MSM, IDUs, sexual partners and Latina women will fall under MAI activity. Platicamos Salud staff continues to provide educational presentations to local agencies and providers as part of their HIV prevention. The HIV Positive support group will remain in place for HIV+ patients in Santa Cruz County.

Cochise – The Cochise County Health Department and Chiricahua Community Health Center jointly conduct outreach in Bisbee, Douglas and Sierra Vista. Outreach for HIV counseling and testing and education will continue by the promotoras (funded by ADHS) targeting MSM, IDU, sexual partners of IDUs, and Latina. CCHD case managers Brian Ortel and Maria Harris will work with ABHAC enrolled patients to ensure the continuation of medical care and supportive services remain in place. Steve T. participated on the interview panel for Cochise County Health Department's HOPWA program. CCHD has secured funds for housing for HIV positive individuals residing in the county. These funds are being used for some of the ABHAC enrolled participants.

Dissemination Activities - Tony Estrada (Chair) of the Multi-site Dissemination Committee convened their meeting on December 7, 2004. Next scheduled meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2005.

Additionally, America, Paul Trujillo, and Steve attended the border meeting in Dallas on December 2 and 3. One of the recommendations was that HRSA establishes an additional region, Region 11, which will be the border region which will have its own funding and J-1 Visa waiver for the area. America added that border grantees recommended looking specifically at the border region. Very little was mentioned about HIV/AIDS on the border unless brought up by the border grantees. Border cities, unlike other major cities in the Southwest that have the best primary care hospitals and lower health care professional shortage (one provider to every 1000 unlike the border cities where it is one provider for every 6000 patients) along with very different type of challenges. Those cities fall under Title I while the border cities aren't even considered emergent cities. Dr. ___ who is the Advisor to US/Mexico Border Health Commission, stated that low child birth mortality rates along the US/Mexico border, which is part of formula used to provide funding, affects the level of funding provided to the border region. Steve said that it is called the "Mexican Paradox" since most babies are born healthy, the formula used to provide funding penalizes the border area by assigning 0. One of the recommendations was to examine the numeric assignment to the formula and give it a 2. HRSA is planning to continue the Border Health Week, and the border grantees can submit applications to do HIV screening and testing on the border. Steve asked Robyn and Adan if they are part of meetings or are asked to provide input on the border initiative. Adan responded that they are often asked to provide input every time Dr. Duke travels to a site on the border. However, the budget restrictions have limited their travels. Adan added that this is why the dissemination of the products in the matrix is very important since there is a lot of scrutiny and questions that are asked about the border. Robyn agreed and said that they provide information requested by Dr. Duke's office but they are not part of the meetings. Steve suggested inviting Dr. Duke to Grantee Meeting in April and to discuss some of the issues and findings of the border initiative and to make request that the HIV/AIDS effort be made part of the Border Health Initiative in the upcoming years. Robyn supported the idea. Adan stated that is why the data and dissemination of findings is so important. Evidence based on data is needed in order to influence policy and so forth. Steve said that with the Border Health Initiative, HRSA will continue to work with USMBHA to find out more information on the Mexican side of the border and conduct bi-national initiatives regarding HIV/AIDS.

Robyn said that Howard Lerner has retired and the new border health office is now located in the Office of Rural Health Policy in HRSA under Marsha Brandt. Tim suggested to HRSA that OU works with HRSA to see if Dr. Duke and Marsha can attend the Grantee Meeting in April. Robyn, Adan, and Steve agreed. America said that it is necessary to derive important issues from the data and presented them to the Grantee Meeting. The epidemic will get worse in the future and it is important to focus on it.

Project Enrollment - Patient enrollment closed multi-site data will be collected and submitted through December 31, 2004.

Local Evaluation - Local data will be collected through March 31, 2005.

OU medical record extraction (FY05) for outliers to be scheduled in January 2005, date to be finalized.

Announcement - None

San Ysidro

Evaluation Update - The project is working on data cleaning. Have finished comparison between Module A and B on Risk Factors and have made some decisions as how to clean that data. This will increase the total risk factors represented in the sample. The last of the corrections needed is being worked on before data is sent to OU which is the list of clients involved in HIV testing that needs to be removed from the dataset will be sent this week. The project is working hard to adhere to the time line. The implementation of the qualitative component of the evaluation has been pushed back to January/February to try to finish the data cleaning and Time 2 multisite instruments done for individuals who have enrolled this Fall since Dec 31 is the last day to do that.

Update on Medical Chart Review - 121 charts were audited between Nov 15 and 19. On Jan 24 – 28, the consultants will come back and to complete 89 charts which are located in five different sites. There was excellent feedback regarding the process which has gone very well. Tim said that the consultants said that the project was extremely organized and appreciated that. Three consultants have been chosen to come back and OU will be working on contracts with them very soon.

El Paso

Programmatic - The clinic has had several in services for staff. Both clinical and case management staff attended the Camino de Vida presentation in Southern New Mexico in November. CDC outreach testing was completed on September 30th which generated a lot of interesting data about HIV testing on the border outside the high risk areas like the bars through the mobile van. John and America are working on abstracts. The project used to go out Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Although the funding has ended, the project is still able to maintain the outreach for two nights during

the week, Friday and Saturday, to test. Last month, the project conducted 140 HIV tests. Two of the onsite and one outreach tests were positive. The clinic expects to see high number of patient visits in January and February according to the visitation trend. A lot of staff and patients have been sick due to cold. The project made a presentation to the Lion's club on HIV 101 to about 40 people over the age of 50. The club donated 180 hams to the clients for Christmas this week based on the project's presentation. For the World AIDS Day, the media relations officer gave the project a lot of media exposure (covered by both English and Spanish news). An HIV 101 presentation was made at UTEP to a college group and conducted testing. Up to four days following the World AIDS Day, about 10 – 15 people came in for HIV testing each day onsite.

Wrapping up data collection by the end of this month. The project will start medical chart reviews (mental health component) and complete it in the second week of January. The project will be presenting the data as part of the dissemination plan.

Steve thanked America and the clinic for providing information and ribbons for World AIDS Day at the tables at the Border Health Meeting in Dallas.

VAC

The project is working on Mexican physicians interviews. It has generated a list, working on a contract with VAC and have identified the doctors in the Tierra Negra site, scheduling the appointments, and conducting the interviews as fast as it can. For data clean up, the project has sent all its data to Carroll to be cleaned and once it is done, it will be forwarded to OU hopefully this week.

Proyecto Juntos Evaluation Activities

Ongoing data clean-up and analysis

We have completed clean-up syntax on all the modules and have sent them to VAC for clean-up. Carol is working on that and we will hopefully be able to submit it to OU by early next week at the latest.

Mexican Physician Study

1. We received IRB approval for the study.
2. We are working with Eagle Pass the VAC on our list of physicians. We have identified 5 physicians in Eagle and Elias is working with Dr. Garcia to help us with our list of physicians for the LRGV.
3. It has been difficult to schedule interviews with physicians due to the holidays. We will start scheduling interview ASAP.

Ongoing activity on several dissemination papers: data analysis, literature search, reviews, and writing.

Policy paper/white paper

Local manuscript/article

Multi site paper

OU Updates

Data Cleaning - Tim said the projects have done a tremendous job in using the syntax and providing OU with updates and data cleaning. Data cleaning is still a bit behind schedule but not by much.

Data sharing agreement - s been sent out to the projects. An addition to the form is that there will now be two signatures required from the project, one from the PI at the project level, and the other from the local project evaluator. A revised form will be sent to the projects. The projects will be informed as when to sign it to release the data, which would probably be in the next few weeks.

Monograph – Tim reminded the projects to continue to work with Herman on the monograph and submit a draft as soon as possible if it hasn't been done in order to stay close to the time line. Any questions regarding the monograph can be emailed to Herman.

Next Conference Call - The Dissemination Committee Conference Call will be on 25th of January. This is the last conference call regarding project updates. The calls will continue on the dissemination level. More programmatic calls can be scheduled if they are needed.

Reservations for DC Meeting - Saleem reminded the participants to make reservations for the grantee meeting in April (6-8). The reservation deadline is March 4th. Reservation information is available on OU's website for the project.

APHA Abstract Submissions - APHA will start accepting abstracts on December 17th for 2005 Conference in New Orleans (November 5 – 9). A deadline for submitting the abstract hasn't been posted yet.

GANNT Chart - Changes were made to the GANNT chart in the last Dissemination Committee Conference Call and have been submitted to HRSA. It will be forwarded to the grantees based on HRSA's approval.

Multisite Data Cleaning - Morris encouraged the projects to complete the data cleaning for multisite data and OU will be able to get it done on time which is by the end of this month.

Lucia asked Tim if a decision was made regarding income. Tim said no. It may be something that needs to be brought up at a group level during at the dissemination call along with a few other variables.

Saleem said HRSA had approved two dissemination conference calls every month and so far only one call a month has been scheduled.

HRSA Updates

Adan reminded projects to check their fiscal status regarding FSR and carry over needs. There are only six months left in the project and any pending issue needs to be addressed. He and Robyn will be making a decision on the products that are due to HRSA such as semi annual reports. Perhaps some of the products required in the past will be waived in order to concentrate on the dissemination priority.

America asked Adan about semi-annual reports. Adan said HRSA will discuss if the semiannual report will be waived and will inform the projects in a few weeks about its decision.

Lucia inquired about the white paper and the outline that OU had sent out. Tim clarified that it was a demographic paper, not a white paper which will be discussed further during the next dissemination conference call.

The call ended at 11:18 am