

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

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Funding:**

The last three months have been very busy times for the Southern Plains Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center!

### **Carryover Funds:**

- 1) TEC: December 14, 2007, we submitted a carryover request. We anticipate receiving approval to use the funds mid January 2008. Upon approval, we plan on using the funds 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 31, 2008, and anticipate awarding the contract in March 2008.
  - Host the 1st Annual Indian Data Health Conference on March 27, 2008. We are currently accepting bids through December 31, 2007, and anticipate awarding the contract in January 31, 2008. The objectives of this workshop are:
    - 1) To learn how tribes can benefit from such data resources as the Tribal Epi Center, the Indian Health Service, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, and the US Census Bureau and
    - 2) To understand the best used of available data for tribes and
    - 3) To understand the importance of using data for decision making in tribal health settings.
- 2) TECC: In December, we received an amended contract between Northwest Portland Area Indian health Board and OCAITHB granting approval to use carryover funds from year one. The contract period was extended to May 31, 2008. We plan on using these funds to meet the following objectives:
  - Host and/or participate in at least one site visit with other TECC partners to share approaches on organization policy and procedures and reporting.
  - Support the use of clinical electronic data systems in standardized ways to improve the capture of health data
  - Collaborate with the IHS 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

**Research/Development:** We will begin working on the following grant applications if a resolution is passed.

- 1) RWJ: Health Eating Research  
This application supports research on environmental and policy strategies to promote healthy eating among children to prevent childhood obesity, especially among low-income and racial/ethnic populations with an increased risk for obesity. OCAITHB will use this grant opportunity to investigate and evaluate the positive outcomes of the removal of snack food and soft drink machines from area schools, clinics, and other community facilities.

- 2) NIH/NIDCR: Epidemiological and Behavioral Research in Oral Health  
This application will be a partnership with the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the University of Arizona with Dr. Solomon.
- 3) OVM: Preventing Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence  
This application is for an Office on Violence against Women (OVM) grant to develop and enhance effective plans for tribal government to reduce violent crimes against Indian women and help keep them safe. This application will be a partnership between SPIEC, the National Indian Women Health Resource Center and the Oklahoma Native American Domestic Violence Coalition. The project period will be 36 months.
- 4) CDC/ATSDR: Public Health Conference Support Program  
This application is for a Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Conference, to be held in spring 2009. The objectives for the one day conference include: data sharing and updating from national and state organizations regarding cancer, heart disease and diabetes as well as information on how to expand resources, screenings and prevention within I/T/U health facilities. National speakers include: Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, National Cancer Institute, Native American Cancer Research Center, American Cancer Society, Native Research Network, and many others. Approximately 100 applications are expected to be awarded.
- 5) CDC/NCIPC: Preventing Violence and Violence Related Injury  
This application with the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control will expand and advance the understanding of violence, its causes, and prevention strategies. This application will be collaboration between the Tribal Epidemiology Center Consortium with SPIEC taking the lead role. This application offers a valuable opportunity to all TECCs by providing additional funding to continue their efforts on violence prevention. The grant can request up to 3 years for the project period.
- 6) TSET: Tobacco Print Media and Training Tools  
This application is to receive match funding and to partner with Tobacco Settlement and Endowment Trust (TSET) and the American Lung Association to develop cost-effective tobacco prevention print media and training tools regarding pregnancy and secondary and tertiary environmental smoke exposure.
- 7) CDC: Prevention Specialist Fellowship  
This application is for the Public Health Prevention Service Program at the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention, Office of Workforce and Career Development. This award will provide SPIEC a Prevention Specialist for a 2-year field assignment (No costs to SPIEC or OCAITHB).

**Staff:**

We have hired five (5) new staff:

**Leslie Clinkenbeard, SPIEC Director** has worked as an alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug epidemiologist and a prevention scientist for the past six years before joining SPIEC in November 2007. She is currently the Chair of the Oklahoma State Epidemiological Workgroup and has successfully developed the first State Substance use/abuse Outcome Epidemiological Profile. She has recently been invited to the National Institute on Drug Abuse to present her research findings.

**Loren Tonemah, SPIEC Administrative Assistant**, recently won the Native American Music for Best Folk Recording and performs around the U.S. The Tonemah Band helps coordinate the Fort McDowell summer youth program in Fountain Hills, AZ; this program merges music and healthy lifestyle education.

**Courtney Bingham, SPIEC TECC Coordinator**, is currently working on her masters in Epidemiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center.

**Sydney Lee, SPIEC Research Assistant**, is currently working on completing community health profiles for tribal communities. She is completing her degree at the University of Oklahoma and plays for the OU women's golf team.

**Melinda Frank, SPIEC Epidemiologist**

**Robin Kinnard** has returned from maternity leave and is currently working as the Coordinating Epidemiologist on the newly funded AI/AN Health Disparities Program grant. Robin plans to complete her dissertation in the coming months and finalize her degree in 2008.

We lost a valuable employee in November. **Julie Erb-Alvarez, MPH**, accepted the epidemiologist position with OCA-IHS, Division of Planning and Partnerships. We will miss her and wish her the best!

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

1. Data Analyst/Grant Writer – half time

**Tribal Data Sharing Agreements:**

Data sharing agreements have been signed with Osage, Citizen Potawatomi, Ponca and Comanche Nations. Three others are pending or believed to be near completion: Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation and Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

## **EPIDEMIOLOGY**

**Community Health Profiles:**

We are working to complete the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Choctaw Nation profiles at this time. Leslie is working with the Choctaw Nation Core Capacity staff to finish the Choctaw Nation draft CHP. It was hoped to have the draft by this meeting but data gathering was more cumbersome than anticipated and activities are continuing. This is the same issue for Robin who is working with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation staff to finalize the CPN CHP final draft. Once hired, new staff will be working on these CHPs as a priority in their work.

**Publications:**

The Native American PRAMS-GRAM [Maternal and Child Health (MCH) newsletter] has been finalized through SPIEC collaboration with OSDH MCH. The Epi Center staff have been heavily involved with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) MCH staff in reviewing the data and writing the narrative discussions. The new Native American PRAMS-GRAM is included for your review.

**Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup Substance Abuse grant to ODMHSAS:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Epidemiological Substance Abuse Profile is finished and available from Leslie electronically. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual SEOW profile is expected in May 2008. Leslie currently serves as Chair of 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).

**TECC Update**

The second phase of funding has begun and is focusing 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.

## **TRAINING AND INTERVENTION**

### **Training:**

Free CMS training:

February 7, 2008- Moore/Norman Vo-Tech, Oklahoma

March 5, 2008 – Lawrence, Kansas: Haskell Indian Nations University

Save the date info will be sent out first of the year.

### **Conferences:**

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

February 14, 2008 – Sac and Fox Health Fair

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

### **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:**

SPIEC is partnering with the American Lung Association to re-develop second hand smoke print media. Projected release of new print media: May 2008

### **Tribal Assessment:**

Tribal Health Assessment project placed on hold until further notice.

### **Newsletter:**

The first newsletter of 2008 is due out, February 15, 2008. Please forward any stories to Diana no later than February 13, 2008 [diana.courmoyer@ihs.gov](mailto:diana.courmoyer@ihs.gov)

### **Epi Center Library:**

The Epi Center staff have 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 Epi Centers, 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:**

Leslie and staff traveled to Anadarko to view the Oklahoma City Area Dental Support Center Mobile Dental Unit in Action on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Approximately, a dozen dental professionals provided free dental screenings, sealants, and fillings to students that attend the Riverside Indian School. This remarkable event was developed by Charles Brucklier.

**Maps Collaboration:** Continuing with OCAO PPD.

**Weekly Oklahoma State Department of Health Epidemiology Meetings:** Epi staff will continue to attend weekly meetings at OSDH each Tuesday. Every effort is being made to ensure at least one epi 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 \$4500 allowable 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