

Urban American Indian Tobacco Prevention & Education Network
Quarterly Meeting

Date: October 17, 2007

Location: NARA Madison Building, 1776 SW Madison St., Portland OR.

Attendees: Linda, Ed, Lois, Yugen, CeCe, Karen, Ruth, Carol, Darlene

Facilitated by: Becky Wright, Program Coordinator

Agenda

- I. Introductions/lunch
- II. Updates
 - a. Oregon Powwow Survey
 - b. NARA Tobacco Policy
 - c. Smoke-free Event Toolkit
 - d. Great American Smoke Out- "Are you a target?"
 - e. Substance Abuse & Tobacco mini-conference
- III. Traditional Tobacco Brochure
 - a. CDC suggestions
- IV. Diabetes & Tobacco
- V. Name Change/Network theme
 - a. Breathe Life Into Our Traditions- Seattle
 - b. Preventing Abuse by Honoring Traditions- Spokane
- VI. Announcements/Upcoming Events
 - a. Choctaw Tribal Meeting, Oct 20, Holiday Inn (1441 NE 2nd, Portland)
 - b. National Conference on Tobacco, Oct 23-26, Minneapolis, MN
 - c. Gathering of Flutes, Nov 3, Firstenberg Center, Vancouver, WA

I. Introductions included updates from members:

CeCe Whitewolf, Native People's Circle of Hope

- Recently awarded two grants, both intended to address tobacco
 - \$10,000 from Spirit of Eagles, \$4000 from Native People's Cancer Center in WA
- November 1, attending board meeting at Ka-nee-tah to talk about casinos enacting no smoking policy. Requested Becky's assistance by providing basic tobacco presentation.
 - Umatilla group working on having their casino go smoke-free as well
- November 3rd, Gathering of Flutes, flyer passed around. 11-8:30, Firstenberg Center in Vancouver, WA (700 NE 136th Ave). This is a benefit for the Native People's Circle of Hope, and will include a Native American flute concert, health fair, Native American artists and vendors, flute classes, oral and silent auctions and dinner. Donations appreciated. Contact 503-970-8004 for more information.

Karen Kitchen, Portland Public Schools Indian Education Program

- Karen is filling Norrine's position during medical leave
- Judy Bluehorse Skelton will be facilitating her Native Youth Academy onsite for Marshall High Native students.
- There will be Financial Aid workshops provided for free at the Nella Center.

- Ghosts of Celilo was a great success; organizers are now trying to figure out how to take it on the road and tour Oregon reservations. And next, Broadway!

Ruth Jensen, Indian Ed Program

- The Native Youth Network meeting is occurring on Thursday, October 18, 2007, all are welcome
- Ruth has gone down to 1/2 time position, and colleague Linda Higgins is also 1/2 time
 - Between the two of them, they are working in 20 school districts
- Beaverton High Powwow June 7, 2008
- They will be facilitating Native American month activities on the request of a parent
- There will be a couple financial aid workshops coming up

Carol Edmo, Native American Legal Aid Program

- Here because she works a lot with families engaged with the Dept of human services
- Often disabilities involved, often breathing problems among children, issue of parents needed to not smoke as a condition of custody of their children
- Provides materials during home visits, would love a more comprehensive tool kit to provide to parents about tobacco use, secondhand smoke, available resources for cessation, etc.
- Other passion is working with kids with autism; son has been diagnosed.
- There will be new date for family workshops facilitated by Native American Parents Support group that was supposed to occur this Saturday, October 20; will be after the holidays.
 - During this workshop IEPs (Individual Education Plans) will be developed
 - Tobacco presentation would be wonderful addition

Ed Edmo

- November 2-4 will be the 3rd annual Northwest Indian Storytellers Festival, Symposium and Charity Auction at Portland State University's Hoffman Hall (1833 SW 11th ave) on Friday & Saturday, and a public symposium will be at the Native American Student and Community Center (700 SW Jackson) on Sunday. For more info, call 503-517-9759, or www.wisdonoftheelders.org
- Ed will be doing storytelling on Friday, October 19, 2007 at NARAs family night at the outpatient facility

IIa. Powwow survey update

Becky briefly summarized some of the results of the tobacco survey that was administered at Delta Park Powwow and Klamath Restoration Powwow this summer. There will be a report with analyzed data available by January detailing those results. Overall, the prevalence of tobacco use is similar to Oregon state data, and about 50% of attendees utilize traditional tobacco. The majority of respondents support designated smoking areas at powwows. Rut mentioned that if designated areas are allowed, they should be out of sight and smell of powwow grounds.

Iib. NARA Tobacco Policy

The NARA tobacco policy work group has developed a policy recommendation for NARA. The next step is to share this proposed policy with Jackie, which is in the planning stages. Everyone was provided a copy of the proposed policy to look through and make comments.

- One suggestion was to work with Kaiser during contract negotiations to get the cessation benefits at a reduced price or for free.
- It was also suggested that smokers be recruited to the process to make it more of an intervention than a restrictive policy.
- The use of “critical violations” and similar language sounds nasty- use “violations” as an opportunity to help connect employees who smoke with resources to quit
- Add to justification for policy something about how the interaction of alcohol and tobacco use raises cancer risk exponentially
- Need to be mindful of employees with allergies, asthma and other health issues that are affected by tobacco smoke
- The key to making this policy work is education
- There was a question brought up as to how tobacco is used at NARA in ceremony
 - Philip Archambault would be the one to ask regarding this
- CeCe wants to work with Becky/NARA in making “dream” of traditional tobacco garden a reality, spurring energy around this idea- has source for seeds
 - Want a garden in multiple areas of community contact- NARA residential, NAYA, rooftop of Native American Student & Community Center at PSU
 - Have garden be a broader traditional plants garden, so it would be kinnick kinnick, and other plants traditionally used in place of commercial tobacco
 - Gardens could even include some the traditional foods, to provide a broader wellness appeal
 - Judy Bluehorse Skelton & Tabitha Whitefoot would both be critical partners in this project
 - Could the Network provide traditional ceremonial plants to community?
 - Include reaching out to current, chronic smokers as integral to garden
- Members suggested that as a network of community advisors, they would like to recommend that NARA adopt policy, and include space at residential for garden
 - Would like directors/employees from each area of NARA (residential, outpatient, clinic, administration) to come to next UAITPEN mtg to focus on policy and dialogue about implementation,
 - And thank everyone for being a part of this initiative to improve health of community

Iic. Smoke-free Event Tool Kit

At last UAITPEN mtg, Ruth requested the development of a smoke-free or commercial tobacco-free event toolkit in order to help people in organizing community events. Becky acknowledged this request and admitted that this had not been worked on, but was on the to do list in the coming months.

Iid. Great American Smoke Out (GASO)

GASO this year will be recognized on Thursday, November 15. Becky has been working with a PSU capstone and other tobacco prevention organizations in the creation of an event for this day that focuses on the way that the tobacco industry targets specific populations with their marketing. More information will be provided, as the day gets closer.

IIe. Substance Abuse & Tobacco mini-conference

Beck announced that there are preliminary plans to hold a mini-conference, probably half-day, on tobacco as substance abuse in the spring. This conference will include training for substance abuse counselors on the integration of tobacco into existing intake/treatment protocols. More information will be provided as dates and location are finalized.

III. Traditional tobacco brochure

The brochure that was developed by the Network has gained national notice, with the Centers for Disease Control Office on Smoking & Health approaching Becky with concern over a statement in the brochure. She told Paul Hunting, representative of the CDC, that she would take his concerns to the Network and that they would decide as a group what to do.

Concern was over the statement, "There is no known risk of cancer or other health effects associated with the use of traditional, ceremonial or sacred tobacco." The concern that although this is technically true it may be misleading, and may be used by the tobacco industry in their exploitation of traditional tobacco to sell their product or further market to Native Americans.

There were a few suggestions, such as forwarding the concern to the Native cancer network (Native Circle at Mayo Clinic) to get the input of many well-known, well-respected Drs. around the country. And maybe check with Lawrence Shorty of the National Indian Health Board.

After some discussion, the network decided to re-word the statement. It was decided to change the statement to read, "There are no known adverse health effects associated with sacred or ceremonial use of traditional plants." This way, the word tobacco is not even being used, in hopes to highlight the fact that many traditional "tobaccos" are not even tobacco per say, as well as to get away from the knee-jerk reaction of mainstream tobacco control advocates have at the suggestion that tobacco may not always be a negative thing.

Network members recommended that Becky forward a revised version of the brochure to Paul Hunting and thank him for bringing this to the networks attention, and highlight the difficulty of the distinction between traditional and commercial tobacco.

Interesting data was highlighted in recent article on Indianz.com about the fact that although incidence rates for most cancers were lower among American Indian/Alaska Native populations except incidence rates for cancers related to tobacco use ie lung, colon, mouth/throat, etc.

IV Diabetes & Tobacco

Recent research from IHS shows that American Indian/Alaska Natives with diabetes are more likely to smoke than those without diabetes. Upon hearing this, Becky

has begun working with the diabetes program at NARA to try and collaborate more. A brochure that looks at the interactions of tobacco on diabetes was presented to Network for approval.

Discussion ensued about the importance of looking at multiple issues at one time. Is there a way that we could work with Native orgs to ensure community events are diabetes and tobacco prevention friendly? (And other wellness issues) What can we offer organizations? Incentives? Door prizes? Help with food? Does this indicate a need to shift to a broader focus in the network to reflect a broader wellness initiative?

V Name Change/theme

Meeting ran out of time/steam to address this agenda item. However, discussion around diabetes and tobacco (see above) indicates a need to address this closely. Proposal was suggested to have a contest for a new name/logo/theme based around a broader wellness coalition.

Action Item:

Have a meeting dedicated to idea of community garden in near future. Nov 28 or Dec 5 were presented as possible dates. Need to invite Judy, Tabitha, Philip to this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned