

HIV Planning Group Announcements

February 2021

Division of HIV Disease: Care Section

- Program manager position
 - Cheryl Henne retired on December 30th
 - Position posted internally and externally
 - Interviews began last week
- New Care Section position
 - Public Health Program Administrator -Program Standards/Housing/CM
 - Posted internally and externally until end of February
- Reporting
 - January-Carryover Placeholder (Gives HRSA heads up on what we will request in carryover)
 - 2019 corrective action plan is being worked on
- Regional SAF's for Localized Media and Innovation
 - Received Media and Innovation plans and are currently under review
 - Will allow enhancement of plans as we have the funds, want to have robust media and innovation activities
 - Please get us those updates in the next few days
- State Funds
 - Reduced by 2.5 million.
 - This impacted our PPAs for testing and PrEP
 - Re-aligned the Regional grants with rebates funds for RW costs

Clinical Quality Management (CQM)

- A. Program Standards, effective 4/1/2021
 - a. Regional Grantee summary discussion 1/21/2020.
 - b. Program Standards and Taxonomy posted on the Regional Grantee SharePoint.
- B. Clinical Quality Management Plan
 - a. Regional Grantee summary discussion 1/19/2021.
 - b. CQM Plan, Historical Performance Measure Data and Data Parameters & Guidelines posted on Regional Grantee SharePoint.
 - i. 2020 Performance Measure data will be updated as it is available to me.
 - c. CQM Workgroup
 - i. Initial meeting occurred 1/26/2021. Subsequent meetings scheduled for 2/23 and 3/22/2021.

- ii. Members of CQM Workgroup: myself, John Haines, Stephen Wimmer, Wendy Sweigart, Robert Pompa, Michael Witmer and 1 representative from each Regional Grantee.
 - d. The first Quarterly Regional Grantee CQM Discussion 3/30/2021 @ 1pm.
 - e. Implementation
 - i. CQM Coordinator Questionnaire will be distributed with Annual Site Visit documents.
 - ii. Regional Grantees are responsible for active participation in CQM Plan, via CQM Workgroup.
 - iii. Regional Grantees are responsible to select at least 1 Quality Improvement Program for their region, be able to provide supporting data relating to selection and implementation.
 - iv. Regional Grantees are responsible for monitoring Quality Management Plans within their region for their providers, to maintain a calendar of scheduled meetings and meeting minutes of activities.

Division of HIV Disease: Monitoring and Evaluation

- HRSA provided Technical Assistance on monitoring, cost principals and time and effort to the RWHB the Program and regions in January.
- All site visits for the RWHB regions have been tentatively scheduled-Will most likely be done virtually
- We will begin monitoring performance indicators for the Prevention PPAs and County Municipal Health Department on a quarterly basis beginning in April.
- Sreeja Jayalekshmy joined the section as a Data Visualization Specialist in December 2020. She will be focusing on data visualization/presentation tool development, documentation for data activities in the production environment and data analysis, providing recommendations to key program staff on data anomalies.

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Thank you to everyone for completing and submitting the 2020 HUD HOPWA Program CAPER Report!
- This report is also known as the Consolidated Annual Progress and Evaluation Report
- I plan to review all reports and will follow up within the next couple of weeks.

Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP)

- Medicaid recovery process has been implemented (Went into effect Jan. 4th). This will satisfy one of our HRSA site visits responses
- New federal poverty guidelines have been updated for SPBP
 - Clients: \$64,400 income limit
 - Dependent: \$22,700 per dependent income limit
- The list of Medicare Part C & D plans that SPBP can pay premiums for in 2021 has been updated on the SPBP website
- The next SPBP Advisory Council meeting will be held as a conference call instead of an in-person meeting on Thursday, April 29th from 10:00am-12:00pm

Division of HIV Disease: Prevention Section

- **PrEP/PEP Institute:**
 - The PrEP Institute will be held from March 23-25 along with two PrEP/PEP 101 courses on March 2 and March 9.
 - This two-hour webinar will be offered twice (repeated deliveries of the same webinar). If you would benefit from basic information about what HIV PrEP and PEP are, please register for ONE of these dates:
 - March 2 : <https://www.urccp.org/class-detail.cfm?Class=100823>
OR
 - March 9: <https://www.urccp.org/class-detail.cfm?Class=100824>
 - The save the date flyer for the PrEP Institute was attached to the email you received with this agenda.
 - Institute registration will open in early February – please email Mary Adams, University of Rochester, with any additional contacts who should receive an invitation to register, and we will ensure they are added to our email list. You may also respond with any questions about the Institute. Mary can be reached at Maryb_adams@urmc.rochester.edu
- **Personnel:**
 - Cluster and partner services Public Health Program Associate 2 position first round interviews complete. Second round of interviews scheduled for this week. This position will report to Jon Steiner.
 - PrEP coordinator Public Health Program Administrator position interviews are being scheduled. This position will report to Michelle Rossi
 - HIV and HCV testing Public Health Program Associate 2 position will be posted soon. This position will report to Jon Steiner.

- **Upcoming Trainings:**
 - **February**
 - February 18- Integrating Hep C into your HIV Work (HPCP)
 - February 23- Suicide Prevention
 - February 24-25- Motivational Interviewing (HPCP)
 - **March**
 - March 2- PrEP/PEP 101 (U of Rochester- session to prepare for the PrEP Institute)
 - March 3-4- Cultural Humility (HPCP)
 - March 9- PrEP/PEP 101 (U of Rochester- session to prepare for the PrEP Institute).
 - March 10-11- HIV Navigation Services (HPCP)
 - March 23-25-PrEP Institute (U of Rochester) Registration info to come
 - **April**
 - April 1- Social Determinants and Health Equity (HPCP)
 - April 14-15- HIV Testing in Non-Clinical Settings (HPCP)
 - April 27- Mental Health Awareness/Suicide Prevention

- **HIV home testing program got underway 2 weeks ago**
 - Collaboration with Pitt and Penn State
 - Link to the home testing website: getmyHIVtest.com
 - Please share this link with your contacts

- **HIV collaboration with viral hepatitis through State Opioid Response (SOR) grant**
 - HIV prevention and the viral hepatitis program received a grant to increase HIV and HCV testing and PrEP awareness at drug and alcohol treatment facilities in collaboration with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), the Single County Authorities (SCA) and PEHTI.
 - PEHTI will be providing education, test kits, technical assistance throughout the 2-year project.

- **Data to Care activities started again in December 2020.**
 - The provider and CMHD response times were extended due to COVID-19 activities at the health departments
 - Currently exploring the expansion of D2C in 2021 to include pharmacies

- **HIV Cluster Investigations**
 - The current priority is a time-space HIV cluster in Cumberland County. The investigation is continuing, but findings so far appear to indicate there is no rapid transmission of HIV.

- The individuals in the cluster have reported injection drug use as a risk for HIV transmission.
 - We received an informal TA from the Indiana (state) Department of Health
 - Lessons learned from Scott County outbreak
 - Tips for engaging PWID
 - We will be providing additional guidance to our DIS and field staff about engaging PWID
 - Met with SCA to discuss collaboration with providers/information gathering
- **End of year reporting**
 - We received the CDC grant notice of award (NOA) for the first quarter of 2021 in December.
 - The integrated HIV Prevention and Surveillance CDC grant end of year reporting templates were received. This report is due in April.
 - The 2020 NHM&E data reports are due March 15. This data is extracted from EvaluationWeb.

Philadelphia Department of Public Health(DOPH)/AIDS Activity Coordinating Office (AACO)

- The Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Health Commissioner – Dr. Thomas Farley announced on 2/8/21 the following: Coleman Terrell, AACO Director will now serve as Acting Director for the Division of Disease Control (DDC) for the PDPH and Dr. Kathleen Brady, Medical Director AACO Surveillance, will now serve as the Acting Director for AACO.

Announcements from HPG Community Members

- *Mike Hellman*
 - Please see a link to an article below from *Public Source*, a Pittsburgh based news source. The HPG's Mike Hellman was interviewed for it. It's titled "‘Déjà vu’: HIV-positive Pittsburghers say we have much to learn about COVID by comparing it to our other deadly epidemic"
 - https://www.publicsource.org/hiv-aids-covid-coronavirus-pandemic-epidemic-pittsburgh/?fbclid=IwAR10PiOKVDSNHjh2SGkWsCAdrPD5upVv_3ZdM-wi7P9ESN44yA0aqH0GI8
- *Greg Valdisera*
 - Coordinated Care Network Pharmacy (CCN Pharmacy) is looking to fill multiple specialty care representatives positions in their Pittsburgh location. Those who have a Bachelor of Social Work, health care experience, and/or experience working with people living with HIV, as well as those on PrEP, are encouraged to apply. A more detailed job description can be found on www.indeed.com . If interested, please email Candice Carr, Human Resources Director at CCN Pharmacy, at ccarr@ccnpharmacy.com

The HIV Prevention and Care Project

- The [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#), in partnership with the [Pennsylvania Expanded HIV Testing Initiative](#) (PEHTI) and the [HIV Prevention and Care Project](#) (HPCP), has introduced HIV Self-Testing (HST) for individuals who reside in Pennsylvania (excluding Philadelphia County). The goal of the *getmyHIVtest.com* program is to help people get tested who wouldn't otherwise go to their doctor or to a testing clinic.
 - Tests are available from the website [getmyhivtest.com](#). Individuals are asked to read the information on the website and answer a few questions in order to receive an FDA-approved, OraQuick home HIV test kit mailed to their provided address. Support for clients who request and administer the HIV self-test is available through [OraQuick](#) and the HPCP, as noted on the website.
 - Individuals who reside in Philadelphia County should visit [PhillyKeepOnLoving.com](#) to order the HIV Self-test kit and for additional information about testing from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.
 - If you have any questions, please send an email to info@getmyHIVtest.com.
- All Capacity Building and Technical Assistance courses will continue to be done virtually for the time being
- As always, a schedule and description of upcoming courses are available on [www.stophiv.com](#) under our Capacity Building tab.

Announcements from The MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (MAAETC)

See below for information on pocket guides and upcoming virtual events provided by the MAAETC and their partners

- Link to our webpage with links to the four pocket guides we discussed on the call (other pocket guides are currently in development): <https://www.maaetc.org/p/newpocketguides>
- Thursday February 11th 8:30am-11:30am ET
 - Practical Applications Module 4: Reducing Health Disparities –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/16664>
- Wednesday February 17th 2:00pm-3:00pm ET
 - Don't Blink: You'll MIS-C it! –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/16944>
- Thursday February 18th 2:00pm-3:00pm ET
 - COVID-19 Vaccine Basics –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/17093>
- Friday February 19th 4:00pm-5:00pm ET
 - 2021 Medication Safety Updates and COVID-19 –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/17039>
- Tuesday February 23rd 10:00am – 12:00pm ET
 - Suicide Risk, Assessment, and Intervention: Skill Building Lab –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/17057>
- Didactic half day on February 24th and half day clinical case discussion on Wednesday March 3rd

- Incorporating HCV services into Primary Care – contact Susan Thompson, 215.246.5324
- Thursday February 25th 1:30pm-3:00pm ET:
 - Logistics and Engagement: Next Steps in Deploying the COVID-19 Vaccine – <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/17142>
- Thursday March 4th 2:00pm-3:00pm ET
 - COVID-19 and the Latinx population –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/17127>
- Wednesday March 10th 8:15am – 12:30pm ET
 - National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: Working Together to End the Epidemic –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/17089>
- Thursday March 11th 1:00pm-2:00pm ET
 - PA Ryan White Part C/D Collaborative Virtual Meeting –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/17086>
- Monday March 16 and Tuesday March 17th with a clinical day on March 17, 18, or 19.
 - HIV Medical Management: Clinical and Didactic Experience for Providers – contact Susan Thompson, 215.246.5324
- Tuesday March 23rd 1:00pm-2:00pm ET
 - Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Update –: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/17072>

Distance-based archived training provided by the MAAETC

- Archived webinar landing page: <https://www.maaetc.org/p/archivedcontent>
- Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Main Page: <https://www.maaetc.org/p/ehemaetc>
- COVID-19 and HIV past/archived events: <https://www.maaetc.org/p/covid19archive>
- COVID-19 and HIV series upcoming events: <https://www.maaetc.org/p/covid19webinars>