

## HEARTLAND NEWS—April 2007

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**Annual Regional Meeting:** The 2007 Heartland regional meeting will be held **September 6-7** in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. \*\*We are recruiting members for the planning committee; if you are interested please contact the Heartland Regional Coordinating Center at: [hrcc@ouhsc.edu](mailto:hrcc@ouhsc.edu) \*\*

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:** The full Heartland Regional Council on Genetics, the advisory body to the Heartland Regional Genetics and Newborn Screening Collaborative, will meet by teleconference on **Thursday, May 3,**

**2007 from 3:45 – 5:00 p.m.** This is our biannual business meeting. Call-in information and agenda will be posted on the website by Thursday, April 26, 2007. All Heartland meetings are open to anyone interested in public health genetics and genetics service issues.

**Funding:** Look for weekly postings of funding opportunities on the website Research Committee page.

**Pilot Projects:** Four pilot project applications were submitted and reviewed. Awards will be announced soon. Announcements were delayed due to budget cuts. If you are interested in applying, we anticipate another cycle will open late summer/early fall 2007. Visit our website for information about how to apply, and the types of projects we have accepted in the past. The priorities adjust a bit each cycle, so always use a current application form.

**Sarah Lawrence Public Health Genomics Certificate Program:** Jamie Kim (Kansas Department of Health) was awarded the first Heartland-sponsored scholarship to attend this course. Congrats, Jamie! We will hear all about her experience at our annual meeting.

**Website (<http://heartland.ouhsc.edu>):** New pages and information are continually being added to the website. Check out the **Heartland Calendar** for upcoming meetings. All meeting minutes are also posted on the respective committee page. The website designer will soon be changing as the OUHSC-Pediatrics ITS team can no longer support us. We have selected a team to assist us until the end of the fiscal year. At that time, we will accept bids for a new website master. The bid will be regional, so let us know if there is an excellent webmaster/company we should contact.

**Telehealth:** Congratulations to Blaine Bendure, et al. whose poster was accepted for roundtable presentation at the 2007 12th Annual International Meeting and Exposition of the American Telemedicine Association to be held in Nashville, TN May 13-15. The Clinical Services committee is now compiling a “how to” manual on “telegenetics” services.

**Newborn screening parent education:** The Newborn Screening (NBS) committee along with our lay advocates have selected, reviewed, and purchased two videos (DVDs) about newborn screening that targets the expectant parent. Your state genetics coordinator and newborn screening coordinator will be receiving your states’ order soon. The videos and DVDs will be shown in publicly funded prenatal clinics in each Heartland state.

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**Current Work Groups:** *If you are interested in any of the following activities, please let us know and we will connect you with that group. Anyone with interest and expertise can participate in a work group—you need not formally serve on a Heartland committee nor be a council member.*

- **Family Health History:** The Education committee is gearing up for a spring educational campaign with genealogy societies in our region. The plan is to provide newsletter article for the genealogy societies, article for “rural electric cooperative” magazines, and a “family health history tool kit” available for anyone to obtain either from our website or from the coordinating center.
- **Genetics Education at the Capitol:** The Policy committee is developing a toolkit and assisting interested in states in organizing an educational event for legislators.
- **Preserving NBS blood spots:** The Policy committee is beginning to look at this issue. Preservation of the NBS cards is an important Quality Assurance/Quality Control, research, and clinical issue.

**Membership changes:**

New members: Julie Briggs (South Dakota) Lay Advocate Committee  
Barbara Neas (Oklahoma) Council Member, OK State Genetics Advisory Council  
Chair  
John Adams (Ontario) Newborn Screening Committee  
Mark Smith (Nebraska) Lay Advocate Committee  
Darlene Nsien, (OK) Education Committee

\*\*Please see website for past monthly updates.