

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

Participants: *OU:* Morris Foster, Glenn Solomon, Marguerite Keesee, Lynda Williams, Saleem Ahmad; *4CC:* Kevin Foley, Rebeccah Rodreguez; *ANTHC:* Gloria Eldridge, Tracy Speier; *NAHC:* Maritza Penagos; *SPIPA:* Jutta Riediger, Raylene McCloud, Lisa Shipman; *Robeson:* Dwayne Lowry, Jo Lentz, Jennifer McLamb; *YK:* Andrea Savage, Carl Evans; *HRSA:* Sarah Hargrove.

Project Reports:

Robeson

- Robert is attending the NC HIV/AIDS Community Planning leadership conference in Raleigh.
- In June:
 - Held 3rd Annual Fatherhood event
 - More than 800 people in attendance
 - Spoke about cycles of addiction
- New lay health advisor instructor
 - Michael Gross
 - works from Durham: Partners in Caring
 - next training is September 11th and 18th
 - To be held in Evans Crossroads community
 - least amount of participation in screening and outreaches
 - lowest attendance of health outreach
 - 36 people currently signed up (attempt to limit to 15-20 people). People have taken the initiative and contacted the Healing Lodge and want to be a part of this training.
 - may have to have two training events to accommodate people
 - important to have the people be able to tell their story
 - Glenn asked if any of the stories have been considered for case studies, and suggested this would be a good idea
- So far this year, the project has screened 1,033 people
 - actual testing numbers for HIV through June not available

- for June, 3 clients were tested and one returned positive
- Glenn asked about a possible site visit between September 11th and the 18th
 - Glenn will email Dwayne
 - Dwayne said the time would be good, especially to view the trainings
- Jennifer said they are in the middle of transitioning the project to the Healing Lodge, and satisfying all of the HRSA requirements
 - Jennifer is sending all of the information to Tammy Jeff
- Jo asked when the project was presenting at All Titles and who pays for travel
 - Date/time unknown
 - Only information available is on the web; Sarah said they are still finalizing the details
 - Payment for travel, etc. comes from project

SPIPA

- Raylene and Lisa, **Tribal HIV/AIDS Advocates**, are joining the All Projects call for the first time
- Update on tribal staff training and carryover
 - Allowed to do competency training for staff
 - Trainings have been provided with computers on Word. Trainings will occur on Excel, Publisher, and PowerPoint.
 - Build individual capacity **for tribal staff** to design and produce some of their own **outreach** materials
 - Will join the Washington State testing and counseling training this week. Staff will be licensed through the state as counselors.
 - First step into CDC rapid testing training
 - All four staff will be going in September **to the CDC Rapid Testing Train the Trainer session.**
- Tribal Activities
 - Working together to plan a youth art contest and a button blanket event.
 - Working on a canoe journey (symbol used in poster)
 - Large number of youth involved
 - HIV outreach will occur at each site
 - Looking to produce a youth video with a rap on HIV
 - Supported through another grant being proposed **through SPIPA with local health department involvement**

- Outreach to Health Departments
 - All health department leads were in last advisory board
 - Offered to come to staff meetings to discuss services, overlap and provide training
- Training with Glenn
 - Proposed for August/September
- Karina will be presenting at All Titles for SPIPA

4CC

- National HIV Testing Day
 - Put a planning committee together to organize 5 testing days of the week of the 21-25th
 - Different location for each of the five days
 - At Window Rock, the project tested approximately 55 people
 - One syphilis test returned reactive
- Planning a retreat for 4CC for first Thursday in September
 - Report on past two years and future direction, as well as activities and barriers
 - Opportunity to reconnect with Gallup Medical Providers to work with them on chart extraction form and study guide
 - Working on a pre/post test with medical providers to read study guides and work with getting them certified as a HIV provider
Develop a protocol during the retreat
- Develop two brochures
 - Introducing HIV positive people to a health survey (25 page questionnaire)
 - Getting a lot of surveys through the Navajo Network
Have local doctors help recruit participants for survey
 - Introducing people to all of the HIV services available
Including 4CC and all of the collaborative

Working on the MOU with Gallup Indian Medical Center

- Will meet with Melvin to design the MOU
- UNM IRB
 - Difficulty having them recognize the Navajo Nation
 - Rebeccah has currently been working with them on the issue and has secured some concessions
 - Kevin will be added to the form as a co-PI

- Boyd Bowman (Navajo Nation IRB liaison) will be added to consent form
 - Changes will go to UNM IRB, then go onto to Navajo Nation IRB
 - Rebeccah stated approvals were received this morning for the changes
 - Can move forward with using new consent and sharing it with Navajo
- First year objectives achieved
 - At NCI (end of fiscal year)
 - Projected 1,500 prevention education screenings
 - Reached 1,600 – almost 1,700 people
 - Secured 20 health surveys from HIV positive people in their area
 - NAN has provided case management services to 48 people.
- One patient has died that was newly diagnosed
 - Received no medical care
 - Disease still unknown to some people on reservation

NAHC

- Maritza began work on May 12, 2004
- Attended cultural training by traditional healer with FCGC staff May 18, 2004. Clients meet individually with him over course of two days.
- Re-instated weekly case conferences with FCGC staff May 27, 2004
- May 27, 2004 was Carol Cano's (substance abuse counselor) last day of employment. FCGC Clinical Director Nelson Jim made arrangements for Lenny Plentyhoops, a Native Substance Abuse Counselor, to continue the group through July 15, 2004.
- NAHC received notice (in early June) that our CDC grant, Circle of Healing, was awarded. This 5 year award is a prevention grant that will allow us to provide three types of prevention interventions:
 - Prevention case management. Two new staff positions will fall under this intervention, an LCSW who will be the prevention case manager, as well as an outreach worker to reach the community.
 - Counseling, Testing & Referral. We will now offer rapid testing, in conjunction with the Orasure and blood tests that we currently provide.
 - Prevention messages embedded into primary care visits.

- This grant also provides for a data manager, which, with the other 2 full-time positions from this award, doubles the size of our HIV department staff.
- Attended SPNS grantee meeting June 10-11, 2004
- Attended CDC grantee conference in Atlanta from June 14-June 16
- Attended HIV Prevention Leadership Summit in Atlanta from June 17-June 19
- Met with NAAP (Native American AIDS Project) on June 24, re-instating inter-organizational case conferences. Prior to this meeting, I met with NAAP's Project Director in an attempt to iron out organizational differences. The meeting seemed to go well.
- Re-created job description from three separate part-time positions into one full-time position. Posted position and began receiving resumes in late June. The position is an HIV Peer Advocate/Substance Abuse Counselor and initial telephone interviews with 9 candidates begin on July 9.
- Interviewed candidate for RN case manager—position offered but candidate unable to commit to our hiring time frame, due to his living out of state.
- Met with Stacey, Health Educator at Friendship House, along with Karen, to understand her position responsibilities and referral process (June 29).
- On July 8th, Melanie (art therapist) and Aurora (outreach worker) take clients on outing for a summer solstice celebration.
- Memorial at NAAP for two deceased (mutual) clients held on July 9.
- Beading class continues to be held weekly by Aurora and Stacey.
- A meeting is scheduled July 12 with the owners of Hummingbird Lodge where our monthly sweat lodges have been held. These will resume on July 23.
- Callie completed 2 more three-month follow-ups with SPNS clients; 3 surveys remain to be completed.
- Temporary RN Case manager's last day will be July 15. That position remains unfilled.
- Glenn will be contacting the project concerning a site visit

Yukon-Kuskokwim

- National HIV Testing Day
 - Approximately 35 were tested
 - Additionally, the lab saw 4 people
 - Staff were also tested
 - Since the day fell on Sunday, the hospital observed it through the week because so many people signed up to be tested
 - Would like to look at providing it in the villages next year
 - The summer months are usually low traffic to the villages
- Drastic cuts in state public health nursing (3 positions cut from Bethel)
 - Reproductive Health Nurse Practitioner
 - Disease Investigator
- Attempting to fill in the gaps that the cuts have left
 - Cases of Chlamydia tripled when the disease investigator first came
 - People were being tested and notified
- Applied for the CDC grant
 - Hope to hire a disease investigator to follow up with positives
- Mark just moved to the village
- Planning for survey collection in the fall
 - 4 of the 5 villages
 - Need to be tested knowledge
- October is potentially a good month for a site visit Glenn will be emailing about a site visit in October

ANTHC

- Summer time is slow time in rural Alaska because everyone is out subsisting (fishing, berry picking, and hunting for their food staples for the up coming winter). Subsisting take precedence over programs in rural Alaska because this is still a means of survival for the rural populations (especially Alaska Natives) in Alaska.

- The trip to Nome with OU was cancelled by NSHC's Behavioral Health Department because they were right in the middle of writing their state grant that supports the majority of the BH providers.
 - Waiting for people in Nome to return to the office to confirm a time to meet to discuss the scheduling of trainings, and data collection activities that are planned for year III.

- Discussed with OU the possibility of budget modification (using carryover) to add an Alaska Native mentoring position that would be based in Anchorage, but would work in Nome
 - Waiting on Dr. Berner to confirm this he is currently on an annual leave
 - In the meantime, Project Coordinator is working with the Finance Department to close out the budget within the 90 day allotted time frame.

- Data sharing agreement from the area IRB
 - Will resubmit and direct the IRB to the information that already has been submitted

- Continual training will be provided to the BH providers in Nome, we will be conducting focus groups with BH providers in year three as a snap-shot analysis of what additional training would assist them in integrating risk assessments, pre- and post- counseling and HIV/AIDS testing referrals into their existing clinical services. Developing some focus groups to work with the behavioral health providers
 - There is expected to be some high turn over with BH providers in Nome in September because the loan repayment program has a cycle that is ending and many providers are planning on leaving. Consequently, the SPNS project Coordinator will have to provide an update training for the newly hired staff.

- Project Coordinator has several messages into the Behavioral Health Director at NSHC to request a meeting to schedule continuation training and focus group for year three, still waiting to hear back from NSHC about this. The SPNS Project Coordinator is also collaborating internally with the AETC project to possibly provide rapid testing training to providers in Nome. Initial discussions are taking place at present.

- Should attempt to schedule a training during the next OU site visit, this will of course depend on coordinating schedules with NSHC, rather than scheduling the training around when OU plans a site visit.
 - Project Coordinator will include OU in the discussion when more information is available.

- The Project Coordinator and the Evaluation team at UAA are developing an multiple interview processes (key-informant interview, focus groups, and surveys) to be conducted over the course of the next two year with transitional prisoners in Nome, key health administrators at NSHC and DOC, and key providers within NSHC and DOC.
- Tracy will also continue to explore the impacts of the State's Administration's new budget cut backs on public health nursing and its possible impact on the SPNS project.
- Glenn will check with Morris and email Tracy about scheduling a site visit in the Fall.
- The SPNS Project Coordinator has been and continues to work with the YKHC Project Coordinator in developing the presentation for the All Titles Conference in D.C. in August.

Additional Discussion Points (led by OU):

Marguerite indicated that the projects need to submit their PowerPoint presentations from the most recent SPNS meeting.

Tracy indicated that the other attendee from her project has not received his reimbursement. Marguerite will check with Julie.

Discussion on medical extraction tool: Glenn reiterated that he supported 4CC using the existing form that they have. Morris indicated that there wasn't much interest in securing use of the medical extraction tool with carryover money. Maritza reiterated that NAHC was still interested in the product at the end of SPNS. Glenn said that technically we could assist the project if they choose to move forward with the idea.

The next conference call is scheduled for August 9th. Individual project calls next week.

The new conference call number will remain the same for all upcoming conference calls.