

SOUTHWEST INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

COMMUNITY RESEARCH NEWS

SUMMER 2015



Dear SIROW Colleague,

As societal challenges continue to loom large, our work at SIROW remains crucial as we work to improve the lives of women, youth and families. Thanks to the ongoing support from the University of Arizona, external funding agencies, collaborators and others, SIROW continues to facilitate needed research and programming in Pima County, the SIROW region, and throughout the world. During the 2014-2015 year, we wrapped up several projects including the iTEAM project – an applied research project serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) transitional age youth. Research data from the iTEAM project illuminated the needs of LGBT youth and successful strategies for working with this population. This data informed the ANCHOR Project – a three-year project funded in September of 2014.

In addition to ANCHOR, SIROW also received funding for several other important projects this past year including funding to develop a sexual health educational film for adolescents, “Not Your Usual Bedtime Story,” and a research project on economically-challenged women that informed a report “How Women Manage in Tough Economic Times: Coping with Hardship in Southern Arizona.” A newly funded five year research project with Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International will undertake a national cross-site evaluation examining the effectiveness of treatment services for substance-involved adolescents, transitional age youth, and pregnant and newly post-partum women. Other projects include evaluations of Text, Talk, Act and Creating Community Solutions – programs aimed at creating national conversations to increase awareness and foster positive responses with regard to issues of mental health. The SIROW website highlights these and other newly funded projects as well as our ongoing and/or recently concluded projects.

In this issue, we also report on several of SIROW’s on-going projects (e.g., Ili Uusim Hiapsi Project, Project Expansion, JDC/RF National Cross-site Evaluation) as well as an update on the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program. As SIROW’s work continues to expand internationally, we have included several pieces on “SIROW Around the World.”

SIROW is committed to the University of Arizona’s (UA) land-grant mission and to student engagement. We welcome partnerships with other research institutes, community-based agencies, governmental agencies, Native American tribes, K-12 schools, and activist groups. SIROW offers internships and independent study credits for students through the Honor’s College, the Department of Gender and Women’s Studies and other UA colleges and departments. To get involved with SIROW and its important work – please visit our website at www.sirow.arizona.edu.

Sally Stevens Ph.D., Executive Director, UA-SIROW

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SIROW Around the World	2-4
WISE Expansion	5
Collaboration Event Focuses on Domestic Violence Survivors Seeking Asylum	5
Teens Create Modern Sexual Health Film	6
How Women Manage in Tough Economic Times	7
4th year of Ili Uusim Hiapsi (IUH) Success	8
Expanding Project EXPANSION	9
National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug	9
Successful Conclusion of iTEAM	10
Celebrating Launch of ANCHOR	10



SIROW Around the World

This year, SIROW continued to expand its transcontinental scope with projects far beyond U.S. borders. SIROW researchers, staff, and interns worked in far-flung communities from Italy to Mexico to Myanmar. In doing so, we connect with researchers around the world to address group-based disparities and improve the lives of adults and youth through inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional research and action projects. These diverse projects support SIROW's mission by (A) informing the field worldwide about research findings relevant to health, group-based disparities, and related social policies and practice (see the **SIROW in Rome! & International Women's and Children's Health and Gender Group Conference** articles); (B) providing much-needed direct services addressing adolescent sexual health information and behavioral skills needs (see the **ProJoven Implemented at Resplendor International's Escuela de Verano, Cajones, Mexico** article); and (C) working to ensure gender equality world-wide (see the **Addressing Gender Issues in Burma** article). With these and all of its projects, SIROW continues to employ multiple strategies to translate research to practice.

SIROW in Rome!

SIROW's Dr. Sally Stevens presented a paper titled "Bad Mothers or Bad Policies? Intergenerational Mothering and Family Loss among Ethnically Diverse Substance Using Mothers in the U.S./Mexico Border Region," which she co-authored with SIROW's Dr. Rosi Andrade. Sponsored by the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement, the "Maternal Subjectivities: Psychology, Psychoanalysis, Literature, Culture, and the Arts" conference was held April 23-24, 2015 at the Casa Internazionale Delle Donna located in central Rome – an international cultural center for women within a 17th century convent.

Bad Mothers or Bad Policies? focused on mothering and other family traumatic loss experienced at the individual, historical, and intergenerational levels of 226 female substance users enrolled in SIROW's Herstory to Health project. The women were from three racial/ethnic groups: Native American (26.5%), Latina (24.8%), and Caucasian (48.7%).

Data indicated both similarities and differences in mothering and other family loss experiences between the three race/ethnic groups. For example, 25.0% of Native American women compared to 16.1% and 17.3% of Latina and Caucasian women (respectively) were the subject of a Child Protective Service (CPS) investigation when they were a child. Of those 16.7% of Native American women compared to 8.9% and 5.5% of Latina and Caucasian women (respectively) were permanently removed by CPS from their homes as a child. With regard to their own children, Native American women reported that 34.2% of their children were living with someone else due to Child Protective Order. Similarly, 34.5% and 30.7% of Latina and Caucasian women (respectively) reported that their children were living with someone else due to Child Protective Order.

The women also reported experiencing the death of family members. For example 20.0% of Native American reported having one of their children die compared to 7.1% and 10.9% of Latina and Caucasian women (respectively). Additionally, 28.3% of Native American reported experiencing the death of a partner compared to 7.1% and 12.7% of Latina and Caucasian women, respectively.

The high rates of intergenerational mothering and family traumatic loss among women who use substances call for changes in social policies and practices that perpetuate such loss. Social policies and practices need to assure access to women-centered substance abuse treatment, trauma-informed care, and education and employment opportunities. Changes in child protective practices and prison policies that separate mother from child need to implement practices that promote the mother-child bond and avoid ongoing intergenerational family loss trauma.



View of Rome. Photo credit: Sally Stevens



Addressing Gender Issues in Burma

SIROW is honored to play a key role in the project, *Developing a Sustainable Seafood Industry for Burma* (also known as Myanmar). This project, funded by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), aims to move Myanmar's seafood sector towards an industry that mixes capture fisheries and aquaculture along with improved processing and marketing capabilities to meet global standards of sustainability, equitability, profitability, and food safety. The project is led by Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons (Director of the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences International Agriculture Programs and Professor of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science), and involves faculty and researchers from multiple University of Arizona departments. It is implemented in collaboration with University of Yangon in Myanmar, Patheingyi University in Myanmar, Auburn University in the U.S., as well as representatives from both the private and public sectors and several non-governmental organizations (NGO's).



SIROW's Dr. Josephine Korchmaros, with support from SIROW's Dr. Sally Stevens and Ms. Alison Greene, is collaborating on the project's special emphasis on reaching women with training and outreach programs. The goal is to address gender issues that impact the project's ability to reach women, in order to ensure gender equality in participation in and benefit from the project.

To shape and guide this special emphasis, Dr. Korchmaros is working to ensure that Myanmar women's views are represented in the project decision-making process. During a recent visit to Myanmar, she conducted research to identify, from the view of Myanmar women, the social, cultural, economic, structural, and other factors that impact Myanmar women's involvement in the seafood industry and in project activities. This research included interviews and a focus group with women in Myanmar who are involved in aquaculture and/or addressing women's issues. These women included Dr. Kay Lwin Tun (Senior Lecturer, Laboratory of Aquatic Bioscience, Department of Zoology, University of Yangon, Myanmar), Dr. Min Su Myint (Department Head, Department of Zoology, University of Yangon, Myanmar), Ms. Kyipar Phyo Paing (Administrative Assistant, Economic Growth Office, USAID-Burma, U.S. Embassy Yangon, Myanmar), Ms. May Myat Noe Lwin (Soft Shell Crab Farms Owner; Technical Advisor, Project Development Project, USAID; U.S. Soybean Export Council [USSEC]), and Ms. Su Su Aung (Program Manager-Strengthening Women's Cooperatives in Myanmar [SWIM], Relief International, Yangon, Myanmar). These women



Women feeding soft-shell crabs at a private fish farm in Yangon district in Myanmar.

provided invaluable insights about and support for the project. The results of Dr. Korchmaros' research will inform project activities and implementation.

Dr. Korchmaros and the project team are using multiple strategies to facilitate participation and engagement of women in Myanmar in the project activities and in the Myanmar seafood and aquaculture industry. For example, the project team has directed many of the project workshops and university collaborations towards labor areas in which women are disproportionately represented in Myanmar. In addition, they have directed efforts to encourage women faculty members in Myanmar to be members of the core of University faculty and extension specialists with skills and knowledge to assist fishers, farmers, and processors. Dr. Korchmaros and the project team will continue to work towards engaging Myanmar women throughout the duration of the project.

Dr. Korchmaros and the rest of the SIROW project team are also assisting with the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component of the project. The goal is to continually improve the project's implementation and activities, and assess the impacts of the project.

SIROW is excited to be a part of such a timely multidisciplinary effort to strengthen Myanmar's capacity for economic development and sustainability!

For more information about, please contact Dr. Korchmaros at jkorch@email.arizona.edu.



University of Arizona project team in front of project offices located in the Myanmar Fisheries Federation building: Dr. Jean McLain (UA Water Resources Research Center and Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science); Ms. Julianne Hammink (UA Center for English as a Second Language); Ms. Linda Chu (UA Center for English as a Second Language); Dr. Kevin Fitzsimmons (UA College of Agriculture and Life Sciences International Agriculture Programs and Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental



SIROW Around the World

International Women's and Children's Health and Gender Group Conference

For the past two years, SIROW has been a sponsor and supporter of the In-Women's conference, an international conference led and sponsored by Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International. The In-Women's conference is a multidisciplinary forum that addresses all aspects of the consequences of women's substance use, across the lifespan and including gender differences. Now in its seventh year, the In-Women's conference includes over 200 international members representing 40 countries. This year's conference was held on June 12th in Phoenix, Arizona.



Courtney Waters presenting her award-winning poster.

SIROW was well represented at the event. Dr. Sally Stevens served as a discussant on the panel session "Young Women and Adolescents." In addition, several SIROW researchers presented posters, including Courtney Waters, whose research team received the "Best Poster Award." These posters included:

1. "Examining sexual health myths and mysteries through youth participants' anonymous questions" – Courtney Waters et al.
2. "Gender differences in adolescent substance abuse in the U.S." - Josephine D. Korchmaros et al.
3. "Adaptability of a sexual health curriculum: A case study of ProJoven implemented at Resplendor International's Escuela de Verano" -Alison Greene et al.

4. "Improvements in housing instability, mental health status and access to services for LGBTQA youth in Southern Arizona"- Ian Ellasante

For more information about the In-Women's Conference, contact Sally Stevens at sstevens@email.arizona.edu.

ProJoven Implemented at Resplendor International's Escuela de Verano in Cajones, Mexico

This summer, SIROW's Monica Davis and student interns Dominique Cruz and Brittany Nigon traveled to Mexico to teach ProJoven, SIROW's Spanish version of their Health Education for Youth curriculum. SIROW facilitated ProJoven sessions for five days at Resplendor International, a non-profit organization located in a rural community Guanajuato. This is the second year that SIROW facilitated the ProJoven curriculum at Resplendor International. This year, SIROW also included a parent/caregiver component. Attendees, youth and caregiver alike, were able to attend sessions on puberty and anatomy, relationships and communication, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and protection methods, and more. Additionally, Brittany conducted a needs assessment of sexual health resources in the local community. Findings will be utilized to address future capacity building. SIROW would like to thank Dr. Todd Fletcher, at the UA College of Education, the UA Honors College, and the Tinker Foundation for their support of this project.



Resplendor International, Guanajuato, Mexico

For more information, contact Monica Davis at midavis@email.arizona.edu.

The University of Arizona's Women in Science and Engineering Program Expands



2015 has already proven to be an exciting and eventful year for the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Program at the UA. Since January, the program has raised over \$50,000 from both internal UA and external sources to expand programmatic offerings.

With funding from the Marshall Foundation and the UA Student Engagement Strategic Investment Fund, WISE will launch the STEM Outreach and Student Engagement Program (STEM-OSEP) this

fall. Through this program, UA students will participate in a weekly 1.5-hour course addressing issues of diversity and social justice in STEM fields. Students will then be placed with local K-12 school-based programs to help design and implement innovative STEM programs. We're excited to continue developing our relationship with our partner organization for this project, the STEMazing Project of the Pima County Superintendent's Office. We also look forward to continuing to build relationships with local K-12 schools as we work to increase interest and diversity in STEM fields!

In fall 2015, WISE will also be offering a middle school Expanding Your Horizons Conference (funded by Freeport McMoRan) in Sahuarita, Arizona on Saturday, October 17th at Sahuarita Middle School. If you would like to volunteer to design a hands-on workshop for the conference or serve as an event volunteer, please contact Jill Williams at JillMWilliams@email.arizona.edu for more information. And check out our website, wise.arizona.edu, for more information on programmatic offerings and on-going volunteer opportunities!

SIROW COLLABORATION ADDRESSES IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASYLUM, PROPOSES SOLUTIONS

Support from the Agnese Nelms Haury Program for Environment and Social Justice enabled SIROW, in collaboration with the James E. Rogers College of Law, to organize an event April 23 and 24, 2015 on the treatment of migrant women with domestic-violence based asylum claims.

Day one consisted of a panel for the general public. The goal was to describe what is currently happening to women who flee domestic violence and arrive at the U.S./Mexico border. The panelists included the following experts:

- Karen Musalo, Professor of Law at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, lead attorney in several landmark gender-based asylum cases, and founding director of the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, which is internationally known for its research, legal advocacy, and technical expertise.
- Lindsay Jenkins, Assistant Protection Officer with the U.S. Protection Unit in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Office Washington, DC.
- Stephen Manning, lawyer from Portland Oregon who has led the effort to provide pro bono representation to women in family detention centers.

In addition, Roxie Bacon, former general counsel of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, gave introductory remarks. Over 120 people attended the event, and the audience consisted of a mix of students, community members, and faculty.

Day two was designed as a full day strategic roundtable. The group brought varied expertise to the discussion as litigators, policy advocates, researchers, and legal services providers. SIROW is currently working with many participants on plans to follow up. These plans are specifically aimed at addressing the needs of immigrant women held in the Eloy Detention Center, as many of these women have strong claims for asylum based on domestic violence.

If you are interested in learning more about this effort, please contact Nina Rabin, rabin@email.arizona.edu, (520) 621-9206. 5

SIROW Unveils Modern Sexual Health Film Created By and For Teens



“Not Your Usual Bedtime Story represents a unique film and a new ideal in which we are simply trying to get teens to consider their own story and equip them with the tools necessary to discover their own happily ever after.” These were the words of youth filmmaker and panelist Diviya Rajesh at the premiere of Not Your Usual Bedtime Story: Exploring Teen Sexual Health, as she reflected on her experience as a Youth Project Leader in SIROW’s Sex Ed Cinema Project.

The Sex Ed Cinema Project was a one-year project, funded by Unidas of the Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona. The project’s goals were to educate and empower a group of high school youth to be sexual health ambassadors in their schools and community, and to create an accessible tool

for providing sexual health information to teens. To accomplish this, five students from high schools across Tucson collaborated, with the **(continued from page 9)** support of SIROW staff and young adult mentors, to create a short sexual health film and accompanying educational toolkit. Over the course of nine months, the project progressed from a preliminary concept to a 17-minute feature. The film is interview-style presenting five fictional personas, each of which addresses questions relating to sexual health. The Youth Project Leaders were intentional about dispelling common misconceptions and challenging stereotypes. As a result, the film’s content and cast portray an impressive diversity of perspectives and identities. The accompanying toolkit material, including fact sheets, activities, and a discussion guide, are designed to further explore the film’s concepts. It can be used by youth or teachers and other adults facilitating group-based sessions.

In a proud culmination of the Youth Project Leaders’ incredible efforts, Not Your Usual Bedtime Story premiered before an audience of more than 80 community members on May 17, 2015, at The Loft Cinema. The free community event was open to the public and featured breakfast, networking opportunities, appearances by local organizations that support adolescent sexual health, and a poster session highlighting SIROW’s community-based work.

Immediately following the film debut, four Youth Project Leaders and one young adult mentor participated in a panel in which each panelist discussed a different aspect of the project, including the inspiration behind the film, the group formation process, writing the script, shooting the film, and personal reflections on the overall experience. The panel was met with genuine interest, and thoughtful questions from the audience led to a supportive and reflective dialogue about not only the film and its developmental process, but also the state of sexuality education for teens today. Following the event, several guests including a TUSD School Board Member reached out to congratulate SIROW on the project and to show support for keeping the momentum going.



Panelists at the premiere of *Not Your Usual Bedtime Story* premiered: Mentor Brooke Campbell and Youth Leaders Ariana Parrish, Diviya Rajesh, Brenna Young, and Genea

SIROW looks forward to furthering these relationships and promoting the film and toolkit widely among the Tucson community and beyond. The film and toolkit materials are available online at <http://bit.ly/sexedcinemaproject>. For more information, please contact [greene@email.arizona.edu](mailto:greeneg@email.arizona.edu) or cwaters2@email.arizona.edu.

How Women Manage in Tough Economic Times

SIROW collaborated with the **Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission (PCTWC)** to produce a review of women living in poverty in Southern Arizona, *How Women Manage in Tough Economic Times: Coping with Hardship in Southern Arizona*.

The study team held focus groups with low-income women across age groups and life circumstances, and interviewed service agency personnel who were knowledgeable about women who struggle financially. The researchers were interested in how women's economic status is shaped by circumstances such as their working environment, homelessness, domestic violence, divorce and other life events. They also examined policies and suggested policy changes. The hope is for the report to serve as a clarion call to policymakers sympathetic to the need for change toward a more just and equitable society.

Summary

Across age groups, women spoke about the great difficulty they face in finding employment. For young women, finding employment is particularly complicated because many of them lack job skills, have family responsibilities, and cannot afford childcare. Older women reported that they face discrimination because of their age. In addition, many are not equipped to deal with the changing technology in the workplace, especially if the job requires computer skills.

Women provided particularly concerning reports of food insecurity. Women described eating only oatmeal once each day, skipping meals several times each week and eating at community soup kitchens. Many women reported use of the SNAP program (food stamps), and explained that food stamps are very helpful, but inadequate to meet their nutritional needs, especially when there are young children in the home.

Homeless women face unique challenges. They reported a lack safe and reliable shelter, both day and night. They also described being extremely fearful of physical violence and sexual assault when "out on the streets." Being homeless increases the risk of relapse into drug and alcohol addiction, and while Tucson has some outstanding agencies that provide services to homeless women, the services are not adequate to meet the needs.

The study identifies access to health care services as another serious concern. Left with the choice of eating or paying the co-pay, low-income women often go without preventive care, medications or ancillary health services.

Transportation is another pressing issue for women who are struggling with limited economic means. Tucson's public transportation system received some rather strong criticism with respect to safety and access.

Conclusions

The study review team made specific recommendations to address the numerous problems identified by the women and the agency personnel who were interviewed in this review. The report documents that low income women of all ages have complex needs that require both immediate help (e.g., a safe place to stay) and long-term coordinated assistance from numerous sources. The authors found that women, for many reasons, face discrimination and barriers in seeking employment. Young single women with children are unable to find adequate employment to support their children. Safe and affordable childcare is beyond their financial means. Women experience the impact of pregnancy disproportionately to men. Women still make less money than men and are often tracked into low paying service jobs. **While many stellar agencies currently serve low-income women, there is both a great need and an opportunity for the City and County governments to address these women's distinctive and pressing needs.**

The study review team include Alison Hughes - alisonhughes@email.arizona.edu, Joyceen S. Boyle - jboyle@nursing.arizona.edu, and Rosi Andrade - rosia@email.arizona.edu.

The report can be accessed at:

http://sirow.arizona.edu/sites/sirow.arizona.edu/files/How_Women_Manage_In_Tough_Economic_Times-Aug_27_2014-SIROW-PCTWC_FINAL.pdf and at

<http://pimatucsonwomen.net/web/news/HowWomenManageInToughEconomicTimes-Aug27-SIROW-PCTWC.pdf>



Success with Ili Uusim Hiapsi Families

SIROW is approaching the start of its fourth year providing evaluation services to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's Ili Uusim Hiapsi (IUH) ~ Hearts of Little Children program. During this time, with the support of the Sewa Uusim Community Partnership, SIROW has enrolled 85 families (268 people) into the SAMHSA-funded project Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (LAUNCH). Project LAUNCH/ IUH offers the Pascua Yaqui Tribe the unique opportunity to enhance the existing health, behavioral health, and social service systems for young children from birth to eight years of age and their families. The expected result is for children to be thriving in safe, supportive environments and entering school ready to meet or exceed developmental milestones. This five-year grant is a partnership between the Sewa Uusim Community Partnership, Tribal Head Start programs, Centered Spirit Mental Health agency, Tribal Health Services Department, and SIROW.

The 2014/2015 year has been bursting with opportunities for Yaqui families, keeping the SIROW evaluation team busy and in demand. In order to meet new families and stay connected with the community, the SIROW evaluation team has attended many fun and culturally significant events over the last year. In September, approximately 600 people celebrated the federal recognition of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe at a Recognition Day event. While enjoying lunch, families engaged in a fun run/walk, arts and crafts, face painting, jumping castle, and collected information about health and wellness from resource booths. Over the Fall and Winter seasons, IUH hosted a number of well-attended Family Nights—evenings where families came together to eat and enjoy arts and crafts, movies, music, and other fun activities. In June, we connected with families at the Head Start Back to School Bash, offering young children opportunities to develop their fine motor skills and compete in our block tower building contest! Over the months of June and July, IUH, in collaboration with Head Start, offered the Summer Enrichment Program. Sixty-nine children from three to eight years of age spent five weeks learning about their Yaqui culture and language in the morning, while their afternoons focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education.

IUH continues to offer the community a variety of family focused programs. These include *Motherhood and Fatherhood is Sacred*, a curriculum that offers opportunities to gain deeper understandings of the importance of responsible motherhood and fatherhood as reflected in Native American values and beliefs; *Devoted Hearts*, a curriculum designed to help participants regain a connection with their Yaqui culture and learn a blend of old parenting patterns and new skills; and *Growing Great Kids Home Visitation*, an in-home curriculum teaches parents to cultivate secure attachments, bolster child development, strengthen families, and build other essential life skills. The evaluation team is currently working to organize focus groups with participants to learn about the lasting effects of these programs on participants' lives.



Amy Lucero, Amanda Bahe, and Monique Tsosie promoting IUH enrollment at the Pascua Yaqui Head Start Back to School Bash—6/20/15

SIROW Research Technicians Amy Lucero and Amanda Bahe continue to enroll new families into the IUH evaluation, as well as collect data every six months with children and their parents and/or caregivers. Our evaluation team has just begun its first round of 18-month follow-up assessments. We are thrilled to reconnect with these families and share updates about their children's new physical, social, emotional, behavioral and cognitive developments. For more information about Ili Uusim Hiapsi, please contact Corrie Brinley at cbrinley@email.arizona.edu.



Expanding Project EXPANSION

Pascua Yaqui Treatment Expansion Project (PYTEP or Project EXPANSION) at the Sewa Uusim Community Partnership is in its third year of federal funding from SAMHSA's System of Care Expansion Planning Grant. Project EXPANSION seeks to provide a sustainable network of care and a tribal wide integration of child-focused, family-guided, culturally consistent services from primary care through trauma/substance abuse recovery programs. Project EXPANSION seeks to expand the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's service approach to and advance system of care principles and approaches to all

tribal child and family providers. Research Technicians Monique Tsosie and Amanda Bahe have enrolled over 75 youth between the ages of 9 and 21 years of age into the evaluation portion of the project.

During the 2014/2015 year, Sewa Uusim offered Pascua Yaqui youth and their families opportunities to engage in a variety of ongoing culturally centered programs and curriculums, including WRAPAROUND, Cultural Arts, Youth Equine Skills, Women's Wellness Equine Healing, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Tortuga Ranch, Family Nights, Human Society Partnership, Yoeme Kari, White Bison's Sons of Tradition and Purpose of Life, Growing Together Mentoring, Summer Program, and Youth M.O.V.E. (Motivating Others Through Voices of Experience).

One leading example of EXPANSION's efforts is Sewa Uusim's Youth M.O.V.E., a youth-led national organization devoted to improving services and systems that support positive growth and development. Youth M.O.V.E. seeks to unite the voices of individuals who have lived experience in various systems including mental health, juvenile justice, education, and child welfare. Over the summer months, Pascua Yaqui's Youth M.O.V.E. chapter members represented their tribe in Washington D.C. at number of events. Four youth had the opportunity to participate in a Native American roundtable session at a legislative hearing. Ten youth attended the 39th Annual National United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc. (UNITY) Conference in July. There was a record breaking turnout, with more than 1,800 attendees converging at the nation's Capital representing over 200 tribes and Indigenous communities, making it the largest participation in conference history.. Five youth attended the first White House Tribal Youth Gathering, where administration officials discussed problems in Indian Country with tribal youth. More than 1,000 Native American youth representing more than 230 tribes from across the country attended the historic event organized by President Obama. For more information about Project EXPANSION, please contact Corrie Brinley at cbrinley@email.arizona.edu.



(Amy Lucero & Monique Tsosie handing out balloons at Sewa Uusim's Mental Health Awareness Campaign Kickoff Event—4/8/15)

National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures

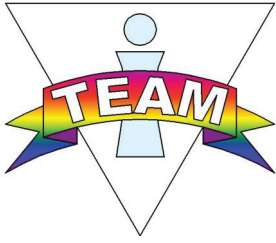
SIROW, in collaboration with evaluation partners Chestnut Health Systems and Carnevale Associates, LLC, is in its fourth year of the *National Cross-Site Evaluation of Juvenile Drug Courts and Reclaiming Futures (JDC/RF)*. This national evaluation is a multi-site, multi-year evaluation of multiple JDCs awarded grant funding under the JDC/RF initiative. Under this initiative, JDCs are charged with rehabilitating nonviolent, substance-abusing youth by integrating two models, Juvenile Drug Court: Strategies in Practice (<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/197866.pdf>) and Reclaiming Futures (<http://reclaimingfutures.org>).

Community partnerships are identified as one of the 16 Strategies in Practice and a component of RF. Community engagement is important to youth's success in substance abuse treatment, in order to successfully transition youth back to their communities and to prevent recidivism and substance use relapse.

Findings from the National Cross-Site Evaluation indicate that JDC/RF staff and community members perceived that the JDC/RF programs are actively working towards and achieving collaboration among local youth-serving agencies. JDC/RF staff suggested that a distinctive contribution of RF at their site was to renew their focus on engaging the community. JDC/RF staff also described efforts to cultivate and sustain system-wide collaboration consistent with the JDC/RF model. Finally, community members viewed the JDCs as actively working to increase collaborative planning. Together, local communities and JDCs are working together for the success of justice-involved youth.

For more information, contact Alison Greene at greene@email.arizona.edu.

SIROW Celebrates the Successful Conclusion of iTEAM



After five years, iTEAM (Treatment Empowerment for Adolescents on the Move) has drawn to a successful close. The project has been guided by several ambitious goals: to increase housing access and stability, improve mental health status, increase linkages to community resources, decrease substance use, and reduce HIV risk behaviors among its participants. Between 2009 and 2014, the iTEAM project served a total of 244 LGBTQ and straight ally youth and young adults. SIROW led this six-agency collaborative project with funding from SAMHSA, and worked in partnership with the following Tucson agencies: CODAC Behavioral Health Services, Open Inn, Our Family Services, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), and Wingspan's Eon "Lounge" Youth Center.

Outcome data indicate that the iTEAM collaboration contributed to significant improvements in multiple areas, particularly housing stability and mental health. iTEAM participants received case management and housing assistance from Our Family Services and Open Inn, resulting in consistent increases in housing stability. For example, 19.1% of participants reported living in their own apartment or house at intake. Six months later, at follow-up, that number had increased to 39.5%. At intake, 11.4% of participants reported being homeless, compared to 3.8% at follow-up.

In terms of mental health, iTEAM participants had access to crisis counseling and weekly "Creating Change" therapeutic support groups, which employ cognitive-behavioral therapy and mindfulness techniques. Outcome data document the impact of these interventions. The average number days of the past 90 disturbed by traumatic memories decreased from 23.5 at intake to 17.1 at follow-up. The average number of days disturbed by emotional problems decreased from 20 at intake to 12 at follow-up.

iTEAM also employed an innovative data collection tool for a beyond-the-binary look at the fluidity of participants' gender identity, sexual identity, and sexual orientation. Using this tool, called the iTEAM Supplemental Questionnaire, the SIROW evaluation team measured participants' gender identity, sexual identity, and biological sex with a set of four eight-point scales. This approach also enabled SIROW researchers to track changes over time in these identity categories. Researchers discovered that 35.8% of participants reported no change in gender identity over six months, while 29.5% moved an average of 1.5 points closer to "Feminine," and 34.7% of participants moved an average of 1.2 points closer to "Masculine" on the scale. In focus groups, participants were asked to describe the experience of completing the iTEAM Supplemental Questionnaire. They stated that being asked questions like these helped them to "feel more confident and calm." Participants also noted that some of the eight-point scales are "still too binary," and provided several tips for further development of the questionnaire to better capture transgender identities.

As iTEAM has drawn to a close, SIROW will apply lessons learned from the project into the ANCHOR Project, a three-year SAMHSA-funded project also serving unstably housed LGBTQ young adults. For more information about iTEAM, please contact Ian Ellasante at ellasante@email.arizona.edu.

SIROW Celebrates the Launch and Growth of Community-based ANCHOR Project



The ANCHOR (Accessible Network for Coordinated Housing, Opportunities, and Resilience) Project is a 3-year SAMHSA-funded project led by SIROW, in collaboration with longstanding partners the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and CODAC's Living Out Loud LGBTQI Health and Wellness Center. The project provides linkages to supportive and affirming services for unstably housed LGBTQ&A young adults. ANCHOR's unique structure allows participants to choose from a menu of services to create an individualized care plan that will support their goals and guide them toward attaining greater self-sufficiency. Available services include connections to housing support, mental health services, weekly support groups, individual prevention and goal planning sessions, and education and employment assistance.

The ANCHOR Project officially launched in March 2015 with two "Get to Know Your ANCHOR" events, hosted at the project's own off-site location. Potential participants and community members were invited to enjoy dinner, play games, win raffle prizes, tour the space, meet staff, and provide input on their visions for the ANCHOR Project.

Eliciting input from participants is an essential aspect of the ANCHOR Project that underscores its community-based structure. In the few months since its inception, the ANCHOR Project has already grown and adapted to meet the needs and suggestions of our participants. A critical source of this feedback is the ANCHOR Action Alliance, a participant advisory board that partially governs how the project is run. Examples of project adaptations based on participant feedback include starting all weekly groups by sharing names and preferred pronouns, electing names for weekly groups through a participant vote, providing bus passes, adding new weekly groups on Social Anxiety Management and S.M.A.R.T. Recovery (Self Management and Recovery Training), and building in participant-led workshops, which allow participants to teach and learn from each other while celebrating their unique interests and talents.

Beyond supporting participants with housing, education, and employment, the ANCHOR Project also aims to help them feel empowered and build relationships with other members of the LGBTQ community. By continuing to promote buy-in and ownership, we hope that participants will find a family and a home in the ANCHOR Project.

For more information about the ANCHOR Project, please contact Project Director Claudia Powell at claudiap@email.arizona.edu or Program and Evaluation Coordinator Ian Ellasante at ellasante@email.arizona.edu.

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