



Implementing Best Practices Initiative

IBP INITIATIVE UPDATE – December, 2003 Please pass on to interested parties.

First of all, we wish you the best for a happy and successful 2004! In spite of the holiday season, there is considerable IBP progress that we are pleased to report:

New Member Organizations

In recent months, we have been delighted to welcome two new members: The Centre for Development (CEDPA) and John Snow, Inc. The IBP Coordinating Committee representative from CEDPA will be Dr. Cynthia P. Green, Ph.D. (e-mail cgreen@cedpa.org), while Ms. Leslie Patykewich (e-mail leslie_patykewich@jsi.com) will be the Coordinating Committee representative from JSI. Please join us in welcoming them. In addition, the new Coordinating Committee representative from IPPF replacing Dr. Carlos Huezo is Dr. Fatiha Terki (e-mail fterki@ippf.org).

Follow up to India Launch of Implementing Best Practices Initiative

Maggie Usher-Patel will be in India from January 12-23, to review the status of the IBP Meeting Action Plans and the follow up support that has been provided. To date, very encouraging feedback has been received from the India partner organizations and the four State Teams. Maggie will do a feature piece on India meeting follow up when she returns.

India Follow-up Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Maggie Usher-Patel
India Follow-up Team Leaders: Anjana Singh, USAID/India, and Barbara Spaid, Chair, IBP/India Steering Committee

Africa Launch

An Africa Launch Planning Committee has started working on the specifics of the Africa Launch. Task Teams are being organized and will start their work in the next week. The Launch is scheduled for June 21 - 25, 2004, in Entebbe, Uganda. Meetings are scheduled in late January and early February in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia to solidify each country's involvement, finalize the theme of the meeting, and identify priority needs and topics for the Mini University. Susan Monaghan will make this trip with Dr. Therese Lesikil from WHO/AFRO and Dr. Davy Chikamata from WHO/Geneva, Department of RHR. While in each country, the WHO team will meet with stakeholder groups coordinated by the Reproductive Health focal person at the respective country's Ministry of Health. In April, Susan Palmore (FHI) will initiate pre-launch activities with participants to initiate the exercises that identify priority topics.

The Regional Centre for Quality of Health Care at Makerere University, which is hosting the meeting, will organize a Steering Committee with regional representatives from partner agencies representing the countries launching the Initiative. The IBP Consortium Task Team will provide assistance as needed.

Each partner organization will receive a request for a contribution to the meeting “kitty” to cover administrative expenses for the meeting. If your organization has particular constraints or regulations concerning such a payment, please contact Susan Monaghan.

Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Susan Monaghan

Task Team Leader: Joel Okullo, Regional Centre for Quality of Healthcare

Strategic Planning for IBP

We will be initiating a Strategic Planning exercise in the next weeks, facilitated by an innovative Washington-based company called Group Jazz. Each IBP partner organization has already been asked to identify one focal person to represent it in the planning process. *(Note: If we do not yet know the name of your organization’s Strategic Planning focal person, please contact Susan Monaghan by January 15 at the latest).* The process will include several facilitated “virtual discussions” around topics related to the IBP Initiative and its future. These virtual discussions will be electronic, are meant to be inclusive, and can involve anyone from partner organizations who is interested in discussing that particular issue. Instructions will follow in the next few weeks. We are aiming toward completing the virtual discussions, summarizing them, and then holding a Strategic Planning meeting in early May

Point Persons at WHO for IBP Consortium: Alexis Ntabona, Maggie Usher-Patel, and Susan Monaghan

Task Team Leader: Sharon Rudy

Tool Kit

The Tool Kit Task Team, headed by MSH, has made dramatic headway in the last few months. Soon the Toolkit will be going to production. The MSH team has done a very efficient job of preparing the documents for inclusion. The CD-ROM will include materials from the IBP India Mini University Presentations, Plenary Sessions, and the Treasure Hunt, as well as interviews with conference participants who wanted to share their success stories. Peggy D’Adamo of the INFO Project has done a wonderful job of reporting on the 27 interviews. Updated bibliographies from partner organizations have been added. *(Note: if you have not sent yours in, this is possibly the last moment for additions to be considered).* The Advocacy Team is presently working on the cover design, and reviews are being done of component parts of the toolkit. The scheduled completion date is February 23, at which time it will be mailed to participants.

Point Person at WHO for IBP Consortium: Susan Monaghan

Task Team Leader: Sallie Craig Huber

Electronic Communication System

The good news is that the development of the system is nearing completion and those who have been involved in testing individual functionalities are very excited about it and report it is really easy to use. The bad news is that there is a tremendous amount of work that now needs to be done now so that we can all use it! We are starting to populate the system and are planning for field testing of the system in the few months after it is completed in mid-February. We are anxious to receive the 5-10 documents requested by Maggie Usher-Patel

recently, and will be following up with your organization if we do not receive them by January 15.

Ideally, the field testing should occur in both India and in at least one African country. If any consortium member organization is interested in being involved in the field testing of the system, please contact Tim Ryan or Susan Monaghan as soon as possible.

Point Person at WHO for Consortium: Maggie Usher-Patel

Task Team Leader: Tim Ryan

Literature Review on Knowledge Management

A draft is completed, and if you are interested in receiving a copy in advance of a final copy or a briefer summary, please contact Susan Monaghan.

Temporary Assistance for the IBP Initiative

Ms. Lou Compernelle will continue to work with us through the end of April on the specific assignment of helping to populate and test the IBP Electronic Communication System. In the coming months, Lou will also be wrapping up some work that she started as a volunteer, especially documenting success stories from previous IBP meetings and preparing the plan for an IBP website. You may be hearing from her on these issues in the near future. We especially appreciate her assistance on the IBP toolkit from India. If you wish to contact Lou, she is at e-mail compernelle@who.int.

Efficiency in our communication with you: Please note that with each item above, we have indicated who from our WHO team will be the lead person from the WHO IBP secretariat handling that particular issue. We ask that, if you contact us on these items, you write to the point person, with a copy to the other, instead of addressing the e-mail to both of us. That way, we will both stay informed, but we will both not respond to your e-mail or—worse yet—both expect that the other is responding to your e-mail and you wait with no answer.

Coming months' activities:

Continue Follow-up in India

Initiate IBP Strategy Discussions

Plan for Africa launch of IBP

**Complete Development of the IBP Communication System
and Organize Field Testing**

All the best. Maggie and Susan

January, 2004