

Karen Saylor, Ph.D.

Work Experience

- June 2008-Present** **Global Viral Forecasting Initiative** San Francisco, CA
Chief Operating Officer
- Coordinate research objectives and project operations at five project sites in Africa (Cameroon & Congo), Asia (China & Malaysia) and the US for an emerging viral forecasting endeavor, integrating non-profit and for profit public good approaches to zoonotic disease emergence research.
 - Oversee laboratory and repository development, press, personnel, proposal writing, budgets, project management, and project operations, in collaboration with university, federal and private sector partners.
- October 2007-June 2008 **Johns Hopkins Cameroon Program/GVFI** Yaounde, Cameroon
Director, Finance and Administration
- Oversee day-to-day management of emerging viral forecasting and HIV research projects in collaboration with a local NGO, Care & Health Program (CHP), and serve as administrative and financial liaison with collaborative partners at Johns Hopkins and UCLA.
 - Politically interface with US Embassy teams (ambassadors, deputy chiefs of missions, and defense attaches), in eight partner countries in Central Africa, as well as national ministry staff, including Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, and Ministry of Defense.
 - Research design and project proposal writing, including budget development, within a multidisciplinary team of social science and zoonotic-health research, focusing on vectors of disease transmission.
- August 2006-August 2007 **Médecins Sans Frontiers** Akonolinga, Cameroon
Field Coordinator/Project Director
- Manage a direct service treatment program for buruli ulcer patients, including protocol development for WHO-defined neglected disease.
 - Oversee HR issues, finance, administration, and operations of all hospital-based care and community-based outreach and education activities for buruli ulcer in rural Cameroon.
 - Organized and implemented a buruli ulcer prevalence study in collaboration with EpiCentre in Paris, to better understand BU prevalence in the district. (n=26,000).
 - Conduct a complementary qualitative study with 48 traditional healers working with buruli ulcer (BU) patients, looking at treatment approaches, cultural beliefs and discussing potential collaboration with the medical-model approach to treating BU.
- September 2001-August 2006 **Native American Health Center** Oakland, CA
Director of Research & Evaluation
- Oversee collection and analysis of client level data to assess behavioral change (outcome evaluation), working in an integrated mental health, substance abuse, HIV treatment program for urban Native Americans.
 - Working with program coordinators and evaluation staff to implement grants (process evaluation) for SAMHSA, CDC, and CMHS, combining indigenous and western-model approaches.
 - Build integrated web-based database and centralized intake system for all clients, coordinating various grant-defined data variables into a palatable entry point into behavioral health services.
- Oct. 2003-Oct. 2005 **Totah Behavioral Health Authority** Farmington, NM
Evaluation Consultant
- Conducting key informant interviews with community collaborators and clients to assess program development and implementation fidelity for a HRSA grant focused on integrating traditional Navajo treatment approaches (sweatlodge ceremonies, powwows, Dine ceremonies) into substance abuse treatment.

- Setting up a quantitative outcome evaluation process for measuring client progress and program effectiveness.
- Working with program director and clinical staff to implement grant and integrate process and impact evaluation related to integration of traditional Navajo healing and homeless behavioral health services.

June 2000-August 2001 **Navajo Nation, Department of Behavioral Health** Window Rock, AZ
Program Evaluator

- Assessing the efficacy of integrating traditional Navajo healing approaches (including traditional Diné ceremonies, sweat lodge ceremonies, Native American church) into mental health/substance abuse programs across Navajo Nation.
- Working closely with program director and eleven traditional healers to integrate traditional and Western modalities into an effective treatment approach.
- Funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), through a Targeted Capacity Expansion grant, 1998-2001.

January 2001-April 2003 **ASAP Social Detox Center** Riverton, WY
Qualitative Evaluation Consultation

- Conducting key informant interviews to evaluate program efficacy in a social detoxification center.
- Collaborative project between two tribes, Arapahao and Shoshone, the city of Riverton and Fremont County, Wyoming.
- Funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), through a Targeted Capacity Expansion grant, 1999-2002

April 1997-May 2000 **NIAAA Project, Northern New Mexico** Santa Fe, NM
Principal Investigator for New Mexico

- A qualitative 6-state bar study on the influence of server training on reducing DUI, organizing and participating in field team research in rural New Mexico.
- Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

March 1997-May 2000 **New Mexico Department of Public Health, Epidemiology Division**
Substance Abuse Epidemiologist Santa Fe, NM

- Organize a telephone and face-to-face statewide substance abuse prevalence study for the state of New Mexico, working with local non-profit and tribal partners in rural New Mexico.
- Qualitative and quantitative data analysis using EpiInfo and Nudist, examining substance abuse trends in New Mexico and compared with other US-Mexico border states.

March 1995-December 1996 **Douglass Hospital Research Center, Montreal World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating Center for Research and Training in Mental Health**

Project Coordinator and Lead Ethnographer

- Investigating issues of cultural identity, emotional distress, and depression among South Asian immigrants, exploring how traditional family structures and various cross-cultural belief systems factor into mental health care.

Education

Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology
 Université de Montréal

December 1999
 Montréal, Québec, Canada

Dissertation Title: "Oublier le corps: les dynamiques du corps feminine et de la pilule anovulante : Une etude ethnographique avec des femmes montréalaise". Subject: Women's reproductive health issues, attitudes toward the birth control pill, and relational dynamics between patients and practitioners.

MA in English and folklore

Working with Cajun healers in rural Louisiana,
University of Houston

December 1993
Houston, TX

BA in English, minor in French

Reed College

May 1991
Portland, Oregon

Papers and Presentations

"Prevalence of Buruli Ulcer cases in the health district of Akonolinga, Cameroon: a cross-sectional survey using centric systemic area sampling" K. Porten, **K. Saylor**s et al, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, May 2007.

"Violence Against Native Women in Substance Abuse Treatment" *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research: The Journal of the National Center*, Volume 26, 2006.

"Native Women, Violence, Substance Abuse, and HIV Risk" in *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, September 2005, Volume 37, Number 3, September 2005.

Lead editor for special edition of the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs* entitled "Faces of HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse in Native American Communities." With Eds. Nelson Jim, Ana Vanesa Plasencia, & Derek Smith. Volume 37, Number 3, September 2005.

"Program Academy: IT – Data Management Performance Outcome Evaluation" presentation at SAMSHA/Indian Health Services behavioral health conference entitled, "Expanding Partnerships to Meet Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Challenges in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities" in San Diego, CA on June 8, 2004.

"Aiming to Balance: Native Women Healing in an Urban Behavioral Health Care Clinic" in *Healing and Mental Health for Native Americans*" Speaking in Red, Altamira Press, July 2004.

"The Women's Circle Comes Full Circle" in *Morning Star Rising: Healing in Native American Communities*. San Francisco, CA: *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, 35:1 pp. 59-63, 2003

"Culture and Body Identity: how we negotiate identity and self in a health care environment," American Anthropological Association annual conference, Washington D.C., November 27, 2001.

"Social and Cultural Aspects of a Traditional Treatment Approach," Keynote Speaker for Navajo Nation Regional Behavioral Health Summit, Farmington, NM, June 7-8, 2000. Published paper.

"Substance Use in New Mexico: 1998-1999", Indian Health Services Research Program, 11th Annual Conference, April 26-28, 1999.

"Gallup Remembers – 10 Years of Alcohol Related Changes," Facilitator for McKinley Area Strategic Alliance Against Substance Abuse conference, Northwest New Mexico Fighting Back, March 23, 1999.