17th International Conference on HIV TREATMENT AND PREVENTION ADHERENCE

The role of patient navigators and mobile health units in behavioral and healthcare services delivery with justice-involved individuals

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What is ACTION Project?

- 5-year Hybrid type 1 randomized control trial testing the effectiveness of 2 interventions to link individuals with justice involvement to healthcare

- Interventions: **Patient Navigation (PN) vs Mobile Health Unit (MHU)**

- Primary outcomes based on linkage to

  ❑ Prevention with Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reducing HIV risk

  ❑ Antiretroviral therapy (ART) based on HIV status

- Referrals to community service (e.g., Transportation, housing, employment)

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Current Study

Community Needs Assessment

Focus Group Activity

Qualitative Analysis Aims

(1) Understand the role of PNs and MHUs for prevention and treatment services linkage

(2) Learn where PN and MHU models are most effective at overcoming barriers to services

(3) Identify barriers and inform RCT protocol recommendations for starting MHU and PN models

ACTION

Focus Group Methods

Participant Job Titles	
Chief	2
Division Director	1
Nurse	4
Social Worker	1
Physician	1
Director of Agency	2
Patient/Peer/Near-peer Navigator	1
Pharmacist	1
Probation/Parole Officer Supervisor	1
Counselor	2
Other Administrator	7
Other	9

Categories are not exclusive

- **6 groups with justice and community stakeholders** (N=20 participants) from 4 communities (in 2 states)

- **Semi-structured interview guide** developed by researchers and provider partners

- **Virtual groups** facilitated by researchers

- Recorded and **professionally transcribed**

- Intercoder agreement threshold: **85%**

- **2-level codebook design** (main and secondary themes)

ACTION

Results

Groups explored:
- Stakeholder experience with one or both interventions
- Feedback on how to implement PN and MHU models

The **[MHU] van** has been a real lifesaver because there's such a need. And if we have to, we can transport downtown to [COUNTY HOSPITAL SYSTEM] or to the different locations that [HOSPITAL] has, but the **[MHU] van has been our biggest resource**.

Site 2 Justice

[THE PROVIDER] would come and bring a **Mobile Health van** for mammograms. And that was so helpful for undocumented individuals who needed mammograms but didn't have access to get that done.

Site 3 Provider

Aim 1: *The role of PNs and MHUs for prevention and treatment services linkage for individuals with justice involvement*

Results

Patient Navigators

A valuable service for clients…

> **[Navigators]** are the backbone of a lot of our programs. They are an amazing asset to us. They are able to coordinate and connect with the patients we serve on a much higher level a lot of times than some of our case managers. So yes, we use them heavily. Most of our programs have one or two peers in them, and we work right alongside them. They're amazing.

Site 3 Provider

Aim 1: *The role of PNs and MHUs for prevention and treatment services linkage for individuals with justice involvement*

[THE] **MHU** is an accessible way for our patients—**kind of a one-stop shop** if they're able to—if the mobile unit goes to that specific site or shelter.

Site 2 Provider

In [DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS], we do use coaches and **navigators.** It's been a game-changer for us. I really have to say our retention in treatment outside of DOC has increased tremendously because of that. They do a great job of retaining clients right from almost the first phone call.

Site 1 Justice

Results

[PATIENT NAVIGATORS] will often come to court and speak to the judge on behalf of patients themselves. They're just such a critical part of our team.

Site 3 Justice

Aim 2:
Learn where PN and MHU models are most effective at overcoming barriers to services.

Results

Navigators with Lived Experience

And clearly, people with lived experience make this work a lot more successful and easier to connect, because they can speak the same language.

Site 1 Provider

Site 2 Provider

We do have a peer […] that is specifically dedicated to HIV…and he has lived experience and he's very familiar with [COUNTY HOSPITAL SYSTEM]…And I think that's a huge resource as well.

Aim 3: Identify barriers and inform RCT protocol recommendations for implementing MHU and PN models

Summary

Stakeholders endorsed MHU and PN models to…

➢ Improve access to healthcare

➢ Facilitate coordination of healthcare with justice populations

➢ Function as a bridge to community healthcare providers

➢ Incorporate shared lived experience as a component in clinical/support roles

➢ Overcome barriers (e.g., transportation and stigma)

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TO LEARN MORE:

- **Today November 8, 2022**

- **2:15 pm -3:30 pm Breakout Room 1**

- **Session Title:** *Results of a community and justice needs assessment for HIV prevention and treatment and substance use treatment services for persons involved in the justice system*

**Scan to
ACTION Protocol Paper**

ACTION