8th International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence

jointly sponsored by

IAIAC
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROVIDERS OF AIDS CARE

NIMH
National Institute of Mental Health

PIM
Postgraduate Institute for Medicine
The Florida Department of Health in Broward County Addresses HIV Care Linkage, Retention, and Adherence

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Where We Work
Where We Play
Why you should take an HIV test

In Broward County, it’s estimated in 2011 that 1 out of 5 people with HIV are unaware they are HIV positive. That works out to an estimated 4,205 in Broward.

NEW HIV CASES REPORTED IN BROWARD COUNTY IN 2011

1,040 NEW HIV cases reported in 2011
That's an increase of 25% in NEW HIV cases from 2010

An average of 2.85 new HIV cases were diagnosed per day

Most new HIV cases affect people between the ages of 40 and 49.
13-19: 31
20-29: 224
30-39: 228
40-49: 285
50-59: 206
60+: 64

511 new HIV cases were reported for males who have sex with males.
White: 54%
Black: 24%
Hispanic: 22%
Confluence of Forces

• Evolving state of HIV care in Broward County
• Emerging literature on “treatment as prevention”
• Funding shift to develop a treatment adherence program as an adjunct to a client’s community-based care system
FDOH/Broward County
Conducted 11 Focus Groups

- Groups included 74 participants living with HIV:
  - Men, women, transgenders
  - Heterosexual, MSM
- Topics Discussed:
  - ART treatment and management; personal and structural barriers
  - Community health beliefs
  - Strategies to overcome barriers
Clients’ Perspectives on Barriers to Care

- Language barriers
- Lack of cultural competency skills among providers
- Lack of transportation
- Multiple providers/lack of integrated and streamlined care system/care is difficult to navigate and adherence is challenging
Clients’ Perspectives on Barriers to Care

- Medication intrusiveness into day-to-day life
- Medication side effects
- Self-doubts about readiness to start medication
- Untreated mental illness/unstable mental health and/or substance abuse
- Stigma; lack of or limited support system
Clients’ Perspectives on Barriers to Care

- Competing financial priorities; inability to pay for unbillable services
- Lack of housing and reliable contact information
- Lack of accurate information about HIV/AIDS, reflecting literacy issues, poor health literacy, and lack of trust in the medical system
Program Objectives

• Identify barriers to engagement or retention in care and factors affecting adherence to ART regimens
• Improve attendance at medical appointments and adherence to ART
• Enhance resiliency and self-efficacy skills to better negotiate illness challenges
Program Objectives

• Improve use of community and healthcare system resources

• Implement evidence-based, multi-disciplinary, and proactive interventions to improve the health and quality of life of people living with HIV in Broward County
PROACT

- Participate
- Retain
- Observe
- Adhere
- Communicate
- Teamwork
The PROACT Program was created as a countywide, specialized, and proactive public health initiative.
PROACT Staffing

• Positions:
  – Health System/HIV Peer Navigators (contract with community-based organization)
  – Community Health Nurses
  – Behavioral Health Professional

• All have/will receive(d) training in motivational interviewing
Evidence-Based Programming

• PROACT incorporates 18 of 37 programmatic recommendations made by the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care Panel
PROACT Services

- Comprehensive assessment concerning barriers to care and ART adherence
- HIV-related education (how to communicate with healthcare providers, the meaning of lab results)
- Support services (appointment reminders; appointment support/accompaniment; interpreter services; and identification of community resources, including transportation)
PROACT Services

• Medication management (e.g. adherence assessment and education, pillboxes, medication reminder calls and [soon] texts, mDOT)

• Behavioral health assessment and referral to community services

• Referral to manualized, evidence-based, adherence-focused behavioral health interventions not offered in the community
Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System

- Limited referrals
- State was collecting CD4 counts and viral load measurements
- FDOH/Broward County expressed interest in gaining access to line-item eHARS data
Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System

- Plan to hire two DIS workers, as Florida law stipulates that these data can only be used by DIS workers.
- Workers will monitor data to identify persons with increasing viral loads, decreasing CD4 counts, or no follow-up labs and contact the provider.
DIS Workers Refer to PROACT

• Goal is to get written consent for DIS to share information about individual in a referral to PROACT for assessment and intervention

• DIS workers will also conduct outreach to individuals who have never been linked to care
PROACT Performance Measures

• Culled in part from the National HIV/AIDS Strategy

• Measures include:
  – External Referrals
  – Intake Screening Rate
  – Case Complexity Score (Index)
PROACT Performance Measures

• Measures include:
  – Linkage to Mental Health Services within 60 Days of Assignment
  – Linkage to Substance Abuse Services within 60 Days of Assignment
  – Linkage to HIV Primary Care Services within 90 Days of Assignment
PROACT Performance Measures

• Measures include:
  – Retention in HIV Primary Care
  – Undetectable Viral Load
PROACT Program Director

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