

**HRSA SPNS American Indian/Native Alaskan Grantees Conference Call  
May 10, 2004 at 12:00 pm CST**

**Participants:** *OU:* Morris Foster, Glenn Solomon, KG Anderson, Marguerite Keesee, Tim Brittingham, Lynda Williams, Saleem Ahmad; *4CC:* Rebecca Rodriguez; *ANTHC:* Gloria Eldridge, Tracy Speier; *NAHC:* Karen Saylor; *SPIPA:* Jutta Riediger; *Robeson:* Robert Hunt, Dwayne Lowry, Jennifer McLamb; *HRSA:* Adan Cajina, Sarah Hargrove, Sandi Duggan.

## **Project Reports**

### **Robeson**

- Clients – 2 new positives last week.
- Conducted a health training, 94 participants and all were tested for HIV, no positives. All participants tested came back to obtain the results.
- Finalizing the transitional process, doing what they need to do at the health corporation and technical assistance from HRSA to make it happen by July 01/04.
- Sarah asked if Jennifer had received the message identifying what the hold up was on the HRSA end and she said yes.
- Dwayne and Jennifer are meeting this afternoon to work on continuation application.
- Dwayne reported what he considers the by products of SPNS. Things are happening in a positive way as result of SPNS being there. Home repair, food for needy families, things that aren't specifically tied to SPNS but should be recorded and reported. Things are happening locally that would not be happening if it wasn't for the SPNS project. It is a real positive and a plus not just for the sake of HIV but for the community as a whole.
- Tim remarked that it is a stepping stone for collaborations or a lot of potential collaborations.
- Sandi said it is also for sustainability that SPNS is also interested in.

## ANTHC

### Update of Months Activities.

- Project Coordinator went on a two week vacation
- Follow up training provided to NSHC BH providers and in collaboration with the AETC an update training was also provided to the medical staff of NSHC
- Worked with the medical and the BH providers on the development of a community HIV/AIDS education and resource Team.
- Held a community HIV/AIDS awareness meeting for community members of Nome. A couple of elders attended as well as, a very vocal community member who voiced her concern about the lack of advertisement about HIV/AIDS in the local bars and the need to provide more education about the need to let Native women know they are the highest risk category in the state. Other issues that were brought up was the need to provide specific education to Alaska Native males and why it is important for them to be actively involved with encouraging testing.
- The SPNS project has had its first HIV test referral. A BH clinician from NSHC provided HIV education during her group therapy and as a result, one of her clients decided to get tested.
- The evaluation center has completed two more technical reports pertaining to the existing data associated with transition programs and non-health related transitional needs of AI/AN who are incarcerated or being released from prisons.
- Reviewing comments for OU on the barriers interview.

### Follow-up

- Project Coordinator met with an HIV+ Alaska Native man who has been actively involved in HIV work for the past 10 years about working as a consultant (peer) to help address some of the cultural and gender issues associated with high risk behaviors and the transmission of HIV in the Bering Straights region. This individual will also be accompanying the Project Coordinator to Washington D.C. during the June meeting to discuss cultural issues and HIV in rural Alaska Native communities.
- The Project Coordinator has discussed with the Behavioral Health Director the idea of having training specific to Alaska Native men and a separate training for Alaska Native women.

- The project Coordinator has also discuss with an HIV+ female from one of the villages she use to work with about the possibility of going to Nome to present and talk with some of the women from the community and region.
- The Project Coordinator is working with the NSHC BH and medical providers in Nome to schedule HIV/AIDS training for village-based providers who periodically fly to Nome for up-date trainings. This way we can reach the villages and the itinerant providers in the same training allowing for the most efficient use of program funds.

#### IRB

- Submitted the NSHC data sharing agreement to the Alaska Area IRB for review in May.
- The Alaska Tribal Health Research Oversight Committee, the third phase of the research approval process, has reviewed the Title III medical outcome analysis and due to the New HIPAA requirements, insists that a privacy board review the proposal. The SPNS project did submit a letter of HIPAA compliance with this proposal that met the need and it was approved by the Alaska Area IRB. The problem with this is that the Tribal Health System does not have a privacy board, consequently, it was decided that the IRB would be the privacy board. As a result, the SPNS project must resubmit the Title III medical outcome analysis to the IRB for their approval as a privacy board.

#### Other Business

- The Project Coordinator is meeting with the State of Alaska DOC about phase two of the DOC piece of this project, which is to develop a survey on the behavioral and medical needs of transitional AI/AN offenders.
- The Project Coordinator is in the process of conducting the first teleconference with a statewide DOC task force to begin to address the next phase of this project -- addressing the needs of AI/AN offenders within the different regional of the Tribal Health System and within the DOC.
- There is currently a Bill going through the State's house and senate that is proposing to make testing for HIV, hepatitis, and TB mandatory among correctional facilities. It passed the state's house, and is currently in the state's Senate. The outcome of this bill could have large ramifications to this project.
- Working on the continuation application the next couple of weeks.

## **SPIPA**

- Received feedback from Circle of Harmony Conference. SPIPA's presentation at the conference went very well. Jutta thanked Tim for posting the conference poster on the website and where anyone interested in the poster can look at it. SPIPA has a very well known Northwest artist-in-residence who has a Ford Foundation grant and is carving a totem pole. He will be helping in development of a second poster.
- There are trainings coming up, from computer training to AIDS training to AETC as well as a two day social marketing outreach workshop on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Most of June will be spent on training.
- Health fairs are coming up. One is in Squaxin Island today. Another is in Shoalwater Bay on the 20<sup>th</sup> which promises to be a big fair because they were able to get Elaine Miles who was the secretary to the doctor on "Nothern Exposure" to attend.
- There won't be a testing booth in Shoalwater Bay because space limitations but they are looking to do special testing on June 27<sup>th</sup> on the National Testing Day.
- There is now a staff member for Nisqually so the project will be fully staffed probably within next week.
- Looking forward to Dr. Solomon's visit to SPIPA between 18 – 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

## **NAHC**

- Things continue to be hectic at NAHC due to recent staff losses and there have some additional ones. Parousha left two months ago and so did many of the HIV team members. One remaining full time employee, the nurse case manager, had a case load of 60 and was working weekly with 30 SPNS client resigned a week ago Friday. NAHC is down to one staff person (Carol Cano) on the project other than Karen. She runs the substance abuse counsel which is a weekly substance abuse group but she only works one day a week. Therefore NAHC is short staffed in terms of client services. NAHC is trying to support the clients in ways that it can. The Family Child Guidance Clinic staff, which is the mental health department, has taken over the client services, the groups and about 20 of the most fragile clients have been transferred over to be case managed by HIV outreach worker so there is still someone in place.

- NAHC is in the process of rehiring. It has a new staff member by next conference call. NAHC has been trying to maintain some sort of continuity for the client. There will be a client retreat this week. Melanie Bien (art therapist) and Aurora Mamiya (HIV outreach worker) are going to take about 10-12 clients to a spiritual/mental health retreat for three or four days. There is a lot of stress among clients due to a number of staff leaving. NAHC is trying to provide them with some support and just keep some of the services that they have been coming to. The meeting group is still ongoing. It is also putting extra burden on remaining staff. There have been no new intakes or data collection because the focus is to maintain current services.
- Sandi asked Karen to let HRSA and OU know how they can help in any way. Karen replied once the new person gets started, maybe there can be a conference call to get the new person up to speed. The staff with the history of the project are now gone. Her coming to the June conference will be a good orientation.

#### **4CC**

- 4CC just held monthly meeting past Thursday. The Navajo AIDS Network was finalizing their Health Survey Interview Protocol and it was reviewed and approved during the meeting. They will also work on a specific referral protocol. That is something that is determined to be more appropriate for Kevin's agency, the NCI, for the at-risk population and detailing how to refer to other agencies in the collaborative. That is currently being drafted.
- Still waiting to hear from GMC about the MOU, Kevin will be calling them about the status of MOU.
- Rebeccah was in contact with UNM IRB and all the revisions on the informed consent went through. Now it will be taken to the Navajo Nation IRB.
- Tomorrow Rebeccah will be going to Window Rock to report the data to the Navajo Nation Health and Social Services Committee, and hopefully it will be the last thing before approval is finalized.
- Melvin from Navajo AIDS Network is working on setting confidentiality training and it probably will be done this summer.
- The project has been approved for funding for study guide and it will be worked on next. Rebeccah will be working with Dr. Iralu regarding specific 4CC questions.

- Kevin and Rebecca are working on grant reapplication and preparing for the grantee meeting. 4CC will be presenting on how the project is Community Based Participatory Research.
- Dissemination Activity: Dr. Bonnie Duran will be presenting on the 4CC project to IHS Research Conference in Scottsdale, AZ this week.
- 4CC is also working on a brochure with Dr. Iralu on HIV care providers and a provider packet to educate clients on the health survey and to encourage their participation because there are still HIV positive clients at Gallup Indian Medical Center that have not been surveyed through the collaborative to get a better picture of HIV positive clients.
- Sandi provider level intervention, encouraged 4CC to look at pre and post assessment that there are already out there, by John Bartlett out of Hopkins, and from the AETC so 4CC doesn't have to start from scratch and there may be instruments that already have been piloted. Rebecca replied 4CC had gotten provider level assessment material from Betty awhile back. One was from a group in Arizona and 4CC also wants incorporate some of the questions from the study guide that are tailored to the collaborative.

## YK

- Andrea and Mark are scheduled to be in a village, providing the planes are flying, doing a focus group.
- Andrea working on the renewal and IRB approval renewal.
- Met with the Delta's Therapeutic Court to talk about HIV and risk factors(14 participants)
- Presence at annual Camai Dance Festival where over 175 folks participated in a quiz about HIV and entered raffle
- Arrangements made for travel and hotel for All-Grantee's meeting.
- Andrea and Carl have reservations to Dance Theater of Harlem at the Kennedy Center at 7:30 on the 10th. Web site: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=showEvent&event=BEBSC>

## HRSA Update

- Sandi said HRSA is working with OU to put the grantee meeting together and welcome input and ideas from everybody. HRSA is also reviewing semi-annual reports and providing feedback to the projects.

## OU Update

- Marguerite said that annual report deadline is on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Tim reiterated that OU is working on the grantee meeting and asked projects to send their presentation titles.
- Marguerite will be sending out a draft agenda for the June meeting.
- Tim asked if projects wanted to have the all project conference call in June two days after the grantee meeting or to have the next call in July.
- Sandi suggested the call be postponed.
- Participants agreed for the conference call to be postponed to July 12.
- Tracy asked OU and HRSA to stay on following the call to discuss the tentatively scheduled site visit.
- Jutta asked if Sarah will be in her office later on so she can call her. Sarah said she will be.

The conference call ended about 12:30 pm