

Urban American Indian Tobacco Prevention & Education Network Quarterly Network Meeting

Date: July 26, 2007, 11:30-1:30

Location: NARA Madison building

Present: Lois, RE, Jen, Elizabeth, Jennifer, Kylie, Luci, Linda, Yugen, Celeste, Hugh, Ruth, Irene, Shannon, Darlene, Sam

Facilitated by: Becky Wright

Agenda Items:

- I. Introductions/lunch
- II. Updates
 - a. Oregon Powwow Survey
 - b. NARA Tobacco Policy
 - c. Annual state tpep conference- Lori New Breast
 - d. Training at Chemawa
 - e. Evaluation Planning
 - f. Legislative Session
- III. Training opportunities/assessment
- IV. Traditional tobacco brochure
 - a. Review draft and make suggestions
- V. Announcements/upcoming events
 - a. Nesika Illahee Powwow, Siletz, August 10-12
 - b. Grand Ronde Powwow August 17-19
 - c. Klamath Restoration Powwow August 24-26

II. Updates

- a. **Oregon Powwow Survey:** Becky informed the group of a survey that was administered at the Delta Park powwow regarding whose using tobacco, and what types of policies folks would support at powwows. This survey is still in the data entry stage, and will also be administered in August at the Siletz powwow and the Klamath powwow. Some preliminary findings- half of respondents use traditional tobacco, and while over 77% have used commercial tobacco, 52% are current commercial tobacco users. Most people are in support of smokefree areas at powwows, and the majority of respondents were American Indians/Alaskan Natives. The sample size is still relatively small, but still provides insight into what policies the community would support at powwows and possible other community events.
- b. Lois updated the group on what the NARA tobacco policy progress is. There have been two meetings so far of NARA employees working on this policy, and the consensus is that employees should not smoke during work hours, there will need to be a little flexibility around residential clients, and there needs to be a major increase in cessation resources offered to both clients/patients and NARA employees. Becky added that the National Network on Tobacco Prevention & Poverty has approached NARA for a potential pilot program that will provide

training for substance abuse counselors in the incorporation of nicotine dependence into their work. She is in the process of finding out if NARA would be interested, as well as what the correct way of bringing it on board would be. There was a suggestion by Ruth that there should be a training aimed at nonsmoker employees to ensure that there is understanding around the issue of addiction to tobacco and what is most supportive for people who smoke, as well as the fact that the tobacco industry needs to be held accountable for its actions in regards to why so many Native people are addicted. This would help add to the organizational support of folks trying to quit.

- c. The annual Oregon state TPEP conference will be held September 24-26 in Eugene, OR. Becky has helped bring Lori New Breast of the Blackfeet Nation to the conference to speak about traditional tobacco, and indigenous ways of tobacco prevention and health promotion. She will also provide a workshop for tribal tobacco programs as well as other tribal organizations in helping create policy change. There are opportunities for Network members to attend this conference if they desire- the conference registration fee is \$50 dollars, but the state tpep program will pick up the tab for your lodging. If you are interested in attending this conference, please let Becky know, and she may be able to help with the registration fee and travel costs. Registration will open soon.
- d. There will be a training at Chemawa Health Center in Salem for clinicians in how to incorporate tobacco cessation into their patient visits on August 15th. World-renowned cessation specialist David Gonzales, PhD., will be the special speaker for this training.
- e. The evaluation planning project for the UAITPEN has been completed, and the report has been released. See attached pdfs.
- f. Luci provided a brief recap of tobacco related legislation from the past Oregon legislative session. The smokefree workplaces law did pass, exempting tobacco shops and Indian-owned casinos. It will go into effect January 2009, and covers bars, lounges and bowling alleys. The Healthy Kids plan, which was based on a tobacco tax increase, did not pass in the legislation. However, it has been referred to the voters and will be on our ballots next fall as Ballot Measure #50. Funds from the state (such as those that support our program) can not be used for lobbying or racketeering for any ballot measure, however, as individuals we can. So education about the reasons why tobacco tax increases are good for tobacco prevention will be ok coming from the tpep program, but you will not hear from us that folks should vote for the ballot measure. The original funding for the Oregon tobacco prevention & education program was not touched this year, so there is more money for the program. There will be an increase in state level positions in the tobacco program, as well as an increase in funds for community programs. We will keep you posted on how that may affect this program.

Added Agenda item: CeCe Whitewolf and the Native People's Circle of Hope.

NPCOH is involved in a few projects of interest of the Network

- Indian Casinos
 - CeCe is on the Kah-Nee-Ta (Warm Springs casino/resort) board of directors. A work plan will be presented on August 19th to the BOD to do a

survey of Kah-Nee-Ta customers about smoking at the casino, as well as a survey of community members. Becky is being asked to help provide technical assistance in developing this survey. Jenn of the Asian Health Network thought that it would be a great opportunity to collaborate on this survey, as a large part of the API community goes to casinos, so we could spread the survey out through the Asian Health Network to reach a broader segment of the population that visits casinos. Networking with retirement communities would be beneficial as well.

- Also, there will be at least four hearings on the proposed casino that Warm Springs wants to build at Cascade Locks regarding an Environmental Impact Statement. This will probably occur in Cascade Locks, Portland, Warm Springs and Madras. The hope is to get tobacco advocates and community members to get on record the effect of secondhand smoke as a part of the EIS. That way, it will get the attention of both tribal health authorities and the tribal council, and it would have to be dealt with in building the proposed casino. CeCe is looking for both written and oral testimony; contact Becky if you or someone you know would like to be a part of this.
- The Cowlitz tribe is also in the planning stages of building a casino, so data is needed to guide policy. There will also be opportunities for testimony here as well. The Muckleshoot Tribe has two casinos- one allows smoking in the building and the other one does not. They are working on provided revenue data comparing the two to CeCe as additional support.
- This led to a discussion of the increasing numbers of organizations that will only hold conferences at non-smoking facilities, which could affect Indian casinos. For instance, the Washington State dept of health, and the Oregon state public health department both hold this policy, as well as the Native People's Circle of Hope.
- Traditional Tobacco
 - Another project the NPCOH is working on is survey of traditional tobacco use, to determine to what extent it is used, and what types of use, etc.
 - NPCOH has a source of traditional tobacco that can be accessed through the Ho Chunk Nation.

III. Training opportunities/assessment

It is really important to me that the UAITPEN does not ask for the participation of the network without giving something in return. Part of the goal of this network is to provide trainings to network members. Please think of any training opportunities you would like to have, such as media literacy training, or actual demonstrations of traditional tobacco use, which were two suggestions. Becky asked folks to just think about this, let it percolate in your minds, and it will be discussed and planned for in the next meeting. Ruth suggested that we create a toolkit for community organizations to help them create smokefree events, such as the powwow she puts on each June at Beaverton High School. Everyone agreed that would be an excellent tool to provide to the network, and

Becky will begin compiling this toolkit. If you would like to help with this, please let Becky know!

IV. Traditional Tobacco brochure

Becky has been working on a “traditional tobacco” brochure which helps explain what it is, when it’s used, etc. (See attached draft) There have been lots of questions around this, and so the hope is to have those questions answered in one place. Network members were provided with a draft of the brochure to provide feedback (see attached pdf.) Philip Archambault, NARA’s cultural director, has also been provided a draft to review.

Some of the comments that attendees had:

- Emphasize that not all tribes use tobacco
- Emphasize that traditional tobacco is not the same plant as the commercial tobacco we know
- Emphasize that although at times tobacco is inhaled, there are many other uses of tobacco- a salve, chewed, offered w/out burning, gifted for guidance, etc.
- State that commercial tobacco should not be used for traditional ceremony
- Add to brochure where traditional tobacco can be found
- CeCe has some business-sized cards that have a pledge to not use commercial tobacco for any reason for the rest of their life. Folks thought it would be great to have that somehow attached to the brochure, so you can read about traditional tobacco and then take that pledge.
- When teaching about a specific tobacco ceremony, the tribe should be specified to emphasize the fact that it may vary tribe to tribe.

This discussion led into a general talk about traditional tobacco use, and smokefree policies, and how to garner community support. Some ways suggested (which could be added to the smokefree event toolkit) include:

- Announcements by MC or other folks at powwows and community events regarding what policy is in place at that event, where designated smoking areas are, etc
- Write on flyers that event will allow traditional tobacco use only, or that it is a commercial tobacco free event
- During events, celebrate those who have gained sobriety from nicotine much like sobriety from alcohol and other drugs is celebrated. (i.e., “who here has been free for tobacco/nicotine addiction for 12 hours? 2 days, 1 year,” etc.)
- Sponsor a “tobacco trade-in” where people can trade in the commercial tobacco they use for ceremony for traditional tobacco

We did not get any further in the agenda. If anyone would like to announce any upcoming events, please let me (Becky) know and I will announce it on the UAITPEN email list. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this meeting, and I look forward to coming together again. The next meeting will be held in October, date/time/location TBA.