

**American Indian/Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)
Quarterly Conference Call
May 12, 2011**

HRAC Tribal Delegates and Alternates

- Emily Hughes, Alaska Area Delegate
- Jay Butler, Alaska Area Alternate
- Kathy Hughes, Bemidji Area Delegate
- Phyllis Davis, Bemidji Area Alternate
- Reno Franklin, California Area Delegate
- Dee Sabattus, Nashville Area Alternate
- Madan Poudel, Navajo Area Delegate
- Cara Cowan Watts, Oklahoma Area Delegate
- Violet Mitchell-Enos, Phoenix Area Alternate
- Christina Daulton, National At-Large Member Alternate
- H. Sally Smith, National At-Large Member Delegate
- Michael Peercy, National At-Large Member Delegate

HRAC Federal Partners

- Wendy Perry, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Sue Clain, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
- Bud Nicola, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Wilbur Woodis, Office of Minority Health
- Leo Nolan, Indian Health Service

Other Attendees

- Victoria Warren-Mears, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
- Patricia Bradley, University of New Mexico
- Andrea Patton, Indian Health Service Office of Self-Governance
- Rita Kie, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board
- Annie Huntington-Kriska, Gana-A'Yoo Services Corporation
- Pat Parker, Native American Management Services, Inc.
- Kendra King Bowes, Native American Management Services, Inc.
- Bonnie Mottram, Native American Management Services, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

- A quorum was reached on the call.

Call to Order and Introductions

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

**American Indian/Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)
Quarterly Conference Call
May 12, 2011**

1. HRAC Updates

HHS Tribal Budget Consultation

- Cara Cowan Watts reported that she represented HRAC at the HHS National Tribal Budget and Policy Consultation in March by presenting testimony and that it was basically the same testimony as in years past. NIH had no real response to the NIH Consultation Policy. Other HRAC members in attendance included Chester Antone and Steve Kutz.
- A question was asked about the status of the HRAC Recommendations matrix that had been suggested at the last meeting. Kendra will send an updated version to Cara for review and then out to the entire group. This will track the recommendations HRAC has made to HHS with responses received from HHS.

HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting

- HRAC was invited to present to the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) along with the other advisory committees. It was a short presentation, but she was able to tell who we are, what we do and what is being focused on. There was good feedback and interest. It was a closed meeting so she was only able to stay for the presentation.

HRAC Charter

- Wilbur indicated, based on the last call with OGC, the charter is accepted. There were just a few changes from the previous version to make sure HRAC is FACA exempt. It was agreed that the charter would be sent out by email for review and approval. Cara indicated there is one week to review and get back with a "yes" or "no".
- Wilbur mentioned that one clarification OGC asked be in the charter was whether or not HRAC would hold open or closed meetings. Wilbur assumed HRAC would continue with open meetings so tribal members interested in HRAC's work could attend. This will help people attending the meetings understand what HRAC is about. Sue Clain did raise the idea for consideration that while HRAC may typically hold open meetings, would there be a need to hold a closed executive session? If so, should that be included in the charter. Kathy Hughes replied that HRAC follows Robert's Rules of Order, which allow for executive sessions, so she did not feel it was needed in the charter.
- Another change that was made to the charter based on OGC was to add in that technical advisors could be utilized. However, any technical advisors or other speakers will only be able to speak if an HRAC member delegates their authority to the individual during that time.
- Another change was to be consistent with using "delegate" throughout the charter.
- Wendy Perry asked how vacancies would now be filled. Wilbur indicated that notices would be sent out to all tribal leaders from the Area requesting nominations.

**American Indian/Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)
Quarterly Conference Call
May 12, 2011**

- Violet suggested that the leadership term be changed from one year to a longer term. Emily supports this and feels one year is not enough time since the individual is just getting started. Kathy said that tribal leaders cannot guarantee their time due to elections, but that HRAC can establish continuity with returning members.
- Violet also suggested that on Page 3, Paragraph 1, that HRAC reword OGC's recommendation to add that National At Large Member delegates can be "employees of an elected tribal official." She would prefer to see that it be employees of the tribe that the elected official is from. (During clarifications on this after the conference call it was decided that since this is for National At-Large Members and designated employees could be from the tribe or a national organization, that the wording be changed to "employees designated by an elected tribal official.")

HRAC Contract

- Kendra indicated that a contract was just signed to continue support services and travel for HRAC until December 1. One change is that OMH now has a contract with Gana-A'Yoo Services Corporation (GSC), a small Alaska Native Corporation. They will be subcontracting with NAMS to maintain consistency, but there will be added staff to support HRAC. Annie Huntington-Kriska will be assisting from GSC and you may have met her if you attended the Albuquerque Meeting in October. Cara thanked OMH and HRAC Federal Partners for their support.

Invitations to SAMHSA, HRSA, and CMS

- Wilbur reported invitations were extended and he had discussions with HRSA, but he will follow-up to try and confirm participation.

Face-to-Face meeting

- Kendra King Bowes reported that the usual spring HRAC meeting in Washington, DC was not held as we were waiting on travel funds. With the new contract in place, the planning of the next meeting can begin. We are looking at holding the HRAC meeting in Niagara Falls, NY on June 27, 2011 in conjunction with the Annual Native Health Research Conference. Several members have already confirmed they are able to participate, others that confirmed via phone included: Reno, Cara, Michael and Sally.
- Leo Nolan reported the Indian Health Service and Dr. Roubideaux would be hosting a round table discussion scheduled for June 27, 5-7pm. The purpose is to review past relationships between IHS and NIH and the NARCH program. It would also look at AHRQ, EpiCenter support and National Library of Medicine efforts. The focus is to develop future plans and recommend research activities and new initiatives. This meeting will include a non-federal facilitator and issues will be recorded into a compact report. This is the first of a few similar meetings that Director Roubideaux will hold over the new few months on research. This is an open meeting, but IHS especially wants to extend an invitation to HRAC. The question was asked if this

**American Indian/Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)
Quarterly Conference Call
May 12, 2011**

forum could also be used to bring up topics such as consultation policy, data funding, etc. Leo replied that this is an open meeting so any recommendations could be put forth. Victoria Warren-Mears replied that she would be interested in additional meeting dates as they expect the NARCH applications to be due around that time so this would preclude most Epi Directors from attending.

2. Agency or Other Updates

Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee Update

- Chester Antone and Andy Joseph, STAC and HRAC members, were unable to be on the call. We will ask Chester for an update via email. Leo indicated that the STAC would be meeting on May 18-19. Dr. Lawrence Tabak, NIH Principal Deputy Director, will be representing NIH.

CDC

- Bud Nicola reported that the CDC was updating its tribal consultation policy. It is currently being reviewed internally, then it will be sent to the TCAC, and then placed in the Federal Register for comments in a few weeks.
- Mid-August is the next scheduled meeting and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board will be hosting the meeting.
- They are still waiting on the tribal position at CDC to be announced. Cara requested that Bud send the information to Kendra when the announcement is made, so that it can be sent out to all HRAC members.

OMH

- Wilbur reported that OMH continues to work with tribal communities. Mirtha Beadle, OMH Deputy Director, participated this week in the Tribal Justice, Safety, and Wellness Conference in Phoenix. OMH also has Regional Minority Health Consultants (primarily in the West) working out in the field.

Others

- It was reported that Dr. Ileana Herrell would no longer be serving as the HRAC representative from NIH and her replacement would be Dr. Joyce Hunter, who represented NIH at the HHS Tribal Budget and Policy Consultation in March. (HRAC has since been informed that Dr. Hunter is not the HRAC representative and that Dr. John Ruffin, Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, would serve as the HRAC representative for the moment).
- Wilbur added his thanks to all federal partners that continue to support HRAC.

**American Indian/Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council (HRAC)
Quarterly Conference Call
May 12, 2011**

3. Native Health Database

- Wilbur reported that this had been put into Dr. Ruffin at NIMHD for funding. A meeting was scheduled during the winter for HRAC Co-Chairs to meet with Dr. Ruffin and discuss this request, but it was cancelled due to inclement weather. Cara and Kathy have been trying to reschedule.
- Patricia Bradley acknowledged her appreciation of HRAC's efforts. She said they are committed to supporting the Native health database and are continuing to add to it. They are doing a digitization feasibility study for federal documents. Leo Nolan added his support for the database as this critical set of information exists nowhere else in the US. Many reports do not exist in the public sector, but are in-house Indian Health Service and Tribal reports. They are excellent reports that go unnoticed and unused. He is very concerned that many are only available in hard copy and they need to be kept available to researchers. It is critical that information be digitized – some of this goes back to 1672 and is very important for historical purposes.

4. Next Steps

- Meeting rescheduled with Dr. Ruffin for Native Health Database
- Written update on Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee
- Travel logistics provided for June 27 HRAC meeting in Niagara Falls, NY
- Charter sent out for vote via email

5. Adjournment

- Emily Hughes made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Reno Franklin. The meeting was adjourned.