

## **SNS Technical Assistance call: 10.8.2010**

Facilitator: Jeff Wagers, DSHS

### **Introductions:**

DSHS: Christina Morse, Amanda Reese, Chris Mobley

ATCHHSD: Cynthia Washington

Tarrant Co HD: Sharon Louise

Resource Center, Dallas: Ruben Ramirez, Mikael Andrews

City of Laredo: Erica Martinez

### **SNS Implementation Check-in with programs:**

Each program shared some challenges and successes.

**City of Laredo** shared that their recruiters were having a hard time getting the Network Associates (NAs) to test. They are testing high-risk individuals but haven't found new positives recently. They are meeting their objectives. City of Laredo said that the TA visit helped them.

**Resource Center Dallas:** They've found lots of high risk and first time testers, but have not found many new positives. Mikael shared that he developed such a good relationship with recruiters that many of the recruiters that have left the program still may bring new persons in to get tested. This ongoing relationship is good. He said it is important to keep the ongoing relationship with the recruiters because they care about their community.

**ATCHHSD:** Cynthia had been out for medical reasons during part of the last month; the program kept going on with some volunteers. They have been having difficulties bringing in NA's for testing, or getting them tested. Cynthia reported that she does not usually test her clients, but brings them to an outreach site or clinic. Recommendation is for Cynthia to do PBC for some of her clients if testing is not available during clinic. Other agencies allow the SNS coordinator to do testing.

One success is that she feels like her orientation is well received by her clients.

**TCHD:** A new SNS coordinator will be starting Oct. 26; he's a former DIS. TCHD has an intern that has developed flyers and promotional materials, and are waiting for PMRP approval. Their wish list is to have better and varied incentives.

**Question:** How often do the coordinators keep in touch with recruiters? Erika said she usually touches base with her recruiters about once a week while they are active. Another said it depends on recruiter's availability and how busy they are.

**Question:** One of the SNS coordinators asked how and what type of incentives were being used? Programs use a variety of incentives, including \$20 Target gift cards or other types of gift cards, food for orientation or recruitment sessions, incentives for N/A's coming in, T-shirts, pens, tote bags, etc.. The best practice is to do an assessment of the

community to see what incentives work best. The consultants said that in the renewal applications some of the incentives are being scrutinized; however, as long as incentives can be justified it has not been a problem.

**Conclusion:** The next SNS TA call will be Thursday, December 9, 2010, 10-11am.