

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant**  
**Epidemiology Workgroup**  
**June 20, 2012**

Epidemiology Workgroup Members Present :

Devon Lewis, Jesse Metzger, Charles Utermohle, Deborah Hull-Jilly, Pat Sidmore, Sherrie Wilson, Spero Manson, Marny Rivera, Randy Burton

❖ **Alaska Epidemiology Profile Revised**

Sherrie Wilson, CSAP Fellow, completed her technical review of the profile. Deb Hull-Jilly has been working with Glen Harvey with the SOA to make the final changes to the document. Deb has asked for data for 2010 from the census, and this data will be incorporated into the document by September. Deb also shared that the SPF SIG alcohol influences included in the final revised version of the document.

❖ **IBIS status – Charles Utermohle**

In early June, 2012 the InstantAtlas web page went live, and a public press release was issued. Approximately 30 individuals have been trained on the use of InstantAtlas. InstantAtlas training has a focus on extracting data and how to use the program; for those who don't want to do all the background research that is emphasized, Charles will try to set up another training on how to use the program. The BRFSS data will be incorporated into InstantAtlas in August of 2012. Charles is also in the works on creating a virtual service, and attempting to make InstantAtlas an Intranet application to use amongst State of Alaska Workers. To learn more about InstantAtlas, go to <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/infocenter/ia/default.htm>

❖ **SPF SIG evaluation – Jesse Metzger**

The community grantees are wrapping up the Adult Survey. All grantees have surveyed community members, and their data has been submitted to Jesse Metzger to analyze. RurAL CAP/Kawerak have not yet submitted their data, there will be approximately 1,600 surveys.

Check out our SPF SIG Website at <http://hss.state.ak.us/dbh/prevention/programs/spfsig/default.htm>



### ❖ **Recent publications or publications pending – AKN Suicide Study**

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Epidemiology Center worked with Deb Hull-Jilly (representing SOA's Public Health) to complete an EPI Bulletin on Alaska Native suicide. This project reviews information on the medical examiner's toxicology reports, and identifies suicides that are associated with substance use, including alcohol. Notable information was that the rates of suicides have declined to a plateau amongst AK Natives, information that project staff found encouraging. Project staff will use 2010 data to compare it suicide rates now, to improve access to services and development of processes in communities. Attached to these Meeting Minutes are the slides from Deb Hull-Jilly's presentation to the project staff; for non-workgroup members, these slides may be submitted upon request of Deb Hull-Jilly or Devon Lewis.

### ❖ **Review of Census Training- Randy Burton**

There were two trainings held in May to review Census data; one in Anchorage and one in Juneau. Randy Burton, EPI Workgroup member, attended the training in Juneau. About 17 people from Juneau attended 2 workshops. There was positive feedback, and most found it helpful. The information provided by the Department of Labor was insightful, and the staff is willing to work with people needing support on the census or what is presented, including GIS functioning on the department's maps. If you would like files on the census data training, please contact SPF SIG EPI Workgroup member Randy Burton at [randy.burton@alaska.gov](mailto:randy.burton@alaska.gov). You may also visit the Department of Labor's site to learn more: <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/census/>.

Ellen Provost, Director of the ANTHC Epi Center, will be coordinating an advanced training in November on the Census data; it is tentatively scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage. This training will include training on margins of error and other topics. Additional information will be sent to workgroup members as it becomes available.

### ❖ **Community Level Suicide Data- Patrick Sidmore**

Patrick Sidmore has been working with key community members who have local level data. There is a data release policy that restricts much community level suicide and suicide attempt data.

Patrick worked with 8 years worth of data from the Trauma Registry. There are significant differences (timing of attempts, times of years, repeated suicide attempts, etc) given geographic areas and communities. This information could be helpful for providers and projects at the community level. Spero Manson, an evaluator with Tanana Chiefs Conference, as well as the SOA's Fairbanks Native



Association SPF SIG, echoed the importance of community level requests, as many of the villages in the Tanana Chiefs Conference service area could benefit from this information.

❖ **Next Meeting**

The Epidemiology Workgroup will meet again during our regularly scheduled day and time of Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:30 PM. The call in number will be 1-800-315-6338 and the code is 8078.

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