

## SPF/SIG Epidemiology Influences Subgroup

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (10:30 AM-12 PM)

### Meeting Minutes

Teleconference participants: included the following Jesse Metzger, Andrew Jessen, Jim Sellers, Devon Urquhart, Charles Utermohle, June Sobocinski, Cristy Willer, Bill Herman, Rhonda Johnson, Marny Rivera, Becky Judd and Diane Casto.

#### Expectations/process for the Influences subgroup

Diane did an overview of the expectations and the process in which the Influences subgroup will operate, to clear up any confusion and respond to questions from the last meeting.

- The Influences group is research driven first and data driven. We start with the research of what are the influences on substance use, then look for the indicators that most reflect those influences or factors. At that point we turn to the systems that might collect that data or similar data.
- The updated adolescent Epi-Influences report must be completed by the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010, so that we may present our findings to the Advisory Council on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **SPF SIG Face to Face Meeting Aug 2-3 (in Anchorage)** The Influences subgroup will meet with the rest of the SPF/SIG subgroups in August. The Influences subgroup will present its work to the Advisory Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will discuss how our research may fit into the future goals of the SPF SIG. The Advisory Council, will pick 2-3 top priority areas, based on the data from the Epi group overall. Once the priority areas have been selected, then our group will further research the influences of the targeted age groups. Note: *As we explore the influences of other populations outside of the SPF/SIG priority areas, that research may be used to help support funding from other DBH sources.*

Recap of last meeting decision: For the initial report to the Advisory Committee we will update and build upon the work done by the 2007 Epi-influences group. Becky asked everyone to contact her new, additional influences on adolescents for consideration, send research that supports those influences, after the August meeting.

#### Senior Populations

Jim and Becky met on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the research done on the influences of substance use for senior population. Jim is a member of an active coalition addressing senior populations. They have done some preliminary research that can be shared with the rest of the group, if interested. Given the timeline and process of the SPF/SIG we decided to wait until we know the priority areas before delving into this population (or other populations.) Pending August decisions, we may have a subgroup for the senior population. If you are interested, in senior populations contact Jim directly, or Devon Urquhart at [devon.urquhart@alaska.gov](mailto:devon.urquhart@alaska.gov)

#### Overview of Statewide Population-based Surveys

Becky overviewed the statewide population-based surveys of adolescent behavior and their environments (YRBS & SCCS) so the group could judge the merits and limitations of both surveys. The group needs to decide if both data systems can be used for the selected adolescent indicators.

- **Youth Risk Behavior Survey**: The YRBS is an anonymous survey, originating from the CDC, conducted in high schools every two years (original in 1995). YRBS addresses primarily risk behavior, though the last seven questions include some protective-factor based questions. The survey's randomized selection design, with a 60% minimum participation rate, allows the data to be generalized for the Alaska HS population. The YRBS represents the gold standard for population based data for the adolescent population. *Charles Utermohle will be our contact for all YRBS data*

- **School Climate Connectedness Survey:** The SCCS survey was developed and piloted by the American Institutes of Research for AASB (Association of Alaska School Boards) in 2005. The survey measures primarily the overall school climate and student’s experience of their school. (Survey items cluster into the following scales: High Expectations, School Safety, School Leadership and Student Involvement, Respectful Climate, Peer Climate, Caring Adults, Parent and Community Involvement, Social and Emotional Learning Skills, and observed Student Delinquent Behaviors, and Drug & Alcohol Use.) This year a Community-Connection scale has been added. *Because each school district chooses to participate (versus random selection) the data generated is not generalizable to the broader statewide youth population.*

	YRBS	SCCS
<b>Grades Surveyed</b>	9-12	5-12
<b>Frequency</b>	Every 2 years (since 1995, with some exceptions)	Every year (since 2006)
<b>Design</b>	Districts randomly selected to participate in statewide sample. Required 60% minimum of selected population, smaller school districts get much higher.	District choice. All participating districts make up the sample (that is weighted.) 60% participation of school enrollment strongly encouraged, often get higher.
<b>2009 participants</b>	1,370 students & 43 schools This year non-traditional HS sample: 15 schools over 1,000 students. 20 districts have their own local data.	27,000 students (5,000 staff) 225 schools & 24 districts. <i>Each district has its own data; larger schools have their own data as well.</i>

**DISCUSSION:** Should we use SCCS data since its data is not generalizable to the state youth population and at a state level its not comparable year to year? **Decision:** While not perfect, for the reasons noted, given its reach statewide it can be used with stated caveats

### **Current and Developmental Indicators Overview**

Becky asked: are these the right indicators, are there more refined ones for consideration? (Reference: 2007 Report page 4; it defines each factor, provides a brief overview, status and recommendation.) We went through each of the **existing 2007 indicators** and discussed how to get updated information:

- **Charles** will update all the YRBS data
- **Becky** will contact AASB to get updated SCCS data given the previous decision
- **Andrew** will update suicide rates (from Vital Stats data)

### **Developmental Indicators**

- **Andrew** will work with Deborah HJ to get death rates by family members for suicide”.
- **Marny** will check Justice Center study for family violence data, Charles will check BRFSS
- **Connection to Family:** Discussed the challenge of finding an appropriate indicator because the factor is so broad. Rhonda sent links to the national Healthy People 2020 indicator; they are not in place for Alaska at this time. This could be useful when proposing new indicators for established data systems. This is a good example of how this committee could develop a data agenda for indicator development. (*Side note:* Div. of Public Health, WCFH section selected family resiliency & connectedness as a performance measure. They selected the YRBS question related to “talking with parents about school” as a *proximal measure* to track. **Becky** will investigate PRAMS & BRFSS and talk with Rhonda, before her sabbatical.

**Future Meeting:** We will review the remaining 3 factors and their developmental stage and status. The next Influences Workgroup will meet on Tuesday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 10:30 AM-12 PM. Please RSVP if unable to participate either Becky 269-3425 or Devon Urquhart at [devon.urquhart@alaska.gov](mailto:devon.urquhart@alaska.gov).