

**American Indian/Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)
Quarterly Conference Call
October 13, 2011**

HRAC Tribal Delegates and Alternates

- Emily Hughes, Alaska Area Delegate
- Jay Butler, Alaska Area Alternate
- Christina Daulton, National At-Large Alternate
- Madan Poudel, Navajo Area Delegate
- Elizabeth Neptune, Nashville Area Delegate
- Cara Cowan Watts, Oklahoma Area Delegate
- Violet Mitchell-Enos, Phoenix Area Alternate
- Steve Kutz, Portland Area Delegate
- Chester Antone, Tucson Area Delegate

HRAC Federal Partners

- Wendy Perry, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Bud Nicola, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Wilbur Woodis, Office of Minority Health
- Alan Trachtenberg, Indian Health Service

Other Attendees

- Victoria Warren-Mears, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Tom Anderson, Oklahoma City Inter-Tribal Health Board
- JT Petherick, Cherokee Nation
- Ramona Nez, Navajo Nation
- Blake Harper, National Indian Health Board
- Ric Bothwell, Gana-A'Yoo Services Corporation
- Bill Maas, Gana-A'Yoo Services Corporation
- Pat Parker, Native American Management Services, Inc.
- Kendra King Bowes, Native American Management Services, Inc.
- Ann Hull, Native American Management Services, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

- A quorum was not reached on the call.

Call to Order and Introductions

- Introductions and facilitation: Cara Cowan Watts, Co-Chair

1. HRAC Updates

New HRAC Federal Partners and Federal Partner Meetings

- It has been announced that Dr. Graham will be stepping down as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Minority Health and Dr. Nadine Gracia will serve as the Acting Director

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of OMH. Ms. Sonsiere Cobb Souza will be serving the Acting Deputy Director of OMH.

- Wilbur reported that the HRAC Federal Partners have been meeting via conference calls and in-person meetings over the summer to help move research in Indian Country further based on HRAC discussions and recommendations. The Administration for Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Health Resources and Services Administration have all participated as new HRAC partners.
- Wilbur also mentioned that he has been following up on previous discussions to find funding for the University of New Mexico database, which is a possibility through NIH.

National Indian Health Board Conference

- Jay Butler reported on the research breakout session at the NIHB Conference in Anchorage, AK that he participated in on behalf of HRAC. About 20 people attended the session which was good for being late in the afternoon. At the session there was open discussion about HRAC's function and activities. There were two areas of interest including the National Children's Study to include Indian Country and Adverse Childhood Events Study that was conducted in Northern California by Kaiser Permanente. He noted that there are some strong advocates to doing that kind of study in Alaska and throughout Indian Country.

Research Roundtable

- The first HRAC Research Roundtable was held last year with the purpose to bring together 4 HRAC members, 4 EpiCenter representatives, and 4 Native Researchers along with HRAC Federal partners. We have the funds available to bring a group together again this year on November 10, 2011 from 9am to 5pm at the NIH campus. We are in the process of getting people confirmed and getting the agenda together.
- If you have any feedback or ideas from last year please send them to Kendra King.
- There is hope that NIH staff will attend this year.
- Dr. Trachtenberg volunteered to send the invitation out to the NIH list serve.
- The draft NIH consultation policy will be discussed at this research roundtable. Wilbur is working on getting 4 more tribal leaders to attend the roundtable to discuss the NIH policy in order to get feedback before larger outreach is conducted by NIH, possibly at the NCAI Annual Session.

Co-Chair Election

- Co-Chair Election was put on hold and will be done by email since a quorum was not reached.

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2. Agency or Other Updates

STAC Update

- Chester Antone reported that two meetings have been held recently with the last one on September 13-14. The HHS budget was a big part of the discussions and specifically the hope that the level of funding for Indian Health Service will be maintained.
- There was an update on the ACA Tribal Consultations that had been held along with the work the Intradepartmental Council on Native American Affairs has been doing to improve accessibility of grants for Tribes.
- Isabel Garcia from NIH discussed the NIH Tribal Consultation Policy and Implementation Guidance, which Chester said he was encouraged by.

NIH Tribal Consultation Policy

- NIH did not participate on the call but Wilbur Woodis reported that a draft NIH Implementation Guidance on Tribal Consultation Policy had been drafted. NIH would like to discuss this first during the HRAC Research Roundtable to get feedback from tribal leaders. They then plan to get further feedback, possibly at the NCAI Annual Session.

AI/AN NPA Report

- Pat Parker reported that a copy of the report had been sent out to everyone in early October. If you did not receive a copy please email Pat or Kendra.
- A timeline will be created to give everyone time to review the report and send in their comments and suggestions.

Annual Native Health Research Conference

- Alan Trachtenberg report out that the Annual Native Health Research Conference has been scheduled for July 16-19, 2012 in Seattle, WA. The theme has not been decided yet but the interest is Mental Health.
- The Native Research Network asked if HRAC wanted to be part of the planning committee on the conference. It was also asked that Wilbur be part of the planning committee and he agreed to be involved. There will at first be monthly conference calls and then they will go to biweekly and then weekly as the conference get closer. On the committee will be Wilbur Woodis, Alan Trachtenberg, Wendy Perry and Steve Kutz.
- NRN also asked if HRAC would like to hold a meeting in conjunction with the conference this year.

Health Research Conference and HRAC Meeting

- Cara Cowan Watts suggested that HRAC holds their meeting in Seattle, WA in conjunction with the Annual Native Health Research conference.

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Other Business

- In follow up to discussions at the last HRAC meeting on selecting a priority topic and moving forward with a literature review and evidence report, Cara Cowan Watts suggested breast cancer in women. As there will probably be limited research available, the focus could probably be on both screening and treatment. A few questions were brought up about if anyone looked at the genomics on breast cancer and Indian women? Dr. Trachtenberg mentioned that there is new prognostic testing on tumors for lumpectomy in the general populations, but how likely will this help or to have recurrence. Is it different in the Native population? This will help to find out what we know already and then what we need for the Native population. Also, it will help to find out if other Tribes are currently addressing breast cancer.

3. Next Steps

- Co-Chair election will be done by email.
- Timeline will be sent out for the review of the AI/AN NPA Report.
- Send Dr. Trachtenberg contact information for Steve Kutz.
- Send Cara's thoughts on HRAC and the Annual Native Health Research Conference to be shared during planning meetings.
- Follow up on University of New Mexico database.

4. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned.