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TEXAS/OKLAHOMA AETC

U.S./Mexico Border Project

## Report from the field – 1

### Clinician Roundtable: Bi-national Continuum of Care (COC) for PLWA in the US/MX Border

Two Roundtable discussions were held with clinicians at the annual Border Summits in El Paso, TX (October 11<sup>th</sup>) and South Padre Island, TX (October 25<sup>th</sup>). The purpose of the meeting was to establish structural ways for a bi-national continuum of care (COC) for HIV-infected patients returning to Mexico and Latin-American and encourage information sharing to address the HIV epidemic that recognizes no borders. Both Roundtable discussions followed the same basic outline. In El Paso the discussion was facilitated by the LPS Clinical Director and the LPS administrator from La Fe CARE Center. Twelve participants provided their insight, including physicians and nurse practitioners, all from El Paso. In South Padre Island the facilitator was the AETC Director and was attended by 30 people, clinicians and case managers from both sides of the US/MX border.

Based on the input from these clinicians, who have a wide range of experience working with HIV-infected migrants in the Texas-Mexico border region, the following conclusions were extracted as to the needs in each area of the Texas/Mexico border:

- a) Establish and solidify contacts with HIV Mexican clinicians at federal, regional and local level.
- b) Develop a strategy to coordinate bi-national continuum of care (COC) for HIV-infected migrant patients who access HIV care on both sides of the Texas/Mexico border.
- c) Disseminate relevant information about HIV conferences and other events on both sides of the border with topic in cross-border migrant population.
- d) Identify an individual or coordinating agency to foster this bi-national cooperation until it is well established.
- e) Identify HIV providers and the available range of services on both sides of the border;(maintain contact with them to keep them apprised of activities and host regular meetings).
- f) Provide training on HIV/AIDS related issues for other physicians on the both sides of the border, increasing knowledge, abilities and expertise for positive collaboration. (Physicians on the US side of the border, along with their counterparts in Mexico, could seek alternative and sustainable funds for cross border collaborations of COC.
- g) Update the AETC Border Resource Directory , including HIV clinical centers (CAPASITS) for the Mexican side of the border.
- h) Educate clinicians in the U.S. & Mexico clinicians regarding the process for HIV-infected patients to access and navigate the Mexican & U.S. health care systems, respectively. (with emphasis on HIV Services)

#### Addendum

As a result of this activity, collaborations were formed by CAPASITS Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, CAPASITS, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, Valley AIDS Council, La Fe Care Center and Bi-national Multisectorial Workgroup and commitments were made to carry out many of these goals locally n El Paso/Juarez and McAllen-Harlingen/Matamoros-Reynosa