



Summary Report of 11/29/22 NCUIH Peer-to-Peer Solutions Center – HIV Office Hours

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Topic: HIV Prevention Programming

NCUIH Hosts: Divya Nanduri, MSPH – Public Health Program Manager

Presenters: Stephanie Craig Rushing, PhD; Michelle Singer, BS



Description:

NCUIH continued the monthly Peer-to-Peer Solutions Center with a session focused on ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Indian Country and Alaska, guided by speakers Stephanie Craig Rushing and Michelle Singer from the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB).

Objectives:

- Identify and discuss common challenges in HIV/AIDS screening, education, prevention, and stigma reduction
- Discuss what HIV/AIDS resources/trainings are needed
- Provide TA Support to UIO challenges with HIV/AIDS care provision and education



Attendance:

- Total Registrants: 32
 - Non-NCUIH Registrants: 21
 - Unique participants at height of the presentation: 26
 - Total UIO Participants: 1

Organizations:

NCUIH

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB)

Yakama Nation

University of Texas Health – Houston

Indian Health Service

Native American Lifelines

Johns Hopkins University

Southern Plains Tribal Health Board

Bishop Paiute Tribe

Taos Pueblo

Presentation Overview:

- Welcome
- Cultural Opening: Chaha'oh/Gathering of People
- Introductions
 - Stephanie Craig Rushing
 - Michelle Singer
- Presentation
 - Stephanie Craig Rushing outlined the successes of NPAIHB's Project Red Talon and its successes in integrating physical, mental, social, and spiritual health to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic
 - Michelle Singer detailed the many community engagement initiatives started by NPAIHB's Healthy Native Youth program
- Ask the Experts - Open Discussion
- Conclusion

Key takeaways/input from UIO/Participants:

- Healthy youth networks are an important place to establish the protective factors that promote adolescent health across a variety of issues.
- Effective health education campaigns include communication strategies across 3 different domains: teachers/educators, teens/young adults, and parents/caring adults.





- Challenges with HIV education include low HIV awareness, hesitancy to discuss HIV, state health standards, and building parental buy-in.
- Messaging around HIV that has resonated with urban Indian communities often involves empowering communities to protect each other.
- Self-testing kits for HIV and STIs fill an important role in HIV prevention by allowing autonomy, privacy, and accessibility.

Overall challenges:

The overall challenges identified in this session were low HIV awareness, hesitancy to discuss HIV, state health standards regarding sexual health services/health education, and building parental buy-in for participation in sexual health education programs.

Chat:

N/A

Conclusion and Next Steps:

This session successfully identified common challenges in HIV care while engaging participants in discussion on needed HIV trainings and resources. Speakers Stephanie Craig Rushing and Michelle Singer shared numerous HIV testing and education resources, as well as program successes that participants can take back to their own organizations. NCUIH staff compiled a resource list that was shared with participants after the event. Participant discussion revealed several common challenges with providing HIV testing and education services, most notably low awareness of HIV, hesitancy to discuss HIV, differing state standards regarding sexual health services, and building parental buy-in for adolescent-focused sexual health education. Stephanie Craig Rushing and Michelle Singer shared their contact information as a point of contact for UIOs working to implement HIV education programs. UIOs can also request Technical Assistance from the AIDS/HIV team on the NCUIH website. Upcoming Community of Learning events produced by NCUIH's AIDS/HIV team will address these challenges alongside other aspects of urban Indian HIV care.

