National AHEC Organization
Improving HPV Immunization Rates on a National Scale
Utilizing the National Area Health Education Center Network

Year 4 Progress Report
Covering the Period: September 30, 2017, To March 1, 2018

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OVERVIEW

The National AHEC Organization (NAO) National Training Center (NTC) received a 5-year cooperative agreement grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) beginning September 30, 2014, to develop and provide Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)-related training sessions to clinicians nationally. In addition to national and regional level efforts by the NAO NTC, existing state and local Area Health Education Center (AHEC) organizations were engaged to provide HPV outreach and education activities under sub-contracts to NAO NTC. The AHECs are uniquely positioned to provide provider training across the US, specifically to health care professionals practicing in rural and underserved settings as well as others.

The purpose of the Project is to increase health care providers’ awareness of the prevalence of HPV infections, HPV-associated cancers, and the CDC recommendations to administer the HPV vaccinations to 11 and 12 year-old males and females, as well as “catch-up” vaccinations for adolescents and young adults. It is expected that the outreach and education activities will lead to practice changes that will significantly contribute to an increase in HPV vaccination rates nationally.

This Fourth Year Progress Report covers the time period from September 30, 2017, to March 1, 2018. This 5-month period includes Quarter 1 and the first two months of Quarter 2 of Grant Year 4.

Evaluation Stakeholders

The primary stakeholders for this Project Evaluation Report include the CDC Project Officer (Achal Bhatt); the NAO NTC Project Leadership Team: Project Director (Gretchen Forsell) and Project Coordinator (Trisha Schulz); the Project Specialists (Kelly Owens, Becky Dawson, Corryn Celmer, and Joy Taylor); as well as the state AHEC entity staff contracted to carry out Project activities in their states. At a secondary level, staff at other CDC supported partner organizations that are also carrying out projects to increase the HPV immunization rate are considered stakeholders. Other stakeholders include providers who administer vaccines, their support staff, and members of related professional organizations. Ultimately the beneficiaries of the NAO HPV Immunization Project activities will be the US population who are expected to experience reduced HPV infections and HPV caused cancers.

Report Purpose

The purpose of this Progress Report is to document the accomplishments and progress toward objective targets of the NAO HPV Immunization Project during the 5-month performance period from September 30, 2017 to March 1, 2018. During the previous grant years of the Project many training programs were offered at the national and local level and a great deal of HPV immunization material was disseminated to providers. Based on the experience of the first three Grant Years, continued improvements were implemented during Grant Year 4 to better focus the Project efforts and improve the impact of the collective efforts of NAO and the AHECs. Prior to the beginning of Grant Year 4 the Project objectives, planned activities, and targets were updated
for the new year. This Progress Report is purposefully organized to match the goals and objectives listed in the work plan for Grant Year 4. Information and data for both qualitative and quantitative measures are shown as part of the evaluation activities. This Progress Report notes the status of the individual Grant Year 4 objectives as of March 1, 2018, using a color-coding system:

- **Green** indicates the objective target has been met or is on track to be met by the end of Grant Year 4,
- **Yellow** indicates that additional effort will be needed to ensure the objective target is reached by the end of Grant Year 4, and
- **Blue** indicates an objective that was removed from the work plan due to changes in CDC expectations.

This Progress Report is expected to be used by the Project leadership to strategically plan initiatives for Grant Year 5 by reviewing the progress toward and the effectiveness of the strategies and activities conducted so far during the Project. In addition, the progress toward targets may suggest needed changes to the specific objectives and/or their targets.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The NAO HPV Immunization Project proposes to increase HPV vaccination rates by delivering primary care clinician training programs and by disseminating education materials on a national scale utilizing the national AHEC network. The four stated objectives listed in the proposal for the NAO HPV Immunization Project to guide the activities during Grant Year 4 were:

- **Goal 1:** Plan, execute and monitor Project activities ensuring that performance measures and key milestones are met for Grant Year 4.
- **Goal 2:** Deliver standardized and customized “You are the Key’ training programs as well as supplemental educational materials targeting health care providers and health professions students during Grant Year 4.
- **Goal 3:** Expand Project reach by developing and refining HPV-related educational materials and disseminating the products to a broader audience of health care providers and students in Grant Year 4.
- **Goal 4:** Influence national efforts related to increasing HPV vaccination rates by forming strong partnerships with relevant professional organizations and by collaborating with state and national entities to push HPV-related initiatives during Grant Year 4.

To help facilitate the activities needed to enable the NAO HPV Immunization Project to meet these objectives, Project improvements were made in the work plan for Grant Year 4. These included refinement and focus of project objectives and targets, updates of the AHEC reporting system, additional training and strategic planning of the Project Specialists and AHEC staff, increased coordination with other CDC funded partners, and other Program enhancements.
These changes were made as part of a quality improvement process using lessons learned during the first three years of the Project as well as information provided by CDC and other project partners.

The NAO NTC and the state AHEC entities utilize existing technologic infrastructure to conduct Project activities in a virtual environment in addition to participation in conferences, workshops and face-to-face training sessions. The primary focus of this Progress Report was to document and assess the progress of the Project objectives so far during Grant Year 4 to plan more effectively for Grant Year 5.

RESULTS

Goal 1: Plan, execute and monitor Project activities ensuring that performance measures and key milestones are met for Grant Year 4

Objective 1.1: Create and review quarterly monitoring and an annual evaluation report ensure Project objectives are met

Evaluation Task: Document the creation and review of quarterly monitoring reports and annual evaluation reports.

Progress Notes: During Grant Years 3 and 4, quarterly reports for the quantitative targets were developed by the evaluation team to help the Project leadership track progress toward the quantitative targets so that adjustments could be made to increase the likelihood that the targets would be reached by the end of Grant Year 4.

The AHECs were given until mid-January 2018 to submit their final monthly reports for December 2017. The evaluation team used a summary of the AHEC activity combined with the NAO activities to create a monitoring report for the first quarter of Year 4 of the NAO HPV Immunization Project. That report was reviewed by the leadership team in March 2018. The summary of the monitoring report found that of the 29 project objectives, 13 either had met the target or were on track to meet the target in Year 4. Thirteen others were flagged as needing some attention to put them on track to meet their targets in Year 4, two needed data to be gathered to assess their status, and one was no longer needed due to a change in CDC focus. The NAO HPV Immunization Project leadership has been using this quarterly monitoring report to focus specific attention on those objectives that were not on target. The second quarterly report will be generated soon to measure current progress on all of the Project objectives.

The second annual evaluation report, covering the period April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017, was completed in May 2017. The findings and recommendations from that report were reviewed by the leadership team and used to develop the work plan proposed for Year 4.

Objective Status: This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.
**Objective 1.2: Recruit at least 30 AHEC state entities to conduct Project activity in at least 40 states**

**Evaluation Task:** Provide the number of AHEC state entities contracted to carry out Project activities as well as the number of states where project activity was occurring.

**Progress Notes:**
As of March 1, 2018, 33 AHEC state entities had been contracted to carry out the NAO HPV Immunization Project activity. The 14 states without an AHEC state entity engaged in the Project were Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

NAO and the state entities reported conducting Project activities in 43 of the 50 states. The seven states without Project activity were: Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island. Also, no Project activity occurred in the District of Columbia.

Since NAO HPV Immunization Project activities are not yet occurring in all states, recruitment of AHECs to work in the remaining states will continue through the rest of Grant Year 4.

**Objective Status:** The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.

**Objective 1.3: Review and update the project evaluation plan to match the work plan**

**Evaluation Task:** Produce an updated evaluation plan with revised objectives, activities and targets

**Progress Notes:**
The evaluation plan was updated to match the work plan proposed for Year 4. The updated evaluation plan was used to generate the Quarter 1 monitoring report as well as this Progress Report. The updated evaluation plan and related information is available on the NAO website: [https://www.nationalahec.org/hpv/evaluationplan/index.html](https://www.nationalahec.org/hpv/evaluationplan/index.html)

**Objective Status:** The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.

**Objective 1.4: Deliver an informational webinar on Grant Year 4 plans and expectations to AHECs and other stakeholders**
**Evaluation Task:** Document Grant Year 4 informational webinars delivered and archived

**Progress Notes:**
The Grant Year 4 “Kickoff” webinar was offered on October 24, 2017, for the participating AHECs as well as other stakeholders. Two-thirds of the 25 webinar participants had participated in the Project since it started. All (100%) indicated that the webinar gave them a better understanding of the activities that needed to be completed in Year 4. Almost all (96%) replied that the webinar provided useful information about the services available from the Project Specialists to assist them in planning and carrying out Project activities. This webinar is archived on the NAO NTC website for this project.

**Objective Status:** The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.

**Objective 1.5: Review and update AHEC entity activity and outcome data collection system for Grant Year 4**

**Evaluation Task:** Describe data collection system enhancements and success

**Progress Notes:**
The evaluation team significantly revised the data reporting system for Grant Year 4 to ensure that the data needed for Project administration, monitoring, and evaluation purposes would be gathered. In addition, data elements not needed for evaluation or program management were removed. Finally, revisions were made to better streamline the reporting process for the purpose of making it more convenient for the AHEC staff to use.

A special webinar for the participating AHECs was offered on November 14, 2017, to review the modifications to the activity and program reporting process for Grant Year 4. This webinar also served as a refresher to make sure all of the AHECs knew how to accurately and completely report their relevant activities. Most of the participants (82%) indicated that this training session provided all of the information they needed to correctly and completely report their activities and programs. All 18 attendees reported that they were confident that they would be able to follow the reporting requirements.

This webinar is archived on the NAO NTC website as well as in the Google Docs file folder as a reference for the AHEC staff who might not have not been able to attend the webinar or who might have questions about the reporting process and requirements.
One of the NAO NTC staff monitors the monthly reporting process to remind AHEC staff to submit reports when late as well as make corrections when reporting errors are observed. The completed final monthly reports are submitted to the evaluation team for processing. Summaries are provided to the leadership team monthly and also used to generate the quarterly monitoring reports.

**Objective Status:** The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.

**Objective 1.6:** Meet with Advisory Group at least twice

**Evaluation Tasks:** Summarize Advisory Group meeting schedule and actions

**Progress Notes:**
A formal Advisory Group has not been identified, so no meetings of a formal Advisory Group occurred during this evaluation period; however, an *ad hoc* group of individuals have served as advisors to the Project Leadership Team during Year 3. These advisors included the CDC project officer, NAO leadership, specific state AHEC staff, and others.

**Objective Status:** Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.

**Objective 1.7:** Review and update sustainability document at least once

**Evaluation Task:** Summarize enhancements to the sustainability document

**Progress Notes:**
Discussions related to sustainability of the project occurred among the members of the leadership team and informal advisors throughout this performance period; however, the sustainability document has not been updated with the additional ideas to sustain of the Project.

**Objective status:** Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.

**Objective 1.8:** NAO will provide at least 4 training webinars to increase the AHECs entity staff’s ability to effectively carry out the Project activities

**Evaluation Task:** Document Grant Year 4 training webinars delivered to AHEC staff
Progress Notes:
In addition to the Grant Year 4 “Kickoff” webinar that was offered on October 24, 2017, two additional training webinars were provided to the AHEC staff to help them carry out their Project-related activities.

The first training webinar for the participating AHECs was offered on November 14, 2017, to review the modifications to the activity and program reporting process for Grant Year 4 needed by the evaluation team, as described under Objective 1.5.

The second webinar was delivered on December 12, 2017, which focused on conducting environmental scans and building partnerships. More than 90% reported that this webinar gave them a better understanding of why partnerships are important (93%) for this Project and how to build mutual partnerships to support training (100%) and program marketing activities (92%). In addition, almost all (93%) indicated that the webinar helped them know how to conduct environmental scans to locate resources to help them with the Project activities and 85% reported that the webinar helped them know how to integrate the Project activities with their HRSA required AHEC activities.

**Objective Status:** This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.

**Objective 1.9:** The project specialists will provide support to AHEC staff to at least 30 AHECs to assist in integrating the Project activities with their AHEC activities, in building/enhancing partnerships, and/or in better marketing their HPV programs

**Evaluation Task:** Document the number of AHECs that received assistance from one or more of the Project Specialists

Progress Notes:
Between September 30, 2017, and March 1, 2018, one or more of the Project Specialists provided assistance to AHEC state entities in 30 states. Only three of the 33 state AEHC entities did not receive assistance (Ohio, Oregon, Washington). Eighteen AHECs received assistance with their partnership activity, 18 received training assistance, 11 received assistance with marketing, and 8 received assistance with integrating their Project activities with their other AHEC tasks.

**Objective Status:** The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.
Goal 2: Deliver standardized and customized “You are the Key' training programs as well as supplemental educational materials targeting health care providers and health professions students during Grant Year 4.

Objective 2.1a: NAO will offer at least 6 national training programs (webinars or self-study) for practitioners and students

Evaluation Task: Document the national training programs (webinars or self-study) for practitioners and students offered by NAO

Progress Notes:
NAO offered two national training webinars and one self-study training program for practitioners and students during this 5-month period. A webinar was offered that was titled “Perspectives of Vaccine Hesitancy” on January 10, 2018, and another one titled “How HPV Causes Cancer and Why It Still Matters” was offered on February 15, 2018. In addition, practitioners and students had access to a self-study training program during this period titled, “Vaccine Safety” on the NAO website. All of these programs were available for continuing education credit for those who requested it.

Objective Status: This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.

Objective 2.1b: At least 1,000 practitioners or health professions students will participate in the NAO trainings

Evaluation Task: Document the number of practitioners and students who participated in the national training programs (webinars or self-study) offered by NAO

Progress Notes:
A total of 613 practitioners and health professions students participated in the “Perspectives of Vaccine Hesitancy” webinar. Of these 314 (51.2%) completed the program evaluation poll questions. For the “How HPV Causes Cancer and Why It Still Matters” webinar, 360 practitioners and health professions students participated and 245 (68.1%) completed the evaluation poll questions. A total of 110 healthcare providers participated in the self-study program during this period. Altogether, 1,083 individuals participated in the training programs offered between September 30, 2017 and March 1, 2018.

Objective Status: The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.

Objective 2.1c: Participants will report at least 90% increase in awareness, knowledge and skills from the NAO webinars
**Evaluation Task:** Report the percentage of participants in the NAO training programs who indicated that they were more aware, knowledgeable and skilled due to the training programs.

**Progress Notes:**
For the “Perspectives of Vaccine Hesitancy” webinar, 95% of the participants were more aware of the root causes of vaccine hesitancy and 82% were more knowledgeable of how to maintain high immunization rates despite pervasive vaccine hesitancy, and 90% believed they had the skills to counteract thought patterns that lead to vaccine refusal.

Of the participants in the “How HPV Causes Cancer and Why It Still Matters” webinar, 97% were more aware of how HPV causes cancer, 97% were more knowledgeable about the biology of HPV and its infection, and 96% believed they were more skilled to state the evidence of the efficacy of the current vaccine.

Among the 110 healthcare providers participating in the Vaccine Safety self-study online program, 93% indicated that they were more aware of where to obtain available HPV vaccine safety data, 92% became more knowledgeable about current safety monitoring and evaluation for the nine-valent HPV vaccine, and 89% believed they now had the skills to provide appropriate care and counsel for patients and their families.

Overall, using the weighted averages across all three groups of trainees, 95% indicated that they were more aware, 89% were more knowledgeable, and 92% were more skilled due to their participation in the trainings. A slight improvement in knowledge would allow the target for this objective to be met.

**Objective status:** Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.

**Objective 2.2a: AHECs will offer at least 300 training programs for practitioners and students**

**Evaluation Task:** Document the training programs for practitioners and students offered by the AHEC state entities

**Progress Notes:**
The AHEC state entities offered 86 training programs for practitioners and health professions students during this 5-month period. Of these, 55 were the standard “You Are The Key” presentations using the slide set provided by CDC. The other 31 were customized versions of the “You Are The Key” integrated with material on related topics or oriented to specific health professionals. For all 86 programs, the “You Are The Key” objectives were included in the presentation objectives. The evaluation questions used for 71 of the programs assessed at least those objectives. Considering the number of training programs offered by AHECs as of March 1, 240 more programs will need to be offered from March 1 to September 29 to reach the target of 300 for Grant Year 4.
Objective status: Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.

Objective 2.2b: At least 12,000 practitioners or health professions students will participate in the AHEC trainings

Evaluation Task: Document the number of practitioners and health professions students who participated in the training programs offered by the AHEC state entities

Progress Notes:
A total of 3,951 healthcare practitioners and health professions students participated in the 86 standard or customized versions of the “You Are The Key” training programs offered between September 30, 2017 and March 1, 2018. Considering the number of participants in the training programs offered by AHECs as of March 1, about 8,100 more program participants will need to be documented in training programs offered from March 1 to September 29 to reach the target of 12,000 for Grant Year 4.

Objective status: Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.

Objective 2.2c: Participants will report at least 90% increase in awareness, knowledge and skills from the AHEC trainings

Evaluation Task: Report the percentage of participants in the AHEC training programs who indicated that they were more aware, knowledgeable and skilled due to the training programs.

Progress Notes:
To assess this objective, responses to standardized evaluation questions were used that all of the AHECs administer to program participants after the training sessions. The percent responding “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” to this question: As a result of this training, I am better able to describe the burden of HPV disease was used to measure their awareness. The percent responding “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” to this question: As a result of this training, I am better able to explain the rationale for vaccinating youth at ages 11 or 12 was used to measure knowledge. To measure their skills, the percent responding “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” to this question was used: As a result of this training, I can provide useful and compelling information about the HPV vaccine to parents to aid in making the decision to vaccinate.

Overall, among all of the trainees, 95% indicated that they were more aware, 93% were more knowledgeable, and 93% were more skilled due to their participation in the trainings.

Objective Status: This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.
Objective 2.3: At least 75% of practitioners will report using the training information to increase the HPV vaccination rates at their practice

Evaluation Task: Document the percentage of respondents to the follow-up survey that they have used the training information to increase the HPV vaccination rates of their patients

Progress Notes:

Overall, 90% of practitioners responding to the follow up survey reported that they used the information or recommendations presented in the training to change their practice to increase HPV vaccination rates among their adolescent patients. One-third (34%) reported that they “definitely” used the information and 56% indicated that they “somewhat” used the information. In addition, three-quarters (73%) of the respondents replied that as a result of using the information or recommendations provided in the training, they believed that the HPV vaccinations among their adolescent patients had increased. Over one-fifth (22%) believed the HPV vaccination rate had “definitely” increased and one-half (51%) believed the HPV vaccination rate had “somewhat” increased as a result of using the information and recommendations provided in the training sessions.

Objective Status: This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.

Objective 2.4a: Develop at least 1 training program to cover relevant HPV topics that may arise during the grant year

Evaluation Task: Document the development of at least one national training program by NAO to cover HPV relevant topics

Progress Notes:
NAO developed and offered two new national training programs during this 5-month period on topics relevant to HPV. The first was a webinar titled “Perspectives of Vaccine Hesitancy” offered on January 10, 2018, and another one titled “How HPV Causes Cancer and Why It Still Matters” was offered on February 15, 2018. Both programs were of great interest to healthcare providers and health professions students as evidence by the large number of attendees (973).

Objective Status: The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.

Objective 2.4b: Develop an inter-professional education (IPE) activity for AHEC Scholars that at least 6 AHECs will adopt

Evaluation Task: Document the development of an inter-professional education (IPE) activity for AHEC Scholars that at least 6 AHECs will adopt
Progress Notes:
Background information and discussions with staff from several AHEC programs have occurred relative to types of IPE activities that would be of interest to AHECs. The information gathered will be beneficial in developing an IPE activity that would be readily adopted by multiple AHECs. The new HRSA requirement for AHECs to develop a scholar’s program is related to this objective. The AHEC scholars program is developing at a slower than anticipated rate, but it is expected that the related IPE activity for this objective will be developed and in use before the end of Grant Year 4.

**Objective status:** Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.

**Objective 2.4c:** Develop an HPV training specific to health professions students on community-based clinical rotations that at least 12 AHECs will adopt

Evaluation Task: Document the development of an HPV training specific to health professions students on community-based clinical rotations that at least 12 AHECs will adopt

Progress Notes:
Background information and discussions with staff from several AHEC programs have occurred relative to types of HPV student training programs that would be of interest to AHECs. A Missouri AHEC conducted an IPE activity and used HPV as the topic area as a test. The information gathered will be beneficial in developing an HPV training programs for health professions students that would be readily adopted by multiple AHECs. It is expected that this HPV student training program will be developed and in use before the end of Grant Year 4.

**Objective status:** Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.

**Goal 3: Expand Project reach by developing and refining HPV-related educational materials and disseminating the products to a broader audience of health care providers and students in Grant Year 4**

**Objective 3.1:** Update the NAO HPV website to promote project activities and provide HPV materials

Evaluation Task: Document updates and enhancements to the NAO HPV website to promote project activities and provide HPV materials

Progress Notes:
The NAO HPV website is continuously updated to provide links to new educational resources, upcoming scheduled webinars, recently offered webinars, and highlights of activities conducted by AHECs. A significant update to the website during February and March 2018 to revise the
The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.

Objective 3.2: *Obtain a reach of at least 500,000 using formal partnerships AHEC networks to disseminate HPV materials to health care providers*

**Evaluation Task:** Document the reach of HPV materials disseminated to healthcare providers.

**Progress Notes:**
During the five-month period from September 30, 2017, to March 1, 2018, the total reach of material disseminated to healthcare professionals was 755,870. The most common methods of dissemination of material was by e-mail messages (reach 382,247) and newsletters (reach 177,711). Other dissemination methods included using social media (reach 4,863), through partners (reach 3,225), and NAO, AHEC, and partner website hits (reach 1,940). The reach through website hits is particularly noteworthy since those contacts were typically initiated by individuals actively seeking HPV-related information.

The target for this objective has been met for Grant Year 4.

Objective 3.3: *Support at least 4 special HPV demonstration training projects that utilize AHECs’ unique connections to providers and students*

**Evaluation Task:** Document the number of special HPV demonstration training projects that utilized AHECs’ unique connections to providers and students

**Progress Notes:**
Planning for the special projects’ requests for awards (RFAs) occurred during the five-month period ending March 1, 2018. The RFA announcements for both special projects and evidence gathering projects were sent to the AHECs in April with follow-up conference calls in April and May to discuss the RFAs and answer questions. It is expected that these projects will be conducted over the summer of 2018 and completed by September 29, 2018. The level of interest in this funding has been greater than last year when three special projects and two evidence gathering projects were funded; thus, this objective is on track to meet its target before the end of Grant Year 4.
**Objective Status:** This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.

**Objective 3.4: Distribute Project resources and training opportunities at least 6 times to the other CDC funded HPV immunization projects**

**Evaluation Task:** Document the number of times NAO HPV Immunization Project resources and training information is distributed to the partner CDC funded HPV immunization projects.

**Progress Notes:**
So far in Grant Year 4, information regarding three training opportunities (on January 10, February 15, and April 25) were sent to the other CDC funded projects so they could help market the training programs and recruit healthcare providers to participate in the trainings. The assistance provided by the partner organizations contributed to the significant increase in the number of healthcare providers participating in the training sessions. In addition, the results of the NAO pilot project conducted in 2017 that measured the increase in HPV vaccination rates after providers received the “You Are The Key” training was shared with the other CDC funded HPV projects. This resource not only documented the positive impact of training, but also provided an example of how HPV vaccination data could be obtained from healthcare providers. Finally, the status of current NAO activities was shared at the semi-monthly all grantees meetings, where NAO has offered to share materials and protocols with the other CDC funded HPV projects.

**Objective Status:** This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.

**Objective 3.5: Disseminate HPV materials to at least 20 AHEC associated medical schools and other health professions training programs**

**Evaluation Task:** Document dissemination of HPV materials to at least 20 AHEC associated medical schools and other health professions training programs

**Progress Notes:**
Background information and discussions with staff from several AHEC programs have occurred relative to the type of HPV materials would be appropriate to send to medical schools and training programs as well as recommendations about how to best provide that information so the education programs would integrate that information into their programs. It is expected that this HPV material will be identified and disseminated before the end of Grant Year 4.

**Objective status:** Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.
Goal 4: Influence national efforts related to increasing HPV vaccination rates by forming strong partnerships with relevant professional organizations and by collaborating with state and national entities to push HPV-related initiatives during Grant Year 4.

Objective 4.1: Obtain at least 3 HPV resources from the other CDC partner grantees to send to AHECs for their use

Evaluation Task: Document the number of HPV resources from other CDC partner grantees that were sent to AHECs for their use

Progress Notes:
HPV related material is sent by NAO to AHECs for their use in preparing presentations for training programs and dissemination to healthcare professionals. So far in Grant Year 4, three sets of items from CDC and the other CDC partners were sent out to all AHECs participating in the NAO HPV Immunization Project. In December, NAO encouraged the AHECs to use a common hashtag for social media postings: #AHEChpv. This allows users to find posts easily and creates a coordinated campaign with the other CDC funded partners. For Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in January and for National Cancer Prevention Month in February NAO sent the AHECs social media messages to use. Most of the materials were CDC resources but those messages did include links to a blog post from AAP, ACS HPV Frequently Asked Questions, an ACS survivor Video, and ACS roundtable resources.

Objective Status: This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.

Objective 4.2: Develop and sustain at least 200 partnerships to support Project activities.

Evaluation Task: Document the number of partnerships in place to support Project activities

Progress Notes:
As of March 1, 2018, the AHECs documented partnerships with 46 organizations in Grant Year 4. Most commonly, the partners were universities and medical schools (16), other CDC funded HPV programs (12), cancer coalitions (9), and health professional membership organizations (11). Less frequently the partnerships were with public health departments (7), hospitals or medical practices (8), and immunization groups (3). The AHECs also reported the type of support for their training programs that they received from their partners. Most frequently, the AHECs reported that the partners provided “in-kind” support (52 times), promoted their training programs to their networks of providers (42 times), and assistance locating and arranging for speakers (30 times). Less often the partners provided financial assistance (23 times) or other support (2 times).
In addition to the AHEC partnerships, NAO also relied on partners to support the Project activities nationally. Most prominent partners included the CDC, the other CDC HPV funded agencies (ACS, AAP, and APA), NACCHO, as well as the 33 AHEC state entities and their partners. Other NAO partners included the Intermountain West HPV Vaccination Coalition, National HPV Roundtable, SelfMade Health Network, National Vaccine Advisory Committee, Kids Plus Pediatrics, Merck, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Every Child by Two, National Rural Health Association, and the Postgraduate Institute for Medicine. These partners provided valuable advice, materials, promotion and other support for the NAO training programs.

Altogether, 127 partnerships provided active support for the NAO HPV Immunization Project so far in Year 4. Most of these partnerships were existing before the beginning of Year 4, but all provided significant support for the training programs during Year 4. To reach the target of 200 or more active partnerships, NAO and the AHECs will need to make a concerted effort to develop 80 more new partnerships during the rest of the year.

**Objective status:** Additional effort is needed to put this activity on track to meet the target in Grant Year 4.

*Objective 4.3: Give at least 3 presentations or otherwise have active participation (such as have a table to disseminate HPV material) in professional conferences representing the Project*

**Evaluation Task:** Document the number of presentations at and other active participation in professional conferences representing the Project.

**Progress Notes:**
NAO NTC submitted two abstracts during this performance period that were accepted for poster presentation at the National Immunization Conference in May 2018. In addition, an abstract was submitted and accepted for presentation at the annual National AHEC Organization meeting in June 2018.

**Objective Status:** This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.

*Objective 4.4: Share the reports from the NAO HPV Special Projects with AHECs, partners, and other stakeholders*

**Evaluation Task:** Document the dissemination of the NAO HPV special projects reports.
Progress Notes:
Summaries of reports of the NAO HPV special projects completed during Grant Year 3 were shared with AHECs, partners, and other stakeholders during Grant Year 4. The full reports were shared with CDC and others upon request.

In addition, the results of one of the special projects, the pilot project to measure change in HPV vaccination rates after training, was accepted as poster presentation at the National Immunization Conference in May 2018.

It is expected that the results of the special projects planned for Grant Year 4 will also be disseminated to AHECs, partners, and other stakeholders after they are completed near the end of the Grant Year.

**Objective Status:** This objective is on track to meet the target set for Grant Year 4.

**Objective 4.5:** Support and participate in HPV activities in states identified by CDC for all grantee involvement.

**Evaluation Task:** Document NAO and AHEC involvement in HPV activities in states identified by CDC for all grantee involvement.

**Progress Notes:**
This objective was withdrawn from the work plan. CDC grantees continue to be involved in the activities of the Texas HPV Roundtable as appropriate for their organizations. Mid-Rio Grande Area Health Education Center continued to participate when applicable to AHEC activities in the state.

**Objective Status:** This objective is no longer relevant.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Of the 29 objectives listed in the strategic plan for Grant Year 4 of the Project, one was withdrawn, leaving 28 requiring evaluation and progress notes for this report. Targets for 19 objectives (67.9%) were either met or on track to be met as planned by the end of Grant Year 4 and were coded as Green in this report. However, 9 (32.1%) objectives will require additional effort to be on track to meet their targets planned in Year 4. These are coded as Yellow in this report. The one objective withdrawn from the work plan for Grant Year 4 is coded Blue in this report.
Significant enhancements were made in the NAO HPV Immunization Project work plan for Grant Year 4, based on the experience acquired during Grant Years 2 and 3. Project Specialists provided the opportunity for all State AHEC Entity staff to have access to professionals with high-level experience and expertise in needed methods to more effectively carry out their HPV Project tasks. For Grant Year 4, a concerted effort was made to expand the trainings to cover HPV-relevant topics as well as to a broader range of healthcare providers and health professions students. With the assistance of the CDC staff leadership, a higher level of collaboration occurred with other HPV funded grantees during Grant Year 4.

Summary of progress on each of the four Goals:

**Goal 1: Plan, execute and monitor Project activities ensuring that performance measures and key milestones are met for Grant Year 4.**

*Progress: Seven of nine objectives on track to meet targets.*

Monitoring and evaluation reports were generated, reviewed and used to better manage Project activities. Project activities occurred in 43 states. Activity and programmatic data gathering methods were updated. The AHEC staff received the training needed to effectively carry out their responsibilities. However, greater effort is needed to formalize and use the advisory group and update the sustainability plan.

**Goal 2: Deliver standardized and customized “You are the Key’ training programs as well as supplemental educational materials targeting health care providers and health professions students during Grant Year 4.**

*Progress: Five of ten objectives are on track to meet targets.*

A total of 62 training programs have been offered to 3,622 health professionals and students. Most (90%) of practitioners are using the training information to increase HPV vaccination rates. The results documented significant increases in awareness, knowledge and skills as well as plans to change practices to increase HPV vaccinations. However, more effort will be needed to offer the number of trainings and the number of participants to meet the targets by the end of Grant Year 4. Also, the planned interprofessional education program and student-specific HPV training program need to be developed and disseminated to better integrate the HPV Project activities with the new HRSA requirements for AHECs. Although the integration of these two components into the AHECs routine activities has developed slowly, there is an expectation of great return on this investment as well as a legacy effect of the Project after the funding has ended.

**Goal 3: Expand Project reach by developing and refining HPV-related educational materials and disseminating the products to a broader audience of health care providers and students in Grant Year 4.**

*Progress: Four of five objectives are track to meet targets.*

The NAO HPV website has been updated and expanded. The total reach during the first 5 months of Grant Year 4 was 755,840, already exceeding the reach during all of Grant Year 3.
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The planned special projects have been initiated. However, the planned dissemination of HPV material to medical schools still needs to occur.

**Goal 4: Influence national efforts related to increasing HPV vaccination rates by forming strong partnerships with relevant professional organizations and by collaborating with state and national entities to push HPV-related initiatives during Grant Year 4.**

*Progress: Three of the four remaining objectives is track to meet targets.*

The reports of the special projects conducted in Grant Year 3 were disseminated and one is planned to be presented at two national conferences. Considerable partner material has been disseminated to AHECs and two posters on this Project were scheduled to be presented at the National Immunization Conference and a third presentation is scheduled for the National AHEC Conference. However, more partnerships need to be formed to meet the target for the remaining objective.

**COMMENDATIONS:**

The progress notes indicate that the NAO HPV Immunization Project has been successful in reaching many of its planned objectives so far in Grant Year 4. The NAO Leadership Team is commended for their direct efforts as well as for organizing and directing the work of the State AHEC Entity staff. The Project Specialists are recognized for the valuable support they have been providing to the staff at the AHECs. The success of the NAO HPV Immunization Project is due in no small measure to the efforts of all of the staff at the AHEC state entities who marketed and recruited health care professionals and students to the training sessions as well as who disseminated a great deal of HPV-related information to many clinical practitioners. The evaluation consultants greatly appreciate the support of the Leadership Team, the Project Specialists, and staff at the AHEC state entities for providing the data needed for project monitoring and to produce this report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Leadership Team is encouraged to review the planned activities that are not on track to reach the targets by the end of Year 4 and focus the needed additional effort on them to make sure the targets are met as much as possible. Gathering complete and accurate data for program evaluation continues to be a challenge. Continuing effort and support by the Leadership Team is needed to improve the quality of the evaluation data.

In planning for Grant Year 5 activities, it is recommended that the results of this progress reports be considered to ensure that the objectives and targets in the work plan are achievable.