

**Public Health Outreach
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Pacific Southwest Region**

**Friday, April 18, 2008
UCLA Biomedical Library**

Welcome and Introductions

Describe information needs in your environment

Christina works with the Office of Minority Health in four states, dealing with underserved populations. She works with advisory groups of “experts” to provide direction towards changes in health policy, especially in CA and NV. In AZ and HI there are no advisory councils. She also works with university centers for health disparities and Office of Minority Health grantees, such as minority-serving institutions and community-based organizations. There is an Asian and Pacific Islander Health Forum and this group needs help with accessing and analyzing data. They are in need of capacity building, training (especially with statistics), utilizing technology, and filling gaps with language and literacy needs.

Scott mentioned the field of informatics and coping with the large amount of existing information with a limited amount of time to deal with it. He raised the question-- what is the best way for an individual to manage, organize, categorize, and access/apply information? How is information used? Diane Cooper is the IHS Librarian, based in Rockville, MD. IHS resources can only be accessed in the work environment, creating a disconnect between work and home information access. Scott also works with a disaster planning and emergency response team in the Kansas City region.

Joy mentioned that her primary audience is the staff at San Francisco General Hospital. She also works with 11 outlying public health clinics and their information needs, but she hasn't studied their information needs extensively. Resources available include DynaMed, Nursing Reference Center, and CINAHL. Scott mentioned needing to “push” resources to clientele because they don't always “pull.” There is a potential use for current awareness services and RSS for the clinic staff since access is the main concern. Use technology to customize information resources. It takes people to go out and talk about information. Scott mentioned being careful what you wish for, because you may be deluged with information. Loansome Doc could be used to get full text of articles. What about a series of questions to prompt answers that will lead to a customized approach to using information? New information media such as PDAs and smart phones means a need for technology training.

Terry mentioned having widespread needs. Not necessarily interested in peer reviewed literature. Standards of care, awareness of resources, and information technology tools are areas of interest. Train-the-trainer sessions at meetings may be an effective way to get

the word out about information resources. Locating evidence-based information, like randomized controlled trials, is very important.

Unwrapping Health Information Technologies – Sharon Dennis

Mini-laptops are an in between device, larger than tablets. Siobhan's blog, "Bringing Health Information to the Community (BHIC), <http://nnlm.gov/mcr/bhic>, is something you can visit or sign up to get updates by email. RSS news feeds give the latest news. "Ready for Some Stories." There's a potential role for librarians in setting these up. Christina got a query that resulted in an email push with the Kaiser Family Foundation that prompted her for resources of interest. Google account features include Gmail and Google Reader. In identifying key public health resources, there's a need to get granular since there are many aspects of public health. A Web 2.0 glossary would be useful. It's like walking on a frozen lake, is it 3" or 3' thick? Exposing yourself online can be intimidating.

Public Health Information Resources from the National Library of Medicine – Alan Carr

This section covered a review of several PubMed features, including My NCBI for saving search strategies to get updates on a regular basis and saving collections of article citations on topics of interest. PubMed's "Special Queries" feature includes sections with health services research filters, to locate research related to health care quality or health care costs, and a mechanism to locate literature related to health disparities. We also explored the web portal for public health information, "Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce," <http://phpartners.org>, and various other information resources produced by NLM.

Discussion – Public Health Outreach Strategies

Joy felt energized and appreciated the awareness raising about the diversity of information needs and NN/LM funding information. She may have a potential partner for an Express Outreach Award related to HIV/AIDS patient information. She felt prepared to do things more effectively and efficiently. She's especially interested in capacity building, making contacts, "master" information, resource management and funding resources.

Scott was interested to hear what was new and available in information resources. He was excited about the prospect of sharing this information with his colleagues. He mentioned an annual meeting, which will be in Tucson in June 2008, where he will have an opportunity to present some of this information. He also mentioned a meeting in Pine Top, AZ, farther down the line. Christina mentioned an HIV/AIDS prevention outreach project in the Pacific Jurisdiction involving ministries of health and CBOs. There is a planning group headed by Henry Ocampo, of the Office of Minority Health Resource Center (Rockville, MD), which has regular teleconferences. She will mention NN/LM

PSR as a potential collaborator with the group. She also felt that the knowledge of information resources is empowering for communities.

Terry enjoyed meeting Sharon and hearing her presentation and felt re-energized. He mentioned the importance of sustainability in projects and wanted to work on rebuilding bridges to the NV public health community.

Potential hooks to attract audiences are that the resources enable health professionals to do their jobs more effectively. Knowing how to use resources effectively saves times, builds connections with colleagues, and builds capacity. In the evidence-based practice milieu it's important to master the resources and use them in the field. The importance of navigating medical informatics and managing all the information out there is a definite benefit.

Christina mentioned an interest in sources of funding and information about grant writing, as well as accessing resources and having outcome measures.

Wrap-Up/Next Steps

The group agreed that annual in-person meetings would be useful. In the interim, quarterly teleconferences would be a good way to keep in touch. Adobe Connect sessions could be used for training sessions for multiple participants. Christina mentioned that there are ten OMH minority health consultants based across the nation. Also, in 2009 OMH will sponsor a national summit on health disparities with abstracts and presentation sessions in Washington D.C. Christina was very interested in getting set up with Skype as another communication method. Alan and Joy mentioned having Skype accounts.

Adjourn