

Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
Epidemiology Advisory Committee (EAC)
Director's Report *submitted by Leslie Clinkenbeard*
April 2008

ADMINISTRATION

The last three months have been very busy times for the Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center! We have united as a TEAM and are addressing the public health needs and concerns of the communities we serve. We are eager to assist, work diligently to provide support, and have passion for the causes we serve

Budget

Project Budget:

- 1) Tribal Epidemiology Center YR3/YR5
(FY2008: October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008)
- 2) AI/AN Disparities YR1/YR5
(FY2008:
- 3) Tribal Epidemiology Center Consortium YR2/YR5
(FY2008: June 1, 2007-May 31, 2008)
- 4) Dept Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services YR1/YR3
(FY2008: June 1, 2007-May 31, 2008)

Carryover Funds:

- 1) TEC: SPIEC received approval for carryover funds on March 1, 2008. The carryover funds have been approved to be allocated in the following manner to meet the following objectives:
 - Contract with a research group to develop/conduct/analyze the remaining community health profiles (40) by December 2008. We are currently accepting bids through January 15, 2008, and anticipate awarding the contract in March 2008.
 - Data Analyst
 - Evaluator
 - Material Development

This is a partnership with American Lung Association. SPIEC is partnering with the American Lung Association to develop culturally sensitive cost-effective tobacco prevention print media and training tools regarding pregnancy and secondary and tertiary environmental smoke exposure. Projected release of new print media: May 2008

 - Etc
- 2) TECC: December 14, 2007, we received a contract amendment between the Northwest Portland Area Indian health Board and OCAITHB granting approval to use carryover funds from year. The contract period was extended to May 31, 2008. We plan on using these funds to meet the following objectives:
 - GIS purchased
 - Supplies
 - Travel
 - Conference stipends
 - Collaborate with the HIS National Epidemiology Program and Program Statistics Office to begin establishing standard protocols addressing how data is compared between IHS areas

- Support the establishment of a regional tribal advisory group
- Provide or participate in training in assessed areas of greatest needs of the staff from the three Consortium partners
- Develop Evaluation Plan and take the lead on evaluating the progress of the EpiCenter Consortium model

3) Due to strategic planning – there should be minimal (if any) carryover funds for FY09

Tribal Epidemiology Center

- Who are We:
 - Letter of introduction
 - New SPIEC brochure is in development, which includes new contact information, new staff information such as areas of focus and photos. SPIEC would like to establish a team work environment.
 - **HANDOUT**
 - SPIEC staff team events,
 - Participating in team activities to promote health and well being.
 - Polo and t-shirts information are being gathered and compared in regards to price.
- Organization/Efficiency:
 - Vision\Mission\Goals
 - All staff working to follow and uphold the above...
 - Staff Areas of Focus – each staff has identified area of interest, they will become experts in their selected area, they will know the stats and trends for their areas for the NA population in OK, OCA, Nationally, and comparison stats to other races, and HIS areas. We will have a report of findings for the July meetings. Also staff is submitting articles to Diana for Newsletter based on their area/interest of focus.
 - Leslie - Environmental Health, Prevention Science, Community Preparedness
 - Robin – Communicable disease, Cancer, GIS
 - Diana – Substance Abuse/Behavioral Health, Conference Planning, Cultural Awareness Training, Material and Curriculum Development
 - Melinda – Heart disease, Stroke, Maternal/Child Health, Immunizations
 - Courtney – Diabetes, Injury, Suicide
 - Sydney – Substance Abuse, Violence
 - Loren – Web design, Grant management
 - TBD – Statistical analysis
 - Website
 - See updated version
 - Online registration for trainings/conferences
 - Success
 - Data Into Action Conference
 - 1st Injury Prevention Summit
 - An Epidemiology Center folder has been created, located on the O drive, for standard forms that the staff uses such as timesheets, the public health terminology document, travel request forms, etc.
- Increasing our Epidemiology knowledge through:
 - A public health terminology word document has been created and distributed to the SPIEC/OCAITHB staff. The one page document includes public health terms and the definitions such as Epidemiology, Health Promotion, etc.
 - Monthly journal club meetings
 - Areas of focus – health indicators

- Trainings
 - HIPPA
 - IRB
 - EPI
 - RPMS
- Conferences/Meetings:
 - TCAC in OKC – Jan 8-11, 2008: Leslie, Courtney, Sydney
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee (TCAC) held their first biannual Tribal Consultation Session on the CDC campus in Atlanta, Georgia. Information on how CDC and Native American Tribes can create, develop and establish partnership was obtained. Some Tribal Epidemiology Center's (TEC) directors and or representatives were present. Networking among other TECs and CDC staff was achieved.
 - TEC's directors meeting is scheduled in April 2008 at the Indian Health Service Albuquerque Area – National Epidemiology Division. SPIEC's director and one epidemiologist are scheduled to attend.
 - AI/AN Health Disparities grantee meeting is scheduled for April 8-10, 2008 in D.C. SPIEC's director and one epidemiologist are scheduled to attend.
 - Kansas Health Disparities Conference – March 31 - April 1, 2008, Topeka, KS
 - ITEMC Summit & Tribal Pan Flu Planning Session - June 2-4, 2008
 - Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist – June 8-12, 2008
- Trainings:
 - Cherokee Nation Cancer Summit - March 5-7, 2008: Leslie, Diana, Robin, Melinda
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - April 5, 2008: Leslie, Diana, Melinda
 - RPMS - May 5-7, 2008: Leslie, Robin, Melinda
 - CMS – April 14-16, 2008: Diana, Bobbi
 - Epidemiology Summer Institute - June 2008: Melinda
 - Geographical Information System – June 2008: Courtney
 - CDC Public Health Summer Internship - June 2008: Sydney
 - Weekly Surveillance Meetings (OSDH) – Robin, Melinda, Courtney
- Presentations
 - TCAC in OKC – Jan 8-11, 2008: Leslie, Courtney – Tribal Epi Center Consortium

Current TEC Research/Projects

Community Health Profile Project

- Since January 2008, a total of 8 tribal visitations have been completed in the Oklahoma City Area (OCA). Tribal visitation included Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board (OCAITHB), Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (SPIEC) staff, the tribal council members and tribal health director. The tribal visitations consist of introduction of new staff, information on current projects of the OCAITHB and SPIEC, upcoming training/conferences and the Community Health Profile (CHP). Along with the approach of the CHP for tribal specifically the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) was introduced. All 7 tribes openly welcome the CHP project and were in agreement with signing the DSA, with a resolution. However, the process of completing the DSA and resolution has to cycle into the agenda of the Tribal Council Meeting. Most Tribal Council Meetings are held once a month.
 - The follow-up methods include emailing and phone calling individuals from the sign-in sheet from the tribal visits on a schedule of every two weeks.
 - Majority of the tribes responds includes finally approval of the DSA and resolution has passed the first phase of approval and ready to be moved

forward onto the tribal council meeting agenda for the final step of approval. Follow-up methods will be conducted until all DSA and resolutions are completed by each tribe.

Tribal visitation is a continue task for the SPIEC to obtain DSA for the CHP. Many Oklahoma Tribes are in the future SPIEC's month schedule. Several attempts to schedule a meeting with tribes have been conducted by email and phone calls. One tribe has requested the CHP and DSA be mail to the tribal council members in place of a meeting. With this the SPIEC has taken another approach for scheduling a meeting with tribes. Each package is going to include an example of a CHP, DSA, training/conference information, SPIEC brochure and contact information is in process. The mass postal mail out is going to be followed-up with a phone call regarding scheduling a meeting and answering questions and concerns. The method may lead to rapid meeting scheduling between the SPIEC and tribes.

- A tribal portfolio has been created for each OCA tribe. Each tribal portfolio contain a tribal contact sheet, current tribal council member information, and open space for the future DSA/resolution sheets and GIS mapping. Other information for each specific tribe will be filtered into the portfolio in the future.

- **HANDOUT**

- **Tribe Visit**

- Kansas
 - Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
 - Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
 - Kickapoo Tribe of KS
 - Iowa Tribe of KS & NEB
- Texas
 - Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- Oklahoma
 - Absentee Shawnee Tribe
 - Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
 - Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
 - Cheyenne Arapaho

Tribal Epidemiology Center Consortium

- 2nd phase of funding is almost complete (May 31, 2008)
- Focus was on the development of an Injury Prevention Toolkit for tribes. Leslie and Courtney have begun working on developing the Toolkit. This involves gathering input on drafts from tribes/community members, incorporating their feedback, and finalizing and producing the toolkit for dissemination in May 2008.
- The 1st Annual Injury Prevention Summit is on May 1, 2008
- 3rd phase of funding begins June 1, 2008
 - Budget cut
 - Not sure of impact yet

AI/AN Health Disparities Program

- **Communicable Disease and Injury Data Enhancement Project:**
 - Two meetings have taken place – March 6th and March 18th
 - MOA/DSA/IRB in progress
 - MOA/DSA will be from OSDH for our review
 - Met with Travis Watts about IHS IRB process and requirements
 - Will need IRB approval/exemption from IHS, OSDH, Tribal IRB (if applicable)

- Diseases and conditions of interest are: HIV, CD4 cell count, HIV viral load, Hepatitis B, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, salmonella, campylobacter, tuberculosis, shigella, and syphilis
- Methodology, including timeframe, for assessing reporting rates and misclassification are being determined
 - I/T/U may submit cases based on lab confirmation/diagnosis directly to OSDH
- Contacted one Tribal system for feasibility information
- PHIDDO and HAN Coordinators will provide onsite trainings to interested I/T/U's
- **Cancer Registry Data Enhancement Project**

Two meetings have taken place – February 29th and March 28th

 - MOA/DSA in progress
 - IRB application will be submitted to IHS and OSDH for approval/exemption
 - All deliverables are on track
- **Creating career pathways in public health practices and prevention oriented research for tribal members**
 - Steering Committee has been contacted via email and phone
 - Sydney Lee, Cherokee, is the current TEC Intern
 - Sydney has applied to the OU College of Public Health and is interested in applying to the Biostatistics and Epidemiology department
 - Sydney has applied to attend the CDC Summer Internship Program
- **Providing training to leadership at all levels in the areas of cultural competency and Issues specific to AI/AN health disparities**

The National Indian Women's Health Resource Center is subcontracted for the cultural awareness portion of this grant

 - Participation letters were sent to Tribes asking for participation in the development of cultural awareness training focus groups with follow up phone calls in progress
 - Focus group questionnaires have been developed
 - Pam is working on the Chickasaw Nation, IHS and OSDH IRB applications

Nurses as Researchers

No update at this point.

Future Research/Development

Submitted Applications:

- CDC/ASTDR Conference Grant (March 3, 2008) – Waiting on Acceptance Notice
- Public Health Prevention Specialist (April 7, 2008) – Waiting on Acceptance Notice

Work In Progress:

- Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS) – Partnership with COPH and OTRC
- Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC)
 - Partnership between ATTC and the Area Indian Health Boards (AIHBs). The purpose of these special projects will be to provide training and technical assistance on substance use disorders and closely related issues to the Indian Tribes. The purpose of this letter is to explain these special projects and to elicit letters of application from ATTC regional centers that are interested in competing for these supplemental awards.
- HIV – An individual has offered to assist OCAITHB in developing a pilot project addressing HIV/AIDs that can be discussed with the Office of Minority Health where funds exist for that purpose. The funds are not funds that will be issued through an RFA/RFP.

Resolutions:

- SPIEC will begin working on the following grant applications pending resolution results.
 - ◆ Resolution 2008-10
 - ◆ Resolution 2008-11

Future Projects

- What direction would the EAC like us to take?
- Projects that SPIEC is currently considering:
 - 1) Preventing Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence
 - a. OSDH has asked us to partner with them on this very important initiative
 - i. More information forthcoming
 - 2) Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist
 - a. ODMHSAS
 - i. Position funded through partnership with ODMHSAS, PS would partner with all tribes to offer assistance in the fight against substance abuse. The PS will also provide technical assistance and providing train the trainer's trainings.

Position Announcements: We hope to announce a new position in the near future in the Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center:

1. Data Analyst (Funded by 2 years of TEC carryover funds)
2. Epidemiologist – Substance Abuse/Grant Writing (Funded by ODMHSAS)
3. Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist (Funded by ODMHSAS)

Tribal Data Sharing Agreements/Resolutions:

- Data sharing agreements have been signed with:
 - Osage
 - Citizen Potawatomi
 - Ponca
 - Comanche Nations
 - Choctaw Nation
- Pending Agreements:
 - Chickasaw Nation
 - Absentee Shawnee Tribe.
 - Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
 - Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
 - Kickapoo Tribe of KS
 - Iowa Tribe of KS & NEB
 - Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
 - Absentee Shawnee Tribe
 - Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
 - Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
 - Cheyenne Arapaho

Director's Current Activities/Partnerships/Commitments:

Community Health Profiles:

SPIEC understands that this has been a project in the works for a considerable amount of time and is diligently working to working to complete the all CHP in a timely fashion.

Tribal Assessment

Tribal Health Assessment project is back in the planning phase. We have discovered that meeting with the tribes for the DSA is a perfect time to conduct the tribal assessment.

Continuation Applications

AI/AN Disparities – April 23, 2008

Tribal Epi Center – June 1, 2008

TECC – May 15, 2008

Evaluation

PanFlu Plans

Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Health Utilization Survey

Data Into Action Conference Evaluation

State and Local Planning Subgroup for pandemic influenza vaccine implementation Member

In January 2008, DHS and CDC formed the Pandemic Influenza Vaccine Implementation Working Group (the core working group). The charge for the core working group is to develop national guidance for implementing the recommendations on vaccinating priority groups. The core working group will draft recommendations to guide agencies and organizations responsible for developing and implementing pandemic influenza vaccination programs at the federal, state and local levels. The implementation guidance will be developed to be consistent with the draft priority group recommendations. Although the core working group acknowledges there will be regional, state, and even local differences within a state in the way vaccination activities are conducted, the implementation guidance will provide national recommendations which can be applied in any jurisdiction. The intent of the implementation guidance is not that it be an operational blue print for implementation, but rather a guide to facilitate state, local, industry, and community planning and to provide for equity and fairness in how vaccine is allocated, distributed and administered.

Pandemic Influenza: Vulnerable Populations in Tribal Communities Co-Author

Ralph reviewed the manuscript project background, plans for publication with AJPH, and attempted to place this article in context with the others. He also noted that he distributed a series of emails containing numerous articles and other documents that may be helpful as we move forward. One completed article was included (on pregnant women) and drafts of others will be forwarded as they become available

OU Center for Risk and Crisis Management (RISK Center) Community Advisory Board Member

To emphasize the need for emergency operations in crisis management (possible goal) by developing standard operating procedures and policies for developing COOP plans/templates, Management Information plans/system, identifying responsibilities at all levels from personal (individual citizens) to jurisdictional, and change cultural norm of government reliance to emphasize self reliance and civic responsibility

Health Research Advisory Council

The purpose of this committee is to determine what health research tribes feel is needed to reduce disparities and guide on-going research so it serves those purposes.

Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center Steering Committee Member

To reduce the burden of tobacco related health problems in Oklahoma by stimulating the generation and dissemination of knowledge and the implementation and diffusion of effective practices.

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System/Toddler Survey Steering Committee Member

The goal of PRAMS Steering Committee is to collect ideas on topics to analyze and methods of dissemination for both PRAMS and TOTS and to find research and PRAMS grams writing partners. The steering committee is made up of a multi-disciplinary membership will consist of representatives from public, private and academic sectors with expertise in the following areas to assist with data analysis and dissemination: obstetrics and gynecology, perinatology and neonatology, Latino, Native American, and African American health issues, mental health, nutrition, poverty, family violence, substance abuse, injury prevention, health risk behaviors and screening, among others. Melinda Frank, serves as alternate

Catastrophic Health Emergency Planning Task Force Alternate Member

The Catastrophic Health Emergency Planning Task Force is being reconvened order to update the Catastrophic Health Emergency Plan. Secretary of Health and Commissioner of Health James M. Crutcher, MD, MPH, will serve as the chair of the task force.

Oklahoma Arthritis Network Committee Member

The Oklahoma Arthritis Network is a statewide partnership of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals, working together to educate the public about the 100+ forms of arthritis and to help reduce the economic, physical and social burdens of these diseases.

CDC Biosurveillance Working Group Member

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is launching the Biosurveillance Coordination Unit (BCU). This group has been authorized by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security to coordinate the activities necessary to accomplish Homeland Security Presidential Directive 21 (HSPD-21). This working group will help detail the Nation's current biosurveillance capability and to help develop plans to enhance this capacity in the future. This work group will be established to ensure that state, local, territorial and tribal viewpoints are included.

Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup Substance Abuse Member

The 1st annual Epidemiological Substance Abuse Profile is finished and available from Leslie electronically. The 2nd annual SEOW profile is expected in May 2008. The SEOW Workgroup, the workgroup was organized to collect, document and report substance use data including Incidence, Prevalence and Outcomes/Consequences of Substance Use; Data can be used for decision making (planning, monitoring, and evaluation).

Society for Prevention Research – Outstanding Research Award

The Society for Prevention Research seeks to advance science-based prevention programs and policies through empirical research. The international membership of the organization includes scientists, practitioners, advocates, administrators, and policy makers who are concerned with the prevention of social, physical and mental health problems and the promotion of health, safety, and well-being.

Service to Science

The Service to Science Academy is designed to enhance the capacity of states, sub-state recipients and community-based organizations/coalitions to plan, design, implement and evaluate evidence-based effective prevention interventions.

- **May 19-20, 2008 New Orleans** – Presenting: TEC Director (Leslie Clinkenbeard)

IHS PanFlu Vaccine Training

An innovative and interactive training program that teaches public health professionals the skills necessary to become a primary source for vaccine information and administration.

TRAINING AND INTERVENTION

Training:

Free CMS training:

April 14-16, 2008 – Lawrence, Kansas: Haskell Indian Nations University

Conferences:

January 28-30, 2008 – Native Diabetes Prevention Conference, Phoenix Arizona

February 14, 2008 – Sac and Fox Health Fair

March 4-6, 2008- 4th National Summit on Smokeless and Spit Tobacco, OKC Oklahoma

April 5, 2008 – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, COPH – Oklahoma City

April 10-11, 2008 – DHHS Tribal Consultation, Region 6 – Dallas, TX

April 14-15, 2008 – CMS Training – Haskell, KS

April 23-25, 2008 – Preparing for the 7th Generation – Oklahoma City, OK

May 1, 2008 - 1st Annual Injury Prevention Summit – Oklahoma City, OK

Cultural Competency:

Diana is currently working with the National Indian Women’s Health Resource Center director in developing cultural competency training for Native and non-Native communities to utilize. The first project includes conducting focus groups using a survey tool, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Public Health (OUHSC-COPH) faculty and staff and the Oklahoma State Department of Health officials will participate. Focus groups will be held with American Indian tribal representatives to establish the types of information they deem important to be included in the CCT. Focus groups scheduled to begin May 2008.

Partnership:

- USET
- NWAIW – Pam Iron
- OSDH -
- ODMHSAS
- American Lung Association
- COPH
- OTRC
- OAN
- CDC
- IHS

Newsletter:

The 2nd newsletter of 2008 will be released - May 15, 2008. Please forward any stories to Diana no later than May 5, 2008 diana.cournoyer@ihs.gov

EpiCenter Library:

The EpiCenter staff has finished developing the Epi Center library. This library is intended to be a resource for staff to use in everyday activities. The library items include How-To Survey books, Methamphetamine Prevention Toolkit and various epidemiology and medical resource books such as “Coalitions and Partnerships in Community Health” and “Textbook of Cancer Epidemiology”, among others. We are open to suggestions for adding information to our library and intent for this library to serve as an on-site resource for tribes needing information regarding specific epi and public health topics.

PARTNERSHIPS

IHS Workgroups:

Leslie and staff are continuing to partner with OCA-IHS on several Strategic Plan Workgroups. Regular meetings/collaborations with IHS include:

- 1) Community Health Profiles (Objective 1.3.1: Identifying community and clinical health trends)
- 2) Data Sharing (Objective 1.2.1: Develop Area policy for the sharing of information between EpiCenter, I/T/Us and other agencies)
- 3) Training – (Objective 2.1: Provide accurate and timely clinical data on the health of AI/AN. Provide quality health information for decision making to patients, providers, and communities through improved information systems)

Support:

SPIEC staff understands the importance of participating in activities that benefit the communities we serve. It is our goal and intention to work closely with our community partners and provide public health and epidemiology services to meet the needs of the Native American population.

- Health Fairs
- Red bud Classic

Maps Collaboration: Continuing with OCAO PPD.

Weekly Oklahoma State Department of Health Epidemiology Meetings: SPIEC staff will continue to attend weekly meetings at OSDH each Tuesday. Every effort is being made to ensure at least one SPIEC staff member is present each week. Outbreaks and systems are discussed. Vital partnerships are continued and information is shared between our epidemiology center and the OSDH staff regarding potential outbreaks that could affect ITUs.

Pandemic Influenza:

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has made funds available through the OCAITHB to pay Oklahoma tribes for completing Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plans. The following tribes received funds for pan flu planning:

1. Cherokee Nation
2. Chickasaw Nation
3. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
4. Citizen Potawatomi Nation
5. Comanche Nation
6. Delaware Nation
7. Kaw Nation
8. Kiowa Tribe
9. Muscogee (Creek) Nation
10. Otoe-Missouria Tribe
11. Ponca Nation
12. Seminole Nation

The Epi Center is planning to provide an evaluation of each plan and give general recommendations where applicable. This should be completed and sent to each tribe in the next several months.

To receive funds, tribes had to submit:

- 1) completed pandemic influenza plans;
- 2) show evidence of having completed the Center for Applied Social Research (CASR) survey that was distributed in early April 2007; and

- 3) show evidence of a relationship with the Intertribal Emergency Management Coalition (ITEMC) and surrounding county partners (health departments, emergency management).

Allan is working to renew the contract with OSDH in hopes to allow the other tribes to participate in the planning and receive funds. He is currently in the process of planning a one day workshop to assist the tribes in completing the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plans