

CHORNOBYL CHILDHOOD ILLNESS PROGRAM

USAID Cooperative Agreement
121-A-00-98-00608-00

Second Annual Report
May 13, 1999 - May 12, 2000

Submitted to:

Eliot J. Pearlman, M.D., M.P.H. & T.M., M.P.A.
Senior Health Advisor

Olena Radziyevska, M.D.
Project Officer

Ms. Alina Yurova
Project Assistant

USAID
Kyiv, Ukraine

Submitted by:

Medical Service Corporation International
1716 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209

May 24, 2000

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Second Annual Report is to advise USAID on the progress of the Chernobyl Childhood Illness Program (CCIP) during the period May 13, 1999 - May 12, 2000. This Report will provide a review of the activities related to the Objectives, Activities and Indicators of Outcome that were presented in the CCIP's Second Year Implementation Plan.

1.0 INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT BOTH PROJECT COMPONENTS

1.1 Establish Ukrainian American Health Centers

As of November 1999, all four Ukrainian American Health Centers (UAHC) have been established and are fully operational.

Each Center is staffed on a full time basis by an English speaking Ukrainian Office Administrator/Secretary funded by the CCIP. Each Oblast has assigned a part-time Physician Director for its UAHC and the Oblasts are providing support services.

Mobile unit staff at all four UAHCs have been trained. The office equipment, van and ultrasound provided by the CCIP to each UAHC are in place and in good operating condition. Libraries for the mobile team members have also been established at each UAHC. The libraries contain medical textbooks in Ukrainian, Russian and English languages that the physicians and psychologists use as resources.

The Volyn UAHC began screening children the summer of 1999, the Rivne UAHC in October 1999, the Cherkassy UAHC in late January 2000, and the Zhytomyr UAHC in April 2000.

Screening in Zhytomyr was delayed for two reasons. First, the Zhytomyr Sanatorium and Oblast schools were closed in late January through mid February due to the flu outbreak. Second, the Health Administration in Zhytomyr asked us to sign an addendum to its MOU which was done in March 2000.

The Volyn UAHC was formally opened in April, 1999. Dr. Marilyn Pifer "cut the ribbon", officially opening the Rivne UAHC the afternoon of March 15, 2000. While they are currently operational, we plan to formally open the two UAHCs in Zhytomyr and Cherkassy during the fall of 2000.

1.2 Finalize Memorandums of Understanding with the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism

The Memorandums of Understanding with both the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism (IEM) were signed during the fall of 1999.

Subsequently, the Director and Deputy Director of IEM met with us to discuss further compensation for their staff. We believed that their request was not proper under the terms of our Cooperative Agreement with USAID. After consultation with USAID, and further fruitless negotiations in which IEM would not backdown on its demands, we decided not to use the IEM as the repository for CCIP screening data. Rather, the Computer Coordination Center (CCC) which was initially planned for the IEM will now be established at the CCIP office in Kiev.

With reference to the CCIP's data on children screened, USAID staff have offered to help by reviewing this matter with the Ministries of Health and Emergencies. Our intent is to ensure that the CCIP database will be maintained by the MOH or the Ministry of Emergencies after the CCIP ends. This is important because the children being screened now will have to continue to be followed for the rest of their lives. Based on meetings held in March with UAHC staff, we have also decided to store the data in the regional health offices in each Oblast where the CCIP is working.

1.3 Finalize the CCIP Policies and Procedures Manual

The CCIP Policies and Procedures Manual has been translated from English to Ukrainian. Staff from the UAHCs were given the opportunity to discuss the Manual during the CCIP Conference held in Rivne in March (see below).

The Manual is a document that will be revised and updated as required, and as appropriate amendments to the procedural approaches are identified.

1.4 Expand Information Activities Through School Health Programs.

Dr. William Schwartz and Dr. Michael Norman, along with Drs. Krivipostov and Vololovets, Professors of Pediatrics from Kyiv Medical University, conducted one training seminar in Lutsk in October 1999, and two seminars in Zhytomyr and Rivne Oblasts during April 2000. The main emphasis of the programs was to teach school health officials techniques for recognizing problems among school children that may be associated with post-Chornobyl psychosocial trauma including abdominal pain, headache, coughing and fatigue. At the suggestion of the Volyn participants, two new topics (anemia and common renal problems) were added to the lectures in Zhytomyr and Rivne. Approximately 35 physicians participated in the Volyn seminar in October. Close to 80 physicians from the northern raions attended the Zhytomyr seminar, while approximately 20 pediatricians and 50 psychologists attended the seminar in Rivne.

A table in which all CCIP training activity is summarized, is attached to this Annual Report as Attachment C.

1.5 Increase Public Awareness about Thyroid Cancer and Psychosocial Effects in Chernobyl Victims and the Need for Screening Children

The objective of the Public Education campaign is to disseminate information about the CCIP program and to encourage citizens' participation in the thyroid screening program.

The following tasks were completed by Overseas Strategic Consulting Ltd. and the CCIP during the second year of the project:

Media Relations and Research

OSC researched media outlets available for dissemination of public information in Ukraine and, specifically, in Volyn Oblast. Appropriate newspapers, radio and television stations at the oblast and rayon level were identified. Contacts were established and maintained with media representatives for the following outlets:

- newspapers - "Volyn," "Viche," "Lutskiy Zamok," "Polissya," and "Nashe Zhittya". These have a combined circulation of over 70,000 copies; and
- TV and radio - Volyn State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (regional radio and TV broadcasting), Studio "Avers" (regional cable TV broadcasting), and "Radio Lutsk".

Media monitoring was conducted weekly to track media coverage of CCIP, thyroid disease, and Chernobyl-related issues.

Press Releases

OSC wrote and distributed press releases announcing major milestones and ongoing CCIP-related activities of the Ukrainian-American Health Center (UAHC) in Lutsk, Volyn Oblast, (see Attachment A). The press releases also announced the beginning of thyroid and psychosocial screening in the oblast and specific raions. The press releases were disseminated to oblast and raion (where appropriate) newspapers, radio and television stations. As a result of the printed articles and radio broadcasts, the UAHC in Lutsk received a number of inquiries from the population about the program, and requests for interviews with the program implementers from local media representatives.

Media Coverage of the CCIP

OSC assisted the CCIP with obtaining media coverage of the CCIP conference in Lutsk in September 1999. Media representatives from nearly all regional and raion TV and radio stations, as well as newspapers, were invited and attended the event. Media interviews with Dr. George Contis, CCIP Project Director, and Dr. Grigory Vashchilin, Volyn UAHC Director, were held. The press event resulted in 10 regional television broadcasts, 3 regional radio broadcasts, and a number of regional and rayon newspaper articles.

Cooperation with Volyn Oblast Health Department

The CCIP worked closely with the Volyn Oblast Health Department to inform government officials of the CCIP activities and ensure their cooperation. The Department provided support by printing articles in its official monthly newsletter "Nashe Zdorov'ya" and assisting in disseminating information to the raions.

NGO Outreach

OSC contacted a wide range of local NGOs to create new venues for dissemination of public education materials and increase public awareness and support for the CCIP. The NGOs contacted included the Volyn Health and Charity Organization, the Ukrainian Red Cross, the Health and Charity Christian Association of Volyn, the Lutsk Farmer's Association, the New Life Cultural-Educational Center, the Volyn Foundation for Active Rehabilitation of Disabled People, the Volyn Oblast Union of Large Families, and the Women's Agribusiness Association.

Development of Public Education Materials

Work on the Public Awareness Brochure began in the summer of 1999. Over the course of several months, several versions of the Brochure were drafted and submitted for review to a focus group organized by the Center for Social Monitoring of Ukraine. The purpose of utilizing a focus group was to ensure that information was presented in a clear, direct and accessible manner.

The focus group identified a number of revisions to the original drafts of the brochure which have now been incorporated in the final version submitted to USAID in April 2000 for its review and approval. A copy of the Public Awareness Brochure (as submitted to USAID for their review in April) is attached to this Report (Attachment B). We anticipate that the Brochure will be completed and distributed to the targeted oblasts by early June 2000.

The CCIP video, developed in cooperation with the Ukrainian television company "Studio Plus," is currently in the final stages of editing. We anticipate that it will be ready for broadcast in June 2000.

Develop Public Education Materials Distribution Mechanism

In May, 2000, CCIP brochures will be distributed in the four CCIP participating oblasts by the CCIP mobile teams, oblast health departments, and local NGOs. A model distribution network was established in Lutsk, where arrangements have been made for Brochure distribution with the Volyn Oblast Charity and Health Fund, a very active NGO in the Oblast, and the Volyn Oblast Health Department. Distribution will include inserts in newsletters and dissemination of the materials at relevant oblast events. The materials will also be available to the public at the Ukrainian-American Health Centers.

The video will be disseminated to oblast TV companies for broadcasting in the regions and will be made available for public viewing at the Ukrainian-American Health Centers. "Studio Plus," the production company which produced the video, has very strong ties with oblast media companies, and has agreed to help secure free air time at the oblast level. "Studio Plus" also produces weekly and daily newscasts for select Ukrainian oblasts and has agreed to incorporate the broadcast of the CCIP video in its programs in the targeted oblasts.

2.0 THYROID CANCER COMPONENT: IMPROVE THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF THYROID CANCER

2.1 Define the Size and Location of the Target Population at Risk

The contaminated raions in each participating oblast have been identified by the GOU's Ministries of Emergencies and Health. Data have been provided by each Oblast Health Administration Office on the names of the contaminated victims, and the name and location of the raion schools, clinics and summer camps where the screening will occur. Based on this information, the Director of each UAHC prepares the schedule of the mobile team's screening visits. The UAHC then notifies the directors of the schools, clinics and summer camps about the proposed screening. To date, this system has worked very well and the turnout has been very good.

2.2 Implement the Screening Program for Thyroid Cancer

As of April 30, 2000, a total of 7,938 children had been screened by ultrasound and 7,893 by the CDI in the four target oblasts. A summary of screening activity to date is provided in Table One.

TABLE 1: OBLAST SCREENING SUMMARY

OBLAST	TOTAL SCREENED: THYROID	THYROID ABNORMALITIES	TOTAL SCREENED: PSYCHOSOCIAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL ABNORMALITIES
VOLYN	2569	199 (7.8%)	2569	136 (5.3%)
RIVNE	2623	92 (3.5%)	2578	402 (15.6%)
CHERKASSY	2080	106 (5.1%)	2080	344 (16.5%)
ZHYTOMYR	666	99 (14.9%)	666	104 (15.6%)
TOTAL	7938	496 (6.2%)	7893	986 (12.5%)

The data presented in this table are being reexamined to ensure the four oblasts have standardized their weekly screening reports. A revised table will be submitted to USAID in June if the above numbers change.

One child in Volyn Oblast was found to have thyroid cancer. The percentage of children with abnormalities (where normal = 0.1 percent) is consistent with the percentage reported from radiation contaminated areas in other countries. The incidence of one child with thyroid cancer among 7938 screened is considerably higher than the one in one to two million incidence among normal populations.

The total number of children screened to date is lower than we had originally estimated. There are a number of reasons for these lower numbers including:

- Delays in obtaining the screening equipment;
- Winter weather hindering travel to the affected rural areas;
- A flu outbreak closed schools in a number of raions for several weeks;
- The necessity of signing an amendment to our MOU with Zhytomyr Oblast Health Administration, which delayed the start of screening in that oblast;
- Although schools are informed of the mobile unit's schedule, in some instances, children are not available for screening when the mobile unit arrives. They may be out of school due to illness or for other reasons;
- Ultrasonography takes between 5 and 7 minutes per child. This limits the total number that can be screened in one day; and
- When only one mobile psychologist was assigned to the team, they were not able to conduct both the CDI and individual interviews with all children examined by ultrasound. This problem has been rectified as now two psychologists are assigned to each mobile team.

The combined effect of these problems has proven to slow down the screening process. We are continually working with the UAHC Directors and staff to improve the efficiency of the screening process.

2.2.1 Provide Ultrasonography Training for Physicians

The mobile team ultrasonographers have been trained on the Hitachi ultrasound machines purchased for the CCIP. Dr. Thomas Foley visited Ukraine in November, February and March to ensure that the physicians were performing adequately. He has continued to work with the ultrasonographers to improve their skills and assisted with data analysis.

Several of the sessions during the March conference were designed to reinforce the skills of both the ultrasonographers and mobile team psychologists. We plan to hold similar conferences every six months to strengthen ultrasonography skills and to monitor the progress of the screening programs.

2.2.2 Finalize Data Formats and Patient ID Numbering System

The data entry forms and the CCIP database for tracking the children screened were finalized during this year and are now being used in all four oblasts.

2.2.3 Purchase Three Vans, Office Equipment and Three Sets of Ultrasound Equipment for the Rivne, Zhytomyr and Cherkassy Oblast UAHCs.

All equipment has been purchased and is in place at the three Oblast UAHCs which were equipped this year, with the exception of the two image recording devices in Zhytomyr and Cherkassy. Although the image recorders had been ordered and a letter of credit was processed last fall, Hosmer Trading Company of Kyiv, Ukraine decided to back out of their agreement with MSCI in January 2000. For three months we tried unsuccessfully to convince Hosmer to honor its commitment and to find an alternative source for the image recorders. Finally, Counterpart International was able to help us identify an alternative solution and the image recorders should be delivered by June. The delay did not adversely affect the actual screening of patients; but we have been unable to record images of the ultrasound results.

2.2.4 CCIP Management Conferences in September, 1999 and March, 2000

CCIP Management Conference in Lutsk, September 6 - 7, 1999

During September 6 - 7, 1999, a conference was held in which representatives from the four UAHCs met to discuss the goals, purpose, methods, and requirements of the CCIP. This meeting was hosted by the UAHC in Lutsk, Volyn Oblast, because it had already begun its screening activities. Drs. George Contis and Thomas Foley were also present. The Director of the Volyn UAHC, Dr. Grigory Vaschilin, played a major role in this conference because he was able to describe for his Ukrainian colleagues what his screening experience had been to date. His involvement as well as the sincere conviction with which he spoke about the importance of the CCIP had a positive effect on his colleagues from the other oblasts.

Other subjects covered in the Conference were the reporting requirements, the data analysis package, the proper use of the ultrasound equipment, the methods for administering the Childhood Depression Inventory (CDI), as well as CCIP management issues.

By the end of the Conference, an excellent rapport had been developed among the participants. We have subsequently learned that there has been regular communication between the UAHC secretaries, the psychosocial staff, and some of the ultrasound physicians from the participating oblasts. This is the kind of team spirit which we were hoping to develop among our Ukrainian colleagues and we are pleased that it is happening so early in the Program. We believe that this will have an important effect on the CCIP's sustainability.

CCIP Management Conference in Rivne, March 15 - 17, 2000

A CCIP Management Conference was held in Rivne during March 15-17, 2000. The four UAHCs gave reports on the results of the screening program in their oblasts. Parallel sessions for both the ultrasound and psychosocial components were held in which the staff involved in these components discussed their findings. There was also a general session in which CCIP management issues were reviewed. Other subjects covered at the Conference included the participating UAHCs' experiences and comments regarding such topics as reporting, data analysis, the interpretation of ultrasound and Childhood Depression Inventory (CDI) findings, as well as CCIP management issues.

Dr. Marilyn Pifer, the wife of the U.S. Ambassador, kindly agreed to open the conference. Other USAID officials also spoke at the opening session on March 15, and Mrs. Richard Goughnour, wife of the USAID/Kiev Mission Deputy Director, attended.

Drs. Thomas Foley, Robert Chazin and William Presnell from the CCIP American Team attended the conference. The Director of the Rivne UAHC, Dr. Sergei Rak, and the Rivne mobile team hosted the conference. More than 50 participants from the four UAHCs attended. There was excellent press and TV coverage of the Conference.

2.3 Strengthen the Referral System for Patients with Thyroid Cancer

The amended referral forms for the thyroid and psychosocial components are now being used by the mobile screening units in all oblasts.

As stated in previous Quarterly Reports, we have been told that some patients do not follow through with the referral to a raion, oblast or Kyiv center because their families were too poor to pay for the cost of transportation and accommodations. In a meeting in November 1999, General V. Loginov, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Emergencies advised us that lack of funds should not prevent patients from travelling to the referral centers because the Ministry had created a non-governmental organization (NGO) to pay for such travel. Although actual numbers data are not available, we will continue to monitor this situation to ensure families requiring assistance do indeed obtain the necessary funds to pay for their trip to the referral centers.

2.4 Strengthen the Thyroid Cancer Registry

Once the screening programs were operational in each oblast, it was our plan to hire a short-term data management and network communication advisor to evaluate the existing Thyroid Cancer and Screening Database at the IEM. Our intent was to refine and expand the existing Thyroid Cancer Registry for Ukraine. Now that the MOU with the Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism has been cancelled, we will postpone this task until we learn from the MOH what our options are regarding the Cancer Registry.

2.5 Reevaluate and Modify the Disease Management Protocol

Dr. Foley prepared the algorithms for the management of thyroid cancer and other thyroid diseases which the screening teams will encounter. These algorithms were incorporated into the Policy and Procedures Manual, and discussed with the oblast endocrinologists during the March 2000 meeting of the UAHC staff.

3.0 PSYCHOSOCIAL ILLNESS COMPONENT: IMPROVE THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL PROBLEMS

3.1 Strengthen the Psychosocial Institutions at the Central Level

3.1.1 Continue Working with the Medical University of Kyiv to Provide Training for School Health Officials and to Modify Training Materials

As mentioned above in Section 1.4, Dr William Schwartz is overseeing the training program and modification of training materials to better prepare school health officials to identify problems related to thyroid disease. Dr. Schwartz and his colleagues from the Medical University of Kyiv presented three seminars during this year. They will conduct a fourth seminar in Cherkassy next year as well as a follow-up seminar in Zhytomyr in early 2001.

3.1.2 Introduce the Childhood Depression Inventory (CDI) as the Screening Tool for Children in Target Oblasts. Pilot Test the CDI in Ukraine. Begin Psychosocial Screening Program.

The use of the Children's Depression Inventory (CDI) is an integral part of the CCIP psychosocial screening program. From all accounts, it is very useful. The psychosocial workers who use the CDI find it easy to work with and simple to analyze. Based on the results of the CDI, as well as on one-on-one interviews with children, referrals are being made to local institutions for those children found to be suffering from psychosocial disorders.

The psychosocial screening program has begun in all four Oblasts (the results are summarized in Table 1 above). The number of children screened for psychosocial abnormalities in all four oblasts is less than the number screened for thyroid abnormalities. One reason for this is that the ultrasonographic screening is a much faster process than administering the CDI and providing a follow-up individual interview for children displaying signs of depression. A second reason is that in some instances, the mobile psychologists encounter children who are very depressed or suicidal. When such a case presents itself, the mobile psychologist has to deal with the child immediately and provide counseling. If the team remains in the village for several days, the psychologists will counsel the child a number of times. The mobile psychologist will also work with the teachers and provide consultations for the child's parents.

We decided to solve this problem by hiring a second psychologist to accompany the mobile teams. Amendments to the MOUs with each Oblast State Administration were prepared in April 2000, and the second mobile psychologists have now joined the screening teams.

Dr. Arthur Pressley traveled to Ukraine in early February to work with CCIP's Dr. Irina Grishayeva to analyze the initial results of the CDI exams, and to continue the validity and reliability studies of the instrument. As the preliminary data show, nearly one third of all children examined are found to be suffering from depression and have been referred to local psychologists for treatment.

3.1.3 Identify Oblast and National Centers to Which Children with Psychosocial Problems Can Be Referred. Integrate These Centers Within the Referral System for Child Victims of Chernobyl

Drs. Michael Christensen, Robert Chazin and Irina Grishayeva, in collaboration with their Ukrainian colleagues, have identified several centers where the children with psychosocial disorders may be referred. Children will initially be referred to the raion level psychological centers. For more complex problems, referrals will be made to the oblast psychosocial centers, depending on individual needs and on whether the care provided at the first referral center was helpful.

3.1.4 Integrate the Psychosocial Screening Database with the Thyroid Screening Database

The psychosocial screening database was successfully integrated with the thyroid screening database this year.

3.1.5 Obtain Baseline Psychosocial Needs Assessment Based on Existing Studies.

Drs. Michael Christensen and Irina Grishayeva are continuing to work on this task. This entails an analysis of CCIP psychosocial screening data on the Chernobyl child victims in Ukraine and a comparison of CCIP findings with existing data from other studies.

3.1.6 Psychosocial Training Programs During Year Two

Cosponsor a Five Day Reinforcement Training Event for UNESCO Staff.

This advanced training session took place September 26 - 30, 1999 at Sanatorium "Danyshi" in Zhytomyr Oblast, and was taught by Drs. Arthur Pressley and Michael Christensen from Drew University. The purpose of the training was to focus on counseling theory and practice, on the introduction of family systems theory, on facilitating group sessions, and on case management. The participants were 25 UNESCO Volunteers and the cost of their accommodation and meals were covered by UNESCO. Reports from the participants indicate that they readily grasped the new technologies which Drs. Christensen and Pressley introduced to them, and they were enthusiastic about the training program.

Training Session for Rivne Psychologists

A joint training session for eight UAHC mobile unit psychologists and 29 psychologists, teachers and administrators from Rivne the other three affected oblast sanatoriums was held February 9 - 12, 2000. This seminar was co-taught by Dr. Irina Grishayeva and Dr. Arthur Pressley from Drew University. The goal of this training was to begin developing a relationship between the UAHC mobile unit psychologists and the staff of the local sanatoriums.

The intent is for the sanatorium psychologists to supplement the care provided by the school psychologists when referrals are necessary. We wish to strengthen and encourage this process as the sanatorium psychologists will work with the children from the contaminated areas while schools are closed for the summer recess. We hope to hold at least one additional course later in 2000 to train as many additional sanatorium psychologists as possible. This type of training is crucial for the sustainability of this program after the CCIP ends.

Advanced Training - Zhytomyr:

Dr. William Presnell from Drew University presented an advanced training program in **Clinical Family Therapy and Relationship Consultation** at Sanatorium "Danyshi", Zhytomyr, March 11 - 15, 2000.

The goals of this training were based on the input from previous trainers and from institutional personnel closest to the persons affected by the Chernobyl disaster, with special consideration given to the needs of the affected children. The seminar focused on teaching family system tools and on building upon and enhancing existing psychotherapy methods for treating a

host of individual, family, and institutional problems. Another goal sought to advance human service professionals in their ability to facilitate healing in persons who seek their help. The intent was to offer family therapy as an alternative to the individual counseling that is currently prevalent in our program.

Participants were trained to recognize the impact on individuals and families of various problem-related stressors. Among these are social and economic upheaval and uncertainty; changing political, institutional, and family structures; the breakdown of traditional family coping strategies; and the prevalence of addictions, Post-Traumatic wounds, and domestic violence. Participants were encouraged to focus on therapeutic strengths and positive coping skills of families rather than on family pathologies.

3.1.7 Work with the MOH's Institute of Nutrition Staff on a Psychosocial Wellness Program

This program will not start until later in 2000.

3.2 Introduce and Improve Psychosocial Programs at the Oblast and Community Levels

3.2.1 School Psychologist Training Programs During Year Two

Cherkassy

Dr. Robert Chazin and two colleagues from Fordham University, Drs. Meredith Hanson and Carol Cohen, presented a five day seminar in Cherkassy for 39 school psychologists on November 1 - 5, 1999. The UAHC mobile unit psychologists from the screening teams in Volyn and Rivne also attended to provide first hand information on psychosocial problems which they were encountering. The focus of this seminar was on clinical practices, psychosocial assessment, intervention strategies, counseling techniques, and clinical work with families and children.

With some revisions, training included content similar to that introduced in the earlier training program conducted in Lutsk, Volyn. The curriculum included methods of engaging and assessing clients; planning and implementing treatment plans; and evaluating the therapy that was provided. Substantive topics that were covered included trauma assessment, eco-maps as assessment tools, motivational interviewing with alcohol-involved families, and group intervention strategies. A case study format was introduced to provide maximum opportunity for the participants to tailor the general concepts to meet the particular needs of the children and families with whom they work.

Rivne

Dr. Robert Chazin and Dr. Meredith Hanson presented a five day seminar to 42 participants in Rivne Oblast on February 14 - 18, 2000. As with their past seminars for school psychologists, the focus of this seminar was on clinical practices, psychosocial assessment, intervention strategies, counseling techniques, and clinical work with families and children.

In preparation for this training, Drs. Chazin and Hanson reviewed the Cherkassy training evaluations and revised the curriculum and format to better adapt the curriculum to the special needs of the psychologists. The five day and four evening intensive meeting schedule was utilized again. Certificates of successful completion of the training were awarded the final day of the course.

Using the same course evaluation instruments utilized in the prior training events, data concerning the trainees' evaluation of their experience were again collected. Preliminary data analysis indicate that the trainees' changed significantly and in the desired direction. The changes in attitudes and knowledge closely paralleled the changes that were observed in the Cherkassy training. Further, these trainees reported that their training experience was excellent and, in written and verbal comments, requested further assistance from our team.

Plans Made for Future Training for School Psychologists

Zhytomyr

Preparations are being made for a similar course to be taught in Zhytomyr during June, 2000, by Drs. Robert Chazin and Meredith Hanson.

Fall 2000

Another training session is currently being considered for Fall 2000. This may be an advanced training program for psychologists previously trained or a program for psychologists and/or social workers who have not previously received clinical training. A decision will be made later this spring in consultation with Dr. Irina Grishayeva.

3.2.2 Prepare Handouts and Family/Patient Counseling Materials on Psychosocial Problems.

A brochure which will include material about psychosocial problems related to Chernobyl is being prepared by CCIP staff under the direction of OSC and with input from a focus group. The family/patient counseling materials have not yet been prepared.

3.2.3 Develop Community Based Support Groups and Mental Health Promotion Programs During Year Two

Zhytomyr

Drs. Michael Christensen and Arthur Pressley taught a five day training session on Mental Health Promotion for Youth in Zhytomyr on October 1 - 5, 1999. This community level program reviewed methodologies related to case management, mental health promotion, the facilitation of support groups, and self-care. The persons attending this training were volunteers from several oblast youth organizations. Approximately 30 individuals attended.

Cherkassy

Drs. Michael Christensen and Irina Grishayeva co-taught a five day seminar in Cherkassy from February 19 - 24, 2000. This community level program was presented to Social Services for Youth Organizations and community mental health promoters. The course reviewed methodologies related to case management, mental health promotion, the facilitation of support groups, and self-care. Approximately 35 individuals attended this seminar.

3.3 Initiate and Introduce Democratic Community Psychology

The concept of democratic community psychology is being introduced during the training courses for the staff of the Social Service for Youth Centers in the four affected oblasts. The intent is to overcome professional-client distinctions in favor of peer counseling when training these para-professionals as mental health promoters.

4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

4.1 Cancellation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Endocrinology

As reported above, and in a separate memorandum to USAID, the CCIP decided to sever its formal relationship with the IEM. The reason is that the IEM is requesting additional funds over and above what was designated in the MOU to cover payments to IEM staff who would assist the CCIP in data storage and analysis. As it is not our policy to "top off" the salaries of Ukraine Government workers, we feel that we can no longer work with the IEM in a formal capacity. USAID staff has concurred with our decision, and will speak with MOH staff about how the work originally to be done by IEM can be undertaken elsewhere.

4.2 Difficulties Experienced with Receiving Advance Payment Requests from USAID

We experienced several problems with obtaining advance payments as permitted under our Cooperative Agreement with USAID. We have worked very closely with the staff in USAID/Kyiv's Financial Management Office, who were most helpful and very cooperative in assisting us in alleviating this problem. As we understand it, the late payments were due to changes that have been made to the USAID regulations governing advance payments, and to technical problems with the USAID Mission's computer system. Recent advance requests have been made in a timely manner and the problems seem to be alleviated.

4.3 Employment of Ms. Olena Lopantseva

The CCIP hired Ms. Olena Lopantseva to serve as the Project's Administrative Assistant. Ms. Lopantseva will assist Dr. Grishayeva and Mr. Oleg Tartak in their duties, as well as CCIP team members when they visit Ukraine. One of her primary duties will be to coordinate the screening data collection reports being compiled at each UAHC.

4.4 CCIP/US Team Meetings

In December 1999, the CCIP Team met at the offices of Overseas Strategic Consultants in Philadelphia to discuss Project activities and progress. Because that meeting was so useful in addressing technical and administrative issues, we have decided to meet every six months to continue discussions related to current activities, progress and problems. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8 at Fordham University.

4.5 CCIP Registration with the Ukraine Government

In December 1999, with the assistance of USAID and Counterpart International, the CCIP finalized the registration process with the Ukraine Government.

4.6 Medical Textbook Donations

The container of donated medical textbooks delivered in 1998 has been distributed to approximately 80 medical institutions, hospitals and libraries, including the resource centers at the CCIP UAHCs.

Two containers of medical textbooks shipped in 1999 are still being disbursed by Counterpart International, with approximately 30 percent delivered so far. These textbooks will be distributed to over 300 medical institutions, hospitals and libraries in Ukraine.

ATTACHMENT A: VOLYN PRESS RELEASES

DATE: Aug. 27, 1999

Thyroid and Psychological Screening of Children Begins in Volyn Oblast

"Dachne," Volyn, August 19-21, 1999 - A mobile team of specialists provided thyroid cancer and psychological screening to ninety-seven children from Lioubachevsky, Kamin-Kashirsky and Manichevsky rayons. A comprehensive program of thyroid cancer screening will continue for children born between 1980 and 1986 who lived in Lioubachevsky, Kamin-Kashirsky, and Manichevsky rayons in 1986.

The strong referral system incorporated into the program ensures that follow-up care will be provided to all children exhibiting any problems. In addition to thyroid screening, psychologists are working as a part of the mobile team to provide counseling services. The project also supports the training of local physicians in detecting and treating thyroid cancer in children and of psychologists in counseling children.

The mobile thyroid screening program is organized by the Ukrainian-American Health Center in Lutsk and sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). For more information contact the Ukrainian-American Health Center in Lutsk at (380) 3322-7-28-51.

DATE: Sept. 20, 1999

Thyroid and Psychological Screening of Children Continues in Lioubachev

Lutsk, Volyn, September 20, 1999 - The Chernobyl Childhood Illness Program mobile team of specialists left on a ten-day trip for Lioubachevsky rayon, one of the Volyn rayons most affected by the Chernobyl accident. The goal is to provide thyroid cancer and psychological screening to children born between 1980 and 1986. Over 1,000 children at risk are expected to undergo the screening at Lioubachev high school.

This comprehensive program of thyroid cancer screening will continue for children born between 1980 and 1986 who lived in Lioubachevsky, Kamin-Kashirsky, and Manichevsky rayons in 1986. CCIP is also being expanded to Rivne, Cherkassy and Zhitomir oblasts.

The strong referral system incorporated into the program ensures that follow-up care will be provided to all children exhibiting any problems. In addition to thyroid screening, psychologists are working as a part of the mobile team to provide counseling services. The project also supports the training of Ukrainian physicians in detecting and treating thyroid cancer in children and of psychologists in counseling children.

The mobile thyroid screening program is organized by the Ukrainian-American Health Center in Lutsk and sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The program is implemented by Medical Service Corporation International. For more information contact the Ukrainian-American Health Center in Lutsk at (380) 3322-7-28-51.

ATTACHMENT B:

THYROID AND PSYCHOSOCIAL BROCHURE

Thyroid and Psychosocial Screening for Children And Young Adults

An Important Step Towards A Healthy Future

What is the thyroid?

The thyroid is a small gland in the neck. The thyroid makes a substance called thyroid hormone, which regulates all parts of the body.

What is thyroid cancer?

The thyroid gland can develop a cancer that spreads to other parts of the body. There are no symptoms at the early stages. Therefore, it is important to detect and treat the illness as early as possible.

Is it possible that I have thyroid cancer?

Thyroid cancer is unusual; most people do not have it. Children and young adults who are now 12 to 18 years old and lived in certain rayons of Cherkassy, Zhitomir, Rivne or Volyn Oblasts in 1986 are at a higher risk of developing this relatively rare form of cancer.

If you are 12 to 18 years old and lived in Cherkassy, Zhitomir, Rivne or Volyn Oblasts in 1986, you will benefit from thyroid and psychosocial screenings.

How is thyroid screening done?

The best method of thyroid screening is ultrasound. The test is absolutely painless and takes only a few minutes. You simply lie on a table and the doctor takes a picture of the thyroid gland. *Thyroid screening doesn't hurt!*

These thyroid and psychosocial screenings are guaranteed free of charge.

Where can I get the screening?

A mobile team of highly qualified specialists will travel to schools and local health centers. The dates for screenings will be announced at schools, health centers, in newspapers, and on radio and television. If necessary, the specialist will provide referrals to a rayon polyclinic or the oblast endocrine center. The oblast center will provide referrals to the Institute of Endocrinology in Kyiv when needed.

How often do I need to have thyroid screening?

If you are 12 to 18 years old and lived in **Cherkassy, Zhitomir, Rivne or Volyn Oblasts** in 1986, one screening per year is recommended.

There will also be trained psychologists traveling with the CCIP mobile team. Children are particularly vulnerable to mental and emotional problems, which may affect their overall health and well-being. Trained psychologists can help them learn in school, shed harmful beliefs about themselves and their world, and develop social skills.

Children who are coping with these and other problems can express their hurt in many different ways:

- they may be nervous;
- tense or worried;
- sad;
- withdrawn;
- often fight with other children.

A short questionnaire and a brief interview with the CCIP psychologist can help you find new ways to resolve your problems.

When our psychologist finds a troubled child, the psychologist will refer the child to his or her school psychologist. If no school psychologist is available, the child would be referred to the psychologist at the local Social Services for Youth Center.

Please call the Ukrainian-American Health Center in your oblast to find out when and where the mobile screening van will be in your area.

Cherkassy: Sanatorium "Sosnovy Bir" 25 Mechnikova Street, Cherkassy,. Tel/fax: 254-2216 **Volyn:** 30 Vidrozhennya Street Lutsk, Volyn. Tel/fax: 332 27-2851 **Zhytomyr:** Children's Radiation Protection Sanatorium "Bohunia," 3 Novohrad-Volynsky Ave., Zhytomyr Tel/Fax: 41 226-8930 **Rivne:** Regional Children's Hospital, Rivne. Tel/fax: 3622 8-27-20

The Chernobyl Childhood Illness Program, based at The Ukrainian-American Health Centers in Lutsk, Rivne, Cherkassy and Zhytomyr, is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development and managed by Medical Service Corporation International.

ATTACHMENT C: TRAINING SUMMARY

DATE	OBLAST	TOPIC	NUMBER OF TRAINEES	TRAINEE PROFILE	TRAINERS
February 15 – 26, 1999	Kyiv	Thyroid gland pathologies	2	Ultrasonographers from Volyn Oblast	Institute of Endocrinology staff
March 24-28, 1999	Volyn	Treating PTSD: coping with catastrophe; the nature of technological disaster; ordinary, chronic and traumatic stress; anxiety and depression; secondary traumatic stress and self care for professionals, community development, mental health promotion	25	UNESCO Community Development Staff	M. Christensen, A. Pressley (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
March 29-April 4, 1999	Volyn	Basic training in mental health promotion: personal warmth, active listening, empathetic response, how to recognize mental illness, whom to refer	25	Ukraine Red Cross Staff	M. Christensen, A. Pressley (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
May 17 – 21, 1999	Volyn	Counseling of children and families	37	School psychologists	R. Chazin, M. Hanson, C. Cohen (Fordham University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
July 1 – 2, 1999	Kyiv	Screening and Referral, Counseling of children with depression, personality theory, psychopathology, personality assessment, clinical supervision	18	Clinical psychologists	A. Pressley (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
July 5 – 9, 1999	Rivne	Screening and referral, basic skills in counseling, crisis intervention, suicide prevention, support groups	29	Social Services for Youth Staff	A. Pressley (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
September 6 – 7, 1999	Volyn	CCIP Management Conference	50	UAHC Staff and mobile screening teams	
September 26 – 30, 1999	Zhytomyr	Counseling theory and practice, the practice of presence, group work, case management	32	Follow-up training for UNESCO Community Development Staff	M. Christensen, A. Pressley (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
October 1 – 5, 1999	Zhytomyr	The art of mental health promotion, group work, working with drug addicts	14	NGO leaders	M. Christensen, A. Pressley (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
October 19-20, 1999	Volyn	Teach techniques on how to recognize problems among school children that may be associated with post-Chornobyl psychosocial trauma including abdominal pain, headache, coughing and fatigue.	35	School physicians and school health officials	A. Volosevets, S. Krivopustov (National Medical University) W. Schwartz (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)

November 1 – 5, 1999	Cherkassy	Counseling of children and families	41	School psychologists	R. Chazin, M. Hanson, C. Cohen (Fordham University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
February 9 – 12, 2000	Rivne	Counseling children and adolescents; children & cancer, child abuse and domestic violence, play therapy and young children, substance abuse, screening children for depression, group counseling	37	Sanatorium psychologists and UAHC mobile psychologists from 4 target oblasts	A. Pressley (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
February 14 – 18, 2000	Rivne	Counseling of children and families	45	School psychologists	R. Chazin, M. Hanson (Fordham University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
February 20 – 25, 2000	Cherkassy	The art of mental health promotion	37	Social Service for Youth Centers Staff	M. Christensen (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
March 11 – 15, 2000	Zhytomyr	Family systems theory and it's application to family therapy and relationship consultation	37	Social Service for Youth Centers staff	W. Presnell (Drew University) I. Grishayeva (CCIP)
March 15 – 17, 2000	Rivne	CCIP Management Conference	50	UAHC Staff and mobile screening teams	
April 5 – 6, 2000	Rivne	Teach techniques on how to recognize problems among school children that may be associated with post-Chornobyl psychosocial trauma including abdominal pain, headache, coughing, common renal problems, anemia and fatigue	70	School physicians and school health officials	A. Volosevets, S. Postipovov (National Medical University) W. Schwartz, M. Norman (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)
April 7 – 8, 2000	Zhytomyr	Teach techniques on how to recognize problems among school children that may be associated with post-Chornobyl psychosocial trauma including abdominal pain, headache, coughing, common renal problems, anemia and fatigue	80	School physicians and school health officials	A. Volosevets, S. Postipovov (National Medical University) W. Schwartz, M. Norman (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)
		Total	664		