

Abstract Submission System

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Reference:

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Title:

Establishing Key Population Lay Provider Certification system in Thailand: The ENGAGE

Approach

Type:

Authors:

Lessons learned

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Country of research: *

Key and vulnerable populations: *

Abstract text:

Thailand

Men who have sex with men, Transgender and non-binary people, People who use drugs

Background: In support of Thailand's National Strategy to End AIDS by 2030, the USAIDS Community Partnership (ENGAGE) established and piloted a certification system for key population lay providers (KPLPs) to support legal sanction for KPLPs to provide HIV services.

Description: The ENGAGE certification process consists 6 steps:

- STEP 1, Identifying potential KPLPs: consideration criteria including education level, commitment, motivation and work experience in the HIV response among key populations.
- STEP 2, Face-to-Face training: Depending on the clinical roles to perform for HIV services, KPLPs
 must undergo 66-90 hours of training, including 2 prerequisite training courses, HIV Basics and HIV
 Counseling, plus at least one of 4 specialized training courses, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis,
 Antiretroviral Therapy, HIV/STI Testing, and STI Treatment Dispensing. A final knowledge score of
 80% or higher was required to pass each course.
- STEP 3, Practicum: Within 3 months after training, the candidates must observe each type of service and be observed by experienced service providers before working independently. Five case records for each service must be collected.
- STEP 4, Competencies assessment: After completing the practicum, candidate functional competencies assessed through observation by assessors and case records and client satisfaction assessments audited.
- STEP 5, Issuing certification: Results from Steps 2-4 submitted to the ENGAGE Training and Certification Committee, a panel of national experts, for review and issuing certification.
- STEP 6, Certification registry and renewal: Certified KPLPs enrolled into ENGAGE Certification Registry. The 1st certificate is valid for 1 year.

Since 2017, 193 KPLPs were trained at least one course, 77 completed all required courses and started practicum, and 24 received ENGAGE's certification after completing practicum and competencies assessment.

Lessons:

- Dedicated staff and time, along with clear guidance on the certification processes, were crucial to create and retain a cadre of certified KPLPs.
- Turnover, internal staff movement, multiple duties and high work burden were key factors of KPLPs not completing the certification process.

Conclusions: A national system of training, certification and registration of KPLPs evolutionally established by ENGAGE. ENGAGE will continue to advocate with National Health Security Office and Ministry of Public Health to create incumbent pathway for domestic financing of certified KPLPs. Not applicable - the study does not include human subjects

Ethical research declaration: *

Working on TB?:

No

Working on STIs?:

No

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