

HRSA SPNS Border Health Grantees Meeting
Dissemination Notes
08-05-03

Attending: Barbara Estrada, Tony Estrada, Tim Brittingham, John Wiebe, Herman Curiel, Mari Zuniga, Rosana Scolari, Yolanda Cantu, George Losoya, Elias Cantu, Bob Smith, America Jones, Lynda Williams, Marguerite Keese, Michelle Valverde, Sandi Duggan, Kari Maier, Betty Duran, David Barney, Lois Elred (phone), Robyn Schulhof (phone).

Meeting began at 10:17am.

Tony opened the meeting by thanking America for hosting the meeting and offered for everyone to introduce themselves.

Betty reviewed the agenda, noting 2 additions to be added

- Research topic under development by Tony Estrada: Depression, Health Status, and Quality of Life
- Year 5 Monograph

Agenda Item 1: Michelle Valverde –*An examination of acculturation and barriers to HIV Medical Care along the US/Mexico border*

Michelle distributed an outline of her proposed topic. She discussed the move to combine 2 papers, and her choice to not use the acculturation scale because of the small sample (n = 40 – 50 females). Ties to Mexico will be explored instead (n = 100 females).

Paper 1:

- Authors: Michelle Valverde, Marguerite Keese, Herman Curiel
- Modification of original request
- Discussion on differences in sample because of data request at different dates. Agreed that it was important to identify date associated with data set when describing data. Also noted that it is important to explain that sub-populations may not represent entire groups on border.
- Proposal carried without objection.
- Preliminary results should be presented at January SPNS Meeting.

Paper 2:

- Utilizes medical chart data.
- Availability of medical chart data discussed.
- Will submit new request in January. Tony suggested that Michelle resubmit as opposed to asking for extension.
- Request to proceed withdrawn, will resubmit when data are available.
- Discussion on the *date_a*. Suggested that consistency is needed in the way this variable is recorded, reported and analyzed. The use of the pre/post SPNS variable may be useful in this matter.

Agenda Item 2: David Barney – *What are the sociodemographic and health status characteristics of persons living with HIV in the U.S. – Mexico border region?*

David opened the discussion on his paper.

- Request 1: Requested an extension, until $n > 1000$.
- Suggested that he needed a brief analysis besides the descriptive component.
- Request 2: to use v126 (inferred presenting issues) or could go back to using the acculturation scale.
- David solicited ideas on a way to proceed with the paper.
- John Wiebe suggested the use of the IDU component of the surveys.
- Extension requested for 90 days. Will have draft to co-authors in 90 days.
- Will present preliminary report at January SPNS Meetings.
- Mari prompted a discussion on the education variable. She stated that she and Michael Tarter had looked carefully at this variable.
- Proxy for total exposure to education, not attainment. Should be cautious when exploring education variable, and not assume equivalent education on both sides of the border.
- Note on categorical education level: (not of schooling age) minors are not included in the study, and the question may be perceived as older people who are not currently involved in education systems.
- Extension granted without objection.

The conference call ends here since Lois and Robyn cannot hear all of the discussion.

Agenda Item 3: Yolanda Cantu – *Use of healthcare services in Mexico by HIV Positive persons living along the United States – Mexico border*

Yolanda distributed an outline of the proposed article. She has not found enough literature on this topic and requests co-authors submit any other background research that is available. Also, the number is very small for using HIV services in Mexico.

- Request for extension
- Discussion on handout relating to cross tabs
- Dynamics of lower acculturation that goes along with higher use of HIV services in Mexico
- Dynamics of temporality, such as year first diagnosed vs year first coming into the program
- New diagnosis v. continued and use of medical care in Mexico
- Should look at complimentary medications, including Noni juice.
- Important to note that alternative medications may not be perceived as alternative by client.
- May need qualitative data or focus groups
- Will have a rough draft by the end of October for review by colleagues

- Mari will provide background on border crossings
- Extension granted without objection.
- An update will be provided at the January SPNS Meeting.

Break: resumed at 11:30

Agenda Item 4: David Barney – *Factors predicting HIV/AIDS patient satisfaction in care programs along the U.S./Mexico border*

David opened discussion on client satisfaction as it related to his research topic.

- Satisfaction predicted solely by pre/post SPNS status.
- Post were more satisfied.
- Results worked with smaller sample, but not with larger sample.
- John Wiebe suggested a longitudinal study on change in satisfaction
- David will look at factors predicting change in satisfaction and report at January SPNS Meeting.
- David offered for others to pursue topic as well.
- This paper withdrawn by David, with offer to assist others who may be interested in the topic.

Agenda Item 5: Tony Estrada - *Depression, Health Status, and Quality of Life*

Tony and Barbara distributed handouts and presented their topic through PowerPoint.

- New topic & data request
- Request to look at data from modules for the entire data set to use for APHA presentation as well as a paper for publication.
- Also want to look at 1) to what extent are symptoms related to the stage of disease; and 2) Why are there no differences by gender? This is unlike other findings for gender and depression.
- Mari identified a recent study on depression and Latinas in the US as a whole. The California project has a local module for case management. 60% referred for mental health services.
- Tony will continue to explore the diagnosis date and subsequent depression.
- Can use medical chart data in the spring to validate whether depression in clients or not.
- Sandi Duggan asked if depression might be a situational reaction that remains constant and suggested a comparison of HIV to other chronic diseases and depression.

- John Wiebe asked if depression might be reactive, a side effect of medications or a function of the disease process itself and suggested to look at how somatic differs from non-somatic.
- Marguerite suggested that “my health is in God’s hands” has been an interesting variable to look at.
- Elias Cantu referred to a recent article in POZ that related depression and ability to carry on a relationship in connection to HIV status.
- Mari suggested HIV stigma vs. Mental Health stigma as a possible paper.
- Tony opened the topic to collaborators and Mari, John, Sandi, Herman, and Marguerite agreed to participate.
- Data request approved.

Agenda Item 6: Betty Duran - *Year 5 Monograph*

Betty presented the idea of developing a monograph or contributing to a special issue of a journal. A monograph would require federal clearance. Herman identified that the HIV/AIDS Journal (Social Work) is interested.

- Betty stated that we need consensus with the suggestion before we can move forward.
- Sandi requested that we do both—she suggested a journal, then redeveloped for a monograph. She added that HRSA would particularly like to have something that can be applicable to other projects.
 - Mari suggested that the journal be peer reviewed to help with those who are seeking tenure.
 - Tony stated that the special issue (journal) could cover all five projects and the evaluation center, each with their own topic.
 - Kari suggested that the project directors could take the lead on the monograph. It was later suggested that program people also be part of this process.
 - It was suggested that the evaluators take the lead on the journal.
 - The suggested format for the monograph will be based on the AI/AN format, and the link to the format will be posted to the Border web page.
 - Review of the journal and monograph process will be reviewed on each monthly conference call (15 minutes).

Additional comments:

A request was made that OU post time sequence information on the web page for the multi-site sample.

Betty reminded the group that OU can post all dissemination activities on the Border website for the local work being done by the projects, and that they may also send copies of their reports to OU.

A discussion also ensued on non-national clients (undocumented).

- Undocumented can be served, but they must live in the U.S.
- Legal and ethical decisions
- No identifiers in the national database.
- It's a local issue (identifying non-nationals)
 - Is identified in qualitative data

Sandi informed the group that the Border Health Commission is visiting HRSA this month (August). HRSA will be painting a realistic picture of HIV/AIDS along the border, using prior information collected from the projects. The PowerPoint will be shared with the projects after it has been presented.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45pm

(David informed the group on day two that the monograph was on hold until he received formal clearance to proceed from HRSA).