

**American Indian/Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)
Quarterly Conference Call
Friday, August 7, 2009**

HRAC Tribal Delegates and Alternates

- Cara Cowan Watts, Oklahoma Area Delegate
- Kathy Hughes, Bemidji Area Delegate
- Elizabeth Neptune, Nashville Area Delegate
- Norman Coeoyate, Albuquerque Area Delegate
- Chester Antone, Tucson Area Delegate
- Reno Franklin, California Area Delegate
- Donald Warne, Aberdeen Area Alternate
- Tim Gilbert, Alaska Area Alternate
- Sarah Hicks, National Congress of American Indians Alternate
- Violet Mitchell-Enos, Phoenix Area Alternate

HRAC Federal Partners

- Ralph Bryan, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Peggy Halpern, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
- Ileana C. Herrell, National Institutes of Health
- Idalia Sanchez, National Institutes of Health
- Wilbur Woodis, Office of Minority Health

Other Attendees

- Victoria Warren-Mears, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Jamie Arsenault, Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona

Meeting Minutes

- A quorum was reached on the call.

Call to Order and Introductions

- Introductions and facilitation: Co-Chair Cara Cowan Watts

1. Face to Face Meeting

- NAMS informed the group that a contract modification was received with additional travel funds for the next face to face meeting.
- The 2nd face to face meeting will either take place on Thursday, November 12, 2009 (1st option) or on Friday, November 13, 2009 (2nd option) in Oklahoma. Cara Cowan Watts is looking into the Cherokee Nation's hotel in Catoosa.

2. Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research

- Dr. Graham has an upcoming meeting with the committee and Wilbur will get a written update and share with the group.

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3. Indian Health Summit in Denver

- Norman Coeoyate updated the group on his presentation and overall experience in Denver.
- Governor Coeoyate felt having the Tribal Consultations along with the Summit was more effective and beneficial since many tribal leaders were in attendance.
- The presentation was short but sparked a lot of interest in particular with Comparative Effectiveness Research.

4. The National Children's Study

- Dr. Donald Warne updated the group on the status of the National Children's Study and its work in Arizona with the Navajo Nation, which seems to be going well. However, Aberdeen and Alaska areas are excluded right now and these two areas have the highest infant mortality rates in the United States.
- They would like to develop an Aberdeen/Alaska Children's Study proposal, as an adjunct study (Great Plains and Alaska Native Study).
- Mr. Tim Gilbert mentioned that their Congressional Delegation would be visiting Alaska this summer, so it would be an appropriate time to discuss.
- Dr. Donald Warne will submit a written report with a draft by August 14th.
 - Mr. Chester Antone questioned if HRAC was currently supporting the supplemental study. He feels HRAC can support this cause.
 - Cara suggested that we first get something in writing for consideration by HRAC.

5. NCAI Policy Research Center Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum at Mid-Year Session

- Ms. Sarah Hicks, from NCAI, gave an update on NCAI's Mid-Year Session that took place on June 13-17 in Niagara Falls, New York.
- Special highlights of the forum included a special video message from President Barack Obama.
- Sarah informed the group that the Mid-Year session has one full day dedicated to research findings in Indian Country.
- Two presentations at the Forum were related to health:
 - Improving Healthcare Access in Native American Communities – Tribal vs. IHS by Jamie Arsenault.
 - Tassy Parker at University of New Mexico and Lucille White from Seneca Health Nation Indian Board spoke about Historical and Current Trauma: Examining Community Memories for the Health of a Nation.
- NCAI provided a presentation on NCAI's Research Curriculum.
- During a break-out session, Tribal leaders discussed health care reform.
- Lt. Governor Keel introduced NCAI's Resolution for recommendations on Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER), which was adopted and is now available on NCAI's website.

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6. Superfund Sites and Research in Indian Country

- This issue requires more research to determine if HRAC should get involved.
- Wilbur Woodis will work with Tracy “Ching” King to address his concerns and will update HRAC on the progress.

7. HRAC Research Report and Annual Report

- Kendra King Bowes from NAMS updated the group on NAMS’ current progress on HRAC reports. NAMS plans on delivering draft reports in the next few weeks.
- The Annual Research Report will be a compilation of research findings relevant to AI/AN’s from HHS agencies. NAMS is working with federal partners to collect information.
- The Annual HRAC Report will summarize highlights and activities of HRAC from the past year. It will also include recommendations that have been made during HHS’ Consultations, Comparative Effectiveness Research, and recommendations that were sent to HHS’ Secretary Sebelius.

8. Planning for FY2010 (Face-to-Face Meeting and Ideas for Presentations and Outreach)

- Mike Snesrud, from CDC, had previously suggested a meeting in January or March in Atlanta to coincide with CDC meetings. The HHS Tribal Consultations in Washington, DC during the spring is another option.
- Sarah Hicks informed the group that NCAI holds three (3) meetings a year that will be held in the following cities in 2010: Washington, DC (March); Rapid City, SD (June); and Albuquerque, NM (November). She said NCAI would be happy to host.
- HRAC will look at options during the November meeting and make a decision.

9. New Business: FACA OGC New Comments on Tribal Advisory Charters

- Wilbur Woodis from OMH updated HRAC on the July 24th meeting that took place with the Intergovernmental Affairs Office in regards to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Office of General Counsel (OGC) presented.
- During the presentation, OGC took a look at charters and their membership rosters.
- Comments were provided for each charter and some wording/language will need to be changed in order to be FACA compliant.
- Other HHS Advisory committees are having the same issues and discussions. NIHB is looking into this further and Reno Franklin has a call with Stacey Ecoffey to discuss this issue and will share any updates with the group.
- This subject is very complicated; HRAC will discuss this in further detail at the next face to face meeting.