

Indiana State Epidemiology and Outcomes Workgroup

Meeting Minutes from 5/16/08

Attendance

Jeanie Alter, Dave Bozell, Marcia French, Matt Frische, Ruth Gassman, Marion Greene, Harold Kooreman, Mary Lay, Amanda Morrison, Katelin Ryan, Barbara Seitz de Martinez, Jerry Vance, Rick VanDyke, John Viernes, Eric Wright

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Eric welcomed everybody to the meeting. Introductions were made because two new members were present: Jerry Vance, director of substance abuse at the Indiana Department of Correction (proxy for Terry Jenkins) and Katelin Ryan, research director at the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency (proxy for Miranda Spitznagle).

Minutes from January 18, 2008, were approved.

Update on Statewide Phone Survey

Eric reported an update on the Survey for Jim, who was out of town for an academic engagement in Georgia (Eurasia). Eric stated: the first results are in and we will have the final data by the end of August; the statewide survey includes collection of the National Outcomes Measures (NOMs); we oversampled each funded community (cohort 1) and will oversample the 8 newly funded communities (cohort 2); this is the first time we have a county-level estimation technique on substance abuse prevalence in Indiana. Also, we added a few questions at the end of the questionnaire to help us geocode responses, i.e., to look at behavior in the context of county and neighborhood. We are not asking for the respondent's address but ask, "When you walk out the front door and turn left, what is the name of the first intersection".

Discussion of 2008 Epi Report

First, Eric discussed the local epidemiological profiles. He said that all funded communities came up with very good reports; and John mentioned that Indiana received national attention because we are the first state with local profiles. Eric added that the Center was involved in providing feedback to communities on the strengths and weaknesses of their reports.

Barbara stated that these local reports represent a monumental step; the pride the communities take in their report is evidence of their involvement/ownership; we are all very proud; they [the communities] are taking advantage of the resources available.

Marcia mentioned that at the National Rural Health Association in New Orleans, SEOW members from other states complimented our state and local epi profiles, and they were interested in gaining access to the reports.

John asked if all local profiles were available online and Marion replied that links to all reports had been sent out to SEOW members and that the Center is in the process of adding them to their website.

Eric said that he initially planned on adding local profiles to the state report; however, we can't do that due to the length. Marcia suggested that LEOWs mirror the state's efforts and create local drug fact sheets, which could be added to the state profile. Mary replied that as a resident of Bartholomew County, she is not interested in reading about Allen County in the state epi profile; it would suffice to provide information on how/where to access information on the different counties. Jeanie added that she liked the idea of drug fact sheets; this way people get a little information on the diverse counties but not too much; also, this shows transparency, i.e., people know where the money/funding went. Eric suggested adding local key findings to the state report. Barbara agreed, saying that a local highlights chapter would be good; share novel things/specific things that came out of the local reports and point that out.

John also stated that he was impressed with the local reports. He added that Rick's charts on substance abuse related Medicaid claims are very good and helpful. So far, we have not done a very good job tying primary health care dollars to substance abuse; with the epi report we can begin to calculate social indicators and tie them to health indicators (e.g., fetal alcohol syndrome). Also, prescription drug use is on the rise. It is exciting to see all this information; the local reports describe what is going on in the community. It is important to share this knowledge with the public and legislators.

Mary mentioned that East Chicago (Geminus Corporation) did a great job including gambling in their substance abuse profile.

Eric stated that John Hagen (St. Joseph LEOW chair) suggested including social determinants of health in the state profile. Eric also asked the group if we should conduct a capacity analysis (what is available/where is it available) and include this as a new chapter in the coming report. John agreed, saying that a capacity analysis would be essential and necessary. Rick added that it would be a simple and straightforward analysis—if you know where people are served, it will tell you where in Indiana you have prevention/treatment capacity and where not.

Mary proposed that the state epi profile should be expanded to resemble more a health profile. She stated that substance abuse cannot be adequately addressed if obesity, poverty, etc. are not addressed—"we need to re-focus". Eric agreed to expand the public health aspect. Jeanie mentioned that to emphasize the relationship between substance abuse and health outcomes could be a key to sustainability. Ruth added that school retention rates and academic achievement would be outcomes of interest to the Department of Education.

Eric said that we might have to restructure the state profile to emphasize public health and maybe not report substance by substance, but that he will work with Harold and Marion to develop a framework on how to approach this.

John reported on the importance of looking at prescription drug abuse. He said he would be interested in the reasons why individuals from Ohio and Kentucky come to Indiana for methadone treatment. Mary added that there are two issues regarding the rise in prescription drug abuse: the legal purchase of prescription drugs and the illegal pharming of adolescents; these issues need different strategies to address them.

Eric then stated that Marion will be working on an issue brief on prescription drug abuse, which will be ready to send to the printer by August 1, 2008.

Create New Website for Alcohol and Drug Information

Eric discussed with the group Jason Hutchens' suggestion of creating a website for alcohol and drug information. It was not really clear what Jason had in mind. One of the suggestions included, partnering with IPRC, who is already providing information via Prev-Stat, County Level Epidemiological Indicators System, and their annual youth survey. However, this will have to be discussed in more detail and depends on the amount of money associated with the request.

Other Business

Annual School Survey: Eric and Marcia reported that at yesterday's (5/15/08) LEOW workshop, the Lake County Alliance inquired if there was a way to assert pressure on superintendents to participate in IPRC's annual school survey, maybe a letter from the Governor's Office, etc. to encourage school participation. Dave and Mary added that in the first SIG, communities were required to have a signed letter from the superintendent stating school participation before they [the communities] could get funding. However, Mary suggested talking to Jeff Barber first because he has good insight on the issue. Additionally, Mary agreed to draft a resolution to present at the next SEOW meeting, which will recommend that communities wanting prevention money from the state will have to participate in IPRC's ATOD survey.

Communications: Eric mentioned the possibility of broadcasting SEOW meetings, so LEOW members can view and participate in the meetings without having to commute. IUPUI has the capability to utilize this technology but we need to check the Government Center's capacity.

LEOWs: Eric mentioned that LEOW members are invited and welcomed to all SEOW meetings but that they should not be allowed to vote because of conflict of interest. Also, the annual satisfaction survey will be given out again around July 1—this time, funded communities will be included (e.g., LEOWs, LACs, etc.) to provide feedback.

Then, Eric adjourned the meeting.

**The next SEOW meeting will be held on Friday, July 18,
from 9am through 12 noon, at IGCS, conference room 1.**

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