

Behavioral and Mental Health Research in the Arctic: Strategy Setting Meeting

Purpose: To develop a U.S. Government Arctic Human Health Research Strategy that will advise the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) on the development of a US Government Arctic Human Health Research Plan.

June 2-3 2009

Commons Building #41, Room 107

University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK

Conference moderator and timekeeper: James Herrington, Ph.D., M.P.H. (National Institutes of Health)

Day 1	June 2, 2009	
8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Registration	
8:15 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	Welcome address	Dorothy Cook, President of the Native Village of Eklutna Roger Glass (Associate Director for International Research, National Institutes of Health) Mead Treadwell (Chair, US Arctic Research Commission)
8:45 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.	Keynote Address	Representative Reggie Joule (Alaska, District 40)
9:10 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Setting the agenda	Warren Zapol (Commissioner, US Arctic Research Commission)

9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Epidemiology of behavioral and mental health disorders in the Circumpolar Arctic

Objective: To provide an overview of the epidemiology of various behavioral and mental health disorders in the Arctic.

Behavioral and Mental Health Disorders in the Arctic

Bob Chaney
Mark Erikson
(Southcentral Foundation)

Suicide

James Allen
(University of Alaska - Fairbanks) and Jay Butler (Alaska Department of Health and Social Services)

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Drug abuse and related disorders

Spero Manson
(University of Colorado)

Alcohol abuse, fetal alcohol spectrum and other related disorders

Gerald Mohatt
(University of Alaska - Fairbanks) and Christina Chambers (UCSD)

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Research and the Healthcare System

Objective: to provide an overview of Alaska Native Health Corporations priorities for behavioral and mental health research

Don Kashevarof
(Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium)

Overview of the health care system and service delivery

Ileen Sylvester
(Southcentral Foundation)

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch (provided)

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Current Challenges and Opportunities in Behavioral and Mental Health Research in the Arctic

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

Objective: to develop a list of challenges and opportunities for behavioral and mental health research in the Arctic

Questions:

- What are the current approaches to studying mental health among Arctic peoples?
- What are the state of the art approaches in contemporary behavioral health research in the US and internationally?
- Case examples of utilizing various approaches to studying behavioral & mental health issues among Arctic populations.
- Challenges and opportunities in conducting research in the Arctic using various methodologies.

Session I	Session II
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1:30-2:00 Basic biomedical research Wayne Goodman (NIMH/NIH)• 2:00-2:30 Epidemiological research Raul Caetano (University of Texas)• 2:30-3:00 Genetic and environmental studies Bert Boyer (University of Alaska Fairbanks)• 3:00-3:30 Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1:30-2:00 Intervention research to establish evidence based practices for Arctic populations Gerald Mohatt and Jim Allen (University of Alaska Fairbanks) Spero Manson (University of Colorado)• 2:00-2:30 Socio-cultural, anthropological research Lisa Wexler (University of Massachusetts)• 2:30-3:00 Health services research and evaluation studies of paraprofessional and primary care system (e.g., telehealth, telepsychiatry) Albert Yeung (Harvard Medical School) Kathy Graves (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium/ANTHC)• 3:00-3:30 Discussion

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Overview and discussion: Current research challenges and opportunities

Reports back to the group (groups assign reporters)

- Basic/Epi/Genetics
 - Intervention Research/Health Services Research/Social
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Day 2

June 3, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Agenda for Behavioral and Mental Health Research in the Arctic

Objective: to begin setting a research agenda for behavioral and mental health research with populations in the Arctic

Goals and Priorities for an Arctic Human Health Research Strategy

Nathan Kotch
(Maniilaq Association)

Challenges of Analyzing Existing Programs: A Randomized Control Study in an Alaskan Social Service Setting

Debra Caldera
(Alaska Department of Health and Social Services)

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Discussion: Research needs

Basic biomedical research
Genetics research
Epidemiological research
Intervention/Health Services research
Socio-cultural research
Clinical research

Chairs:
Wayne Goodman
(NIH/National Institute of Mental Health/NIMH)

Jim Berner (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium/ANTCH)

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 noon

Data needs

“Tracking health and social indicators: Observations and a framework for pan-Arctic data”

Larry Hamilton
(University of New Hampshire)

11:30 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Discussion: data needs

Larry Hamilton
(University of New Hampshire)

11:45 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch (provided)

1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Actions and next steps

Actions: What do we need to move the research agenda forward?

Conducting behavioral health research in the Arctic: Challenges and Opportunities

Panel members:

William Hogan
(Commissioner, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services)

	Behavioral and mental health research education and training in the Arctic	Karen Perdue (University of Alaska - Fairbanks)
	Capacity-building needs	Spero Manson (University of Colorado)
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Panel Discussion: continued	Delisa Culpepper (Mental Health Trust)
	Potential funding sources (USG, Foundations, Tribal Corporations, Foreign Governments)	Jim Sellars (Alaska Action Research Consortium)
	Potential collaborators (USG, Foundations, Tribal Corporations, Foreign Governments)	Jim Berner (Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium/ANTCH)
	Next steps	
3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Break	
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Closing remarks	Gerald Mohatt (University of Alaska Fairbanks)
		Denise Dillard (Southcentral Foundation)
		Warren Zapol (US Arctic Research Commission)