





IREX/ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIAN ORPHANS (ARO) PROGRAM



Summary:

In November, the Assistance to Russian Orphans (ARO) team held thematic training seminars as well as project management and design seminars in Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, and Tambov to help ARO grant recipients manage and implement innovative child welfare services.

The St. Petersburg City Administration held a conference on HIV at the end of November featuring two successful HIV prevention projects funded by ARO. The ARO Program also began the publication and distribution of brochures developed by the Irkutsk Red Cross as part of the ARO program component "Child Abandonment Prevention for Children Born to HIV-Positive Mothers." The brochures, for mothers and social workers, cover HIV and pregnancy issues as well as general HIV/AIDS issues.

ARO experts collected and analyzed information throughout November as part of ongoing monitoring of projects to develop standards of practice for social services in four regions of the Tomsk Oblast. Likewise, the ARO team began monitoring a project to create new "domestic helper" and "domestic tutor" services being implemented by the "New Development" Foundation in Tomsk, which provide special-needs persons with tutoring and assistance at their place of residence.

Training Seminar in Novosibirsk

On November 12-13, ARO Expert Consultant Dmitry Grigor'ev led a seminar for eight representatives from the Leninsky Region Administration of Novosibirsk. The seminar was the first in a series of sessions intended to prepare the participants to independently conduct future trainings and consultations for other specialists in the Novosibirsk Region on organizing and implementing child abandonment prevention projects. As a result, specialists implementing innovative services and technologies developed in the framework of the ARO program will possess the skills necessary to effectively plan and execute projects throughout Russia.

Dmitry Grigor'ev introduced the Leninsky Region Administration representatives to project planning and management skills needed to assist organizations as they design child welfare projects. The Leninsky Administration is currently cooperating with the National Foundation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the coimplementing partner of the ARO Program, to develop an official training system to prepare an independent team of child abandonment prevention project consultants in Novosibirsk.



ARO Project Seminar in Novosibirsk

ARO Expert Consultant Dmitry Grigor'ev and ARO Informational and Analytical Department Head Alexander Spivak conducted a project seminar for 65 representatives of 20 organizations located in three ARO pilot regions of the Novosibirsk Region on November 14-16. The seminar participants presented their child abandonment prevention projects, such as after-school programs for children from families in crisis, and received valuable feedback and advice on how to best rework them.

ARO Consultants Elena Margieva, Andrei Rylov, and Viktoria Skatova assisted Dmitry Grigor'ev and Alexander Spivak in evaluating the project proposals. At the close of the seminar, the participants were invited to submit their modified proposals to the ARO grant competition announced on November 16 for the development of new child abandonment prevention services in the Novosibirsk Region.

Krasnoyarsk Seminar on Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs

ARO Expert Consultants Larisa Samarina and Oksana Matveeva conducted the first educational seminar in Krasnoyarsk on contemporary approaches to assisting young children with serious and multiple disabilities and their families through early intervention on November 19-23. Twenty specialists from the Krasnoyarsk Center for Psychological, Medical, and Social Support and its affiliates in Kansk, Lesosibirsk, Minusinsk, and Achinsk, as well as a representative from the Tomsk Hobby Center attended the seminar.



Participants at the Krasnoyarsk Seminar practicing therapy techniques for special needs children.

The ARO consultants discussed how to create a regional system that would provide both psychological and educational support to young children with disabilities and their families. The seminar also stressed the importance of early intervention for children aged 0-4 years old, when the greatest progress can be made in a child's development, and introduced the participants to the array of services involved in early intervention.

Seminar on Assistance to At-risk Families and Children in Tambov

On November 27-29, ARO Regional Coordinator Natalya Fomushkina, ARO Expert Consultant Dmitry Grigor'ev, and Head of the ARO Expert Consulting Group Antonina Shepina led a project seminar in Tambov for the head pediatrician of the region, the chief of the Commission on Juvenile Issues, a representative from the Department of Internal Affairs, the head of the Department of Women's and Children's Rights, representatives from the Department of Education and Science, and the director of the NGO "Dom Miloserdiya."



ARO Expert Consultant Dmitry Grigor'ev presenting child abandonment prevention services during the seminar in Tambov.

The ARO representatives worked with the participants to explore ways to develop effective forms of assistance to children and families at risk of child abandonment, including early intervention services and case management. They held a group discussion regarding which local social welfare organizations would have the greatest potential as future pilot sites for the implementation of new child abandonment prevention services and technologies in Tambov.



Activities - Activities - Activities

HIV Prevention Conference in St. Petersburg

Two projects supported by the ARO Program were highlighted at a conference entitled "Realization of the national priority project 'Health' in the field of HIV prevention: Leadership and innovations, the investment of international projects" on November 30 in St. Petersburg. The conference, organized with support from the city administration, presented the results of the ARO-financed programs "Creation of Health Councils at

vocational schools to prevent HIV among students" and "Improving the quality of life of children living with HIV+ parents."

The HIV prevention project at vocational schools in St. Petersburg utilizes training-of-trainers and peer counseling techniques to prevent high-risk behavior among students, while the project for children living with HIV+ parents provides multifaceted support to improve parents' adherence to their HIV treatment and ensure that children affected by HIV can realize their right to an education and a safe home environment.

Upcoming Activities:

December 6-8 (Tver, Konakovo):

Study tour for specialists from baby homes in Tambov, Tver, Kashin, and V. Volochek on early family intervention services for families in crisis, conducted by Oksana Kalupaeva and Valery Yarygin.

December 10-11 (Novosibirsk):

Project seminar on developing management projects on early intervention and case management conducted by Dmitry Grigor'ev.

December 11-14 (St. Petersburg):

Study tour for specialists from baby homes in Krasnoyarsk on early family intervention services for families in crisis, conducted by Oleg Pal'mov and Rivkat Mukhamedrakhimov.

December 17-18 (Tambov):

Educational seminar on family forms of care for orphaned and abandoned children conducted by Irina Bobyleva.

December 17-19 (Novosibirsk):

Educational seminar on creating family form of care for orphaned and abandoned children conducted by Antonina Shepina.

December 17-21 (Novosibirsk):

Educational seminar for specialists from on early intervention and case management conducted by Sergey Borzov.

December 18-20 (Irkutsk): Seminar at the "AntiAIDS Priangare" Center for medical workers on how to counsel patients with HIV and organize work to prevent abandonment of children born to HIV-positive mothers.

December 20 (Novosibirsk):

All-Russian conference "Prevention of child abandonment: problems and paths to solving them, held in cooperation with the Novosibirsk Department of Education.

December 24 (St. Petersburg): Training at the AIDS Center for specialists from regional departments of health and social welfare.

December 25-26 (Irkutsk):

Seminar at the "AntiAIDS Priangare" Center for medical workers on how to counsel patients with HIV and organize work to prevent abandonment of children born to HIV-positive mothers.







