## Social Networks Strategy TA call April 19, 2011 10:00 –11:00am

- I. Purpose of the call is to create a supportive environment in which to provide:
  - a. Peer to peer TA
  - b. Communicating information specific to Social Networks Strategy

## II. Introductions

Facilitator: Jeff Wagers, DSHS

TCHD: Brian Barron and Lamont Lovelace

Resource Center: Mikael Andrews

City of Laredo: Erika Martinez

Austin/Travis Co HD: Cynthia Washington

DSHS: Casey Nelson

## III. SNS Implementation –each program update on success, challenges, positivity

- a. Resource Center Dallas: Mikael reported a good start to the year so far. From conversations with recruiters, it seems that more than one conversation must occur between the recruiter and the network associate to get the N/A to come in to test. Mikael reports a large number of first time testers and a large number of those who had not tested in a while. RCD is getting HIV+ persons as recruiters from their hot meals program, and are interested in pursuing the transmigration group (transgender) and the crystal meth anonymous group to gather new recruiters.
- b. ATCHHSD: Cynthia reported doing bar outreach and has set up tables at local gay bars on different nights to recruit recruiters. They are using Splash weekend to get new recruiters the weekend of May 1. Cynthia is finishing venipuncture training for blood draws. She has another orientation with the Mpowerment project at AIDS Services of Austin (Q space), and is still working with the Wright House Wellness Center, and has two potential recruiters at the University of Texas GLBT group. Casey suggested pursuing the following groups in Austin: ALLGO, Waterloo Counseling Center, OutYouth Austin, and ARCH, for recruiters. Some African-American women were tested during the week of

prayer in Austin. The program manager, Claudella Wright, is leaving. Her last day is May 13.

Jeff suggested building an internal referral network within ATCHHSD to get new recruiters: use the CRCS program, Ryan White Case Mgmt, the David Powell clinic, and the PBC testers.

- c. City of Laredo HD: Erika reported a violation of confidentiality at another agency with an MSM; this filtered mistrust among MSM for all the HIV organizations in the Laredo area. The violation was not at the HD. Laredo had one new positive who had not tested since 1989. There has been an increase in HRH testing so far this year. City of Laredo has been working with substance abuse agencies in the area, SCAN and STCADA, to find new recruiters.
- **d. Tarrant Co HD:** TCHD reports 11 recruiters linking 84 N/A's. 7.6 N/As per recruiter. They have found a 14% positivity rate; some were previous HIV+. TCHD uses their internal resources to gain recruiters: CRCS, evidence-based interventions, DIS and word of mouth.

## IV. Peer to Peer TA

- a. Best way to track network associates: TCHD uses an Excel spreadsheet to track N/A, with race/ ethnicity, gender, risk behavior and date, among other information. City of Laredo uses the Visio software plus a different color tagged code for those testing through SNS. A question was asked about using other databases to access network associate information; Jeff said that he would check on that.
- b. SNS Summit: Programs would like a one-day summit; RCD said that they may not have the resources to attend. It was suggested to piggy-back it on the Strett Outreach conference June 12-15. Jeff would check. It has since been decided that the SNS summit would not be until July at the earliest. Jeff will keep programs apprised of progress.

Some possible topics for the summit might be:

- 1) documentation of recruiter files
- 2) What SNS is and isn't
- 3) Recruitment of N/A's and getting N/As to test
- 4) Marketing the program

- 5) Evaluation
- c. Evaluation of programs? Jeff mentioned that since the pilot projects are into the second year, that some evaluation of the programs is appropriate. DSHS is working with an outside evaluator, Ken Ripperger-Suhler, to do Outcome Monitoring with EBIs and CRCS. He will have a conversation about evaluation with Ken before July 1, and disseminate the information.
- V. Next call: Tuesday, May 24, 2011, from 10:30-11:30am.