ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC HEALTH INFORMATION PROJECTS 2002

SUMMARY SHEET

Proposal #:   4-M-06   Average Score: 79.50

Acceptable: X

Unacceptable:

Institution: University of Kansas School of Medicine   State: Kansas

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this grant is to improve knowledge of and access to electronic health information for the public health workers in Kansas. The University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita Medical Library and the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine Medical Library, two multi type libraries, will use technology to educate public health workers about human and animal health information. Grant funds will be used to develop a web site of current, relevant and authoritative information. CDs will be designed, produced and distributed to draw public health workers to the Web site. Travel will be funded to four key annual meetings of public health workers in Kansas where we will make presentations.

This is a cost-effective multi-disciplinary approach to reach public health workers, who for this grant will be identified as local health department workers, nurses, veterinarians, and sanitarians in Kansas. We will reach our target audience of 2,024 persons, by presenting at key annual meetings, where public health workers are a guaranteed audience and by direct mailing CDs to each of the 99 county health departments in Kansas.

Partnerships have been formed with and annual meetings include the Kansas Public Health Association, the Kansas State Nurses Association, the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, the Kansas Association of Sanitarians, and the Annual Immunization Conference.

The anticipated outcomes are increased knowledge of NLM databases on the part of public health workers, increased ability to search the Internet for pertinent online medical information, dissemination of knowledge by public health workers to their colleagues and to the general public health community, family and friends.

Feedback will be solicited with an evaluation form for annual meeting attendees, an evaluation of the CD and web site, and a postcard evaluation enclosed in the CD packet.

This project will teach public health workers how to access PubMed, MEDLINEplus, Clinical Trials, TOXNET, and Internet resources so they can teach others where to find

timely, reliable, and authoritative information. This project will unlock the power of health information systems to improve the health of the people of Kansas.

Strengths and Weaknesses:

Criterion 1: Technical Approach:

Strengths:

Interesting cross section of public health workers and vets – human and animal health related
Conducted a survey before responding to RFP – establish needs among target groups.
Interactive CD acts as a guide to ease searching.
Web site specific to Kansas Public Health Workers
Detailed timeline and evaluation plan.

Resources are in place to accomplish this contract.
This contract is simple, but can reach health workers throughout the state.
The partnerships are clearly delineated.
The plan would assist health workers to access health information.

Concise focused project

Reaching a variety of health professionals at state meetings is a positive way to have a broad approach. Mailing teaching CDs to those who don't have annual meetings carries the goal of reaching people even further.
Three different ways of seeking feedback are included.
All relevant agencies have been contacted, have provided information and appear willing to work with principal on project.
Introducing consumer-level information to health professionals will increase their use and referral of these resources with their clients.

The KU Medical Center—Wichita Medical Library plans to partner with the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine Medical Library to educate public health workers about human and animal health information. They propose to do this by developing a website of relevant information, produce an interactive CD, and promote the website and CD through making presentations at key meetings throughout the state that bring together public health and veterinary professionals. At these meetings they will demonstrate NLM databases and how to search the internet. Their plan to reach large numbers of their target population through these state meetings and by mailing copies of the CD is feasible and logical.
They have included a brief implementation schedule on pages 14-15.
Their evaluation plan consists primarily of a series of print evaluation forms either handed out and collected at the presentations or mailed with the CD packet. There will

also be evaluation forms on the CD itself and on the website. The information they propose to gather will be helpful in evaluating their efforts.

The two libraries mentioned above will work in partnership to carry out the project. It should be a strong partnership.

They will continue to manage the website developed under the project.

The project likely adds value to another project for which they were funded this year through the NN/LM, although that must be a much smaller effort ($2,500).

Weaknesses:

Citations should be properly referenced.

The objectives are general.

The link to the web still is not clear as to how it will be developed.

It is unrealistic to expect the outcome stated in the grant application. Simply blindly shipping out a training CD without other training or documentation will get a large percentage of the CDs thrown away.

Grant would have better results if after the planned presentations, the attending members could take the CD home with them after signing an attendance sheet. Then those members who didn't attend or pick one up could have one mailed to them.

Details of web site with collection of links is glossed over. More detail is needed.

Indirect costs are 30% of total grant and no in-kind costs are provided.

Only five presentations are scheduled, so why are two laptops needed? Who will furnish the LCDs that are needed to do this kind of presentation? If the LCDs are going to be furnished at the annual meetings, then probably, laptops will be available as well. Even if not, one laptop is sufficient because presentations do not overlap. Then remaining funds could be used to make more CDs and the CDs could be given out after presentations at annual meetings.

Why are PDA's being purchased? There is no specific use for them mentioned in the grant beyond a vague mention in the budget document.

Evaluations won't be coming in until after the presentations and mailings. If the grant ends in December 2003 and the training CDs with the enclosed evaluation forms are not mailed out until December, there is very little time allowed for return of the forms and compilation.

Plan for continuing project after grant is weak without specificity. The web site will be incorporated into existing University of Kansas sites, but no plans are given for presenting the information at other related meetings.

No funding is provided for making more copies of CDs to send out and very little contact will be kept with the key people at the other organizations.

The need for the CD is not explained and therefore this reviewer questions whether it will prove to be useful. Why not put the effort into the development of the website, which can be more easily maintained and updated? How will the CD be kept current? If it contains links to information on the Internet, some links will be broken and this will cause frustration for users. Tutorials and demos will be out of date and the health

professionals will possible still be using them. If the reason for the CD was slow internet connections, this should have been stated. This would be a better project without the CD. Why will the project not include providing some type of library service from the two libraries that are leading the effort?

Aside from presentations at the state public health and veterinary meetings and mailing the CD, their outreach plans are quite passive.

Unfortunately, all evaluation methods that have been proposed will require OMB clearance if NN/LM funds are used to support them. They provide no information on how they will get a response to these requests for evaluative feedback.

Not much commitment is given to continue the work after the project ends.

Criterion 2: Community Targeted:

Strengths:

Target group is multi-disciplinary-health departments sanitation, veterinarians, nurses. Finite group is defined – outreach at meetings and by mailers to health departments Needs are very well defined.

State wide-health workers-includes vets, which is different.

Very specific targets with numbers.

All targeted groups are described along with their current access to the Internet. There are estimated numbers for annual meeting attendance.

Reaching new audiences of health professionals and thus potentially reaching their clients could have significant impact on the clients served

They provide an excellent description of their target population on pages 7-10. The description includes number of individuals in the entire target group, their locations, connectivity to the Internet, access to workstations, current resources available, etc. They expect to reach all 2,024 individuals in their target. Specifically, they are targeting local county health department workers, nurses, veterinarians, and sanitarians.

The need is well known and sufficiently described in their proposal. The impact on the target group of having current information could be great. There has never been a time in the past 50 years when getting information to public health workers has been of greater importance.

Weaknesses:

Number of individual programs at annual meetings should have been included as a way of estimating how many will attend the specified programs planned. Do all of the participants go to the same meeting at the same time or are there simultaneous programs?

Criterion 3: Project Support:

Strengths:

Personnel highly qualified.

The Bidders are capable of implementing the grant.

Principals have extensive appropriate background in grant administration, presentations, use of technology and other critical components of grant.
All organizations who are targeted for their annual meetings agree to support the presentations.

The principal investigator has taught PubMed and Searching and Evaluating Web Resources classes. She has also had experience in web development and marketing. The partner librarian is the Director at the K State College of Veterinary Medicine Library and has experience with providing information services to veterinarians.
There are letters of support from the Dean of the KU School of Medicine and the Director of IT as well as the Assoc Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs, Kansas State Vet School, the Executive Directors of the Kansas Public Health Association, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, the Kansas State Nurses Association, the President of the Kansas Association of Sanitations and a Trustee of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association.

Weaknesses:

No in-kind support is provided and the in-direct costs are very high (one of the partner institutions charges 48% for indirect costs!).

There is no description of the institutional facilities.