

Border Health ¡SI!  
Special Action Group  
December 17, 2003

**Welcome and Introductions**

Marilynn Johnson welcomed the group and new members. New members included Diane Austin from UA Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology and Michele Kimpel-Guzman from the Environmental Protection Agency and Sheri Gallagher, Health Promotion Manager for the AZ Department of Health Services, Office of Nutrition and Chronic Disease Prevention. Then, SAG members introduced him or herself with a brief description of their role and interest in Border Health SI for the last three years and the STEPS Grant, which is to begin January 2004.

Marilynn showed a power point presentation created by Lisa Staten, College of Public Health University of Arizona. The presentation gave SAG members facts on Health care cost, if we do nothing about Diabetes Prevention and the difference we will make if we continue to implement broad interventions. In addition, the presentation included conclusions for each Border Health SI components.

Marilynn, briefly, spoke about SAG's Mission initially developed for Border Health SI and the mission for the STEPS Grant. The SAG's Mission is based on community need and existing infrastructure, SAG will collaborate to change community policy & norms regarding diabetes, asthma and obesity.

**Updates**

Marilynn asked SAG Members if anyone had any objection to SAG minutes being on the web. SAG members had no objection to minutes being on the web. Marilynn will contact Rosie Stewart.

Marilynn spoke about the City and County Comprehensive Plans. Since November 19, the agenda has not included the comprehensive plan. As of today, Marilynn is still waiting to hear as to when the comprehensive plan will be included on the agenda. On the other hand, Marilynn had no updates or report for the County Comprehensive plan. She knew the plan needed to be ready by the end of the year, but was not sure where the county stood in completing the comprehensive plan.

JoJean Elenes gave a brief report about the STEPS Grant. The contracts are somewhat in place but she is working to regroup with her current staff and identify staff that will work with STEPS. New partners are to include Parks & Recreation, Cooperative Extension, SEAHEC, Carondelet Medical Group, Public Schools from District #35 and Nogales Public Schools District #1. JoJean mentioned that this is a high profile project. In addition, out of forty-five states four states were awarded grant monies. SAG will need to prioritize and identify goals and submit two to five action plans by May 30, 2004. JoJean will have contractual forms for individuals whom will work directly with schools.

**SAG moving forward**

SAG members engaged in a discussion on how SAG should move forward; as well as, identify new organizations and community members to participate in SAG. SAG members discussed dividing into sub committees and meeting quarterly instead of monthly. Michèle Guzmán suggested SAG members meet with the Border Liaison Mechanism Group; the group discusses and addresses binational border issues, security issues, and other issues to improve air quality. The Border Liaison Mechanism Group meets quarterly, their meetings are long and do not provide lunch, however their involvement could be beneficial to the SAG Group.

## **Border Health SI – Change Agents**

Jill de Zapien and Joel Meister spoke about the change in agents from Border Health SI to the STEPS Grant. Jill reminded SAG member and new members, "to look at this broader than just STEPS". The challenge for SAG will be the policy framework, but it can happen. Jill asks that members not lose vision of improving quality of life, to have solid education for people in the community and to link social norms.

Joel Meister pointed out items from the posters Marilyn had posted; first, he stated that policy and norms work together. However, change in policy can change norms. Secondly, Joel spoke about the CDC Reach 2010 Community change. Who are the change agents? The change agents would be SAG, informal agencies, city council, etc. Then, Joel pointed to the Action Plan poster that shows, in bullets, a set road map for the STEPS grant for the next three years. The Action Plan reads: Five years from now the group would like to see the following in place in the community:

- Broad based community awareness of healthy lifestyles and their role in preventing disease;
- Consistent, strong community vision supporting health as a community value;
- Community infrastructure in place to support health, including:
  - sidewalks/bike paths
  - access to exercise/recreation facilities
  - clean air, clean water, recycling
  - more neighborhood parks;
- Funding mechanisms in place to support ongoing programs;
- Government and corporate policies in place to support community health;
- Leadership active in maintaining health as a community value.

Joel concluded by advocating Health Start a postnatal promotora program that support promotoras. He asked SAG members to write letters of support for the promotora program to our legislatures to keep the program funded. Projects such as Border Health SI and STEPS need the effectiveness and support of promotoras. Marilyn will send out a sample letter MEZACOPH wrote that people may follow.

## **Closure**

The next SAG meeting will be January 28, 2004. Sandra will email the time and location of the meeting to SAG members as soon as it is available.