WELCOME
Welcome Remarks

Dr. José M. Zuniga
President/CEO
IAPAC and FTCI

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
• Significant **PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE** in Hillsborough County/Tampa region

• Yet, much work remains to ensure **EQUITABLE ACCESS** to:
  - HIV prevention/treatment, **PERSON-CENTERED CARE**, social support
    - Within context of environment enabled to respect every person’s **DIGNITY**

• Multistakeholder **HIV COMMITMENT, LEADERSHIP** is critical
  - Including in relation to **POLITICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**
    - But also **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** that places people at center of HIV response

• EHE and FTC are well **ALIGNED AND SYNERGISTIC**
  - Notably as we strive to attain EHE and FTC (and **NHAS**) objectives
    - On trajectory towards **GETTING TO ZERO** new HIV infections, AIDS-related deaths, stigma

• **2 years from deadline of REDUCING NEW HIV INFECTIONS BY 75%**
Welcome on Behalf of the City of Tampa

Ian Whitney
Associate Director, Office of Government Affairs
City of Tampa
Welcome from HHS Region 4

CAPT John Oguntomilade, BDS, MPH, PhD
PACE Program Director
U.S. Public Health Service HHS Region 4

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Welcome from Capt. Oguntomilade
Welcome on Behalf of Hillsborough County EHE

Dr. Douglas Holt
Health Officer
Florida Department of Health – Hillsborough County

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Welcome on Behalf of Community

Sean McIntosh
Research Coordinator
The AIDS Institute

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Welcome on behalf of Community

Gwendolyn Reese
President
African-American Heritage Association
Welcome on Behalf of ViiV Healthcare

J. Maurice McCants-Pearsall
Director, Government Relations
ViiV Healthcare US

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Welcome and Setting the Stage

Dashiell Sears
Regional Director, North America
Fast-Track Cities Institute

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Setting the Stage....

- Hillsborough County was identified as an Ending the HIV Epidemic priority jurisdiction in 2019. Soon after, Tampa joined Fast-Track Cities in November of 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fast-Track Cities</th>
<th>Ending the HIV Epidemic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Global initiative, local implementation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Both a technical and political initiative inclusive of engagement from mayor’s office, health department, and community</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Targets:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 95-95-95 and zero stigma and discrimination by 2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ending the HIV epidemic by 2030 (zero new infections and zero HIV-related deaths)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Federal initiative, local implementation</td>
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<td>• HHS inter-agency leadership engaging community and local stakeholders</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Targets:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce # new HIV infections in the United States by 75% by 2025</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce # new HIV infections in the United States by at least 90% by 2030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setting the Stage...

The purpose of this workshop is to:

• Leverage synergistic efforts of EHE and FTC initiatives

• Discuss gaps and opportunities to achieving common goals:
  o prevention and treatment policy implementation
  o community access to HIV services
  o criminalization as a barrier to ending HIV
  o equitable scale up of PrEP
  o implementation of status neutrality

• Define short-/long-term next steps for addressing EHE and FTC gaps
INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL

EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT

2023 WORKSHOPS
Increasing Access to Testing & Rapid ART

Malik Waters
Project Lead, EHE – Metro Inclusive Health

E.S. Myles
EIS Program Coordinator - Metro Inclusive Health

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
EHE in Hillsborough

While increasing physical access via mobile testing to overcome social determinant deficits for community, we still face the social climate of medical mistrust & concern for discretion with HIV-related preventative care.

• Client visits
• Transportation assistance
• Community Resources
Taking a deeper look...

Unique challenges include social, economic, and cultural barriers that limit access to prevention and care.

- Stigma and misinformation about HIV contribute heavily to new cases of HIV.

- Low rates of condom use, perceived invulnerability, & substance use are prevention challenges for the population.

- Youth populations are more likely to forego needed health care due to lack of access to transportation, lack of time off from work and school, fear, lack of insurance, disapproval from family and peers, and not feeling sick.
Rapid ART Accessibility

Challenges to accessing and maintaining HIV care:

- Housing
- Food insecurity
- Transportation
- Insurance coverage
- Social support

Recognition of these factors which impact clients in varying circumstances creates the opportunity to provide client-centered care.
Solutions to accessing HIV testing and Rapid ART

Building community trust is the key to increasing access to HIV testing and Rapid ART.

• Education
  • Educating community members on HIV care and prevention
  • Utilizing education opportunities as a pathway for linkage to care
  • Provide opportunities for community leadership → Community health advocates & advisory boards

• Investing in communities
  • Being present in natural community gathering hubs (shops, hair salons, parks, churches, etc.) to support their own activities and provide mobile health services
  • Partnering with and supporting community businesses/groups
  • Promoting local clinic space as a community hub to directly assess needs and deliver services
Increasing Access to Biomedical Prevention

Precshard Williams
HIV Prevention Manager
CAN Community Health

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Objectives

1. Florida EHE’s plan to increase access to PrEP
2. What’s happening in Hillsborough for PrEP
3. Disparities when accessing PrEP in Hillsborough
Increasing PrEP Access Plan

Prevent new HIV transmissions by using proven interventions, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and syringe service programs (SSPs).

• Health and Human Services (HHS) will expand PrEP services.
• May 2019, Gilead donated PrEP to 200k people per year for 11 years.
• December 2019, HHS launched Ready, Set, PrEP.
  ▪ Nationwide program providing no cost access.


Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)

• Close to 30 years of research.
• Safe, effective, and cost-saving intervention.
• Reduces the risk of viral Hep, HIV, and other infections.
• CDC and SAMHSA works with local communities to implement.
  ▪ where legally allowed.

Hillsborough PrEP Providers

USF Health Ybor Youth Clinic

- Truvada and Descovy
- Ready Set PrEP, Copay assistance for insured/uninsured, Gilead Patient Assistance (PAP) Program
- Study with USF Pediatrics
Hillsborough PrEP Providers

Metro Inclusive Health

- Truvada, Descovy, and Apretude
- Gilead PAP and Viiv Connect
- PrEP in 30 minutes
Hillsborough PrEP Providers

CAN Community Health

- Truvada, Descovy, and Apretude
- CAN Cares, Gilead PAP, and Viiv Connect
- Apretude Buy and Build pilot program
- PrEP Week
Hillsborough PrEP Providers

Midway Specialty Pharmacy

- Truvada, Descovy, and Apretude
- Gilead PAP, and Viiv Connect, and Midway Provides
- Concierge PrEP service—“We bring PrEP to you!”
- PrEP 4 Life Newcomer & Mr. and Miss pageants
Hillsborough SSPs

IDEA Exchange Tampa

- Syringe exchange
- Wound care
- HIV & Hep C testing w/ linkage
- Treatment referral
- Insurance enrollment
- Overdose prevention
- Safer injection education
- Community outreach
Disparities in Accessing PrEP

Health Insurance

- Lower PrEP uptake
- Lower rates of people knowing their status
- Lower levels of people linking to care

Hillsborough County. AHEAD. (n.d.). https://ahead.hiv.gov LOCATIONS/HILLSBOROUGH-COUNTY
Thank you!

Precshard Williams
HIV Prevention Manager
CAN Community Health
pwilliams@cancommunityhealth.org
Eliminating Disparities in HIV Health Outcomes

Teriko Perkins
Tampa Bay Regional Coordinator
Midway Specialty Care Center

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Existing Disparities in Hillsborough County
Social Determinants of Health

• Housing
• Education
• Insurance or Linkage to Care
• Employment
Hillsborough County... Eliminating HIV Disparities

• **HOPWA**: HOPWA funds will pay for direct services, operations and administrative costs to income-eligible persons with HIV/AIDS.

• **GED Programs**: Hillsborough County offers financial education assistance for GED preparation, GED testing, and Adult Continued Education to qualified residents, which includes tuition, books, and other fees.

• **Ryan White (Midway YourWay)**: An agency built program that allows individuals living with HIV to receive care and treatment with **ZERO** cost for office visits as well as labs for individuals who are uninsured.

• **Florida EHE Plan**: The goal of the initiative is to reduce new HIV infections by 75 percent in the next five years and by 90 percent by 2030.

• **Job Placement Programs**: At CareerSource Tampa Bay, the mission is to connect employers with qualified, skilled talent and Hillsborough County residents with employment and career development opportunities to achieve economic prosperity.
New Initiatives Creating Change

• Midway YourWay
• Educational groups & seminars
• Ebonii Study/Concierge PrEP
• Representation Matters...Create the Space
Reducing Stigma in Clinical Settings

Anelize Wessler, MSN, APRN, ACRN
CAN Community Health

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
What does EHE say about Stigma in Clinical Settings

- What is stigma? “A set of negative and unfair beliefs that a society or group of people have about something.”

- “To reduce new HIV diagnoses in Florida, it is critical to ensure that everyone with HIV is aware of their status, is linked to and retained in HIV medical care and maintains viral suppression. Key social determinants for the state include homelessness, poverty, racism, violence, stigma, homophobia and transphobia. Initiatives such as anti-stigma campaigns and collaborations with faith-based organizations, as well as those that address social determinants, will aid in EHE. The FDOH HIV/AIDS Section will collaborate with the FDOH Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) to promote synergistic initiatives between the Closing the Gap grant program and the HIV/AIDS Section.” (The Florida Department of Health, 2020)

- “Haitian Population A statewide Haitian consultation was facilitated by the Black AIDS Institute December 10–11, 2018, in Tallahassee, Florida. Specific leaders who are providers and advocates within the Haitian community were invited to participate in the session. Consultation objectives were to develop a shared understanding of demographic data around HIV and other STIs in Florida’s Haitian communities; to understand and discuss the context in which the demographic data exist, including the effects of xenophobia, racism, language access and stigma; and to have a deeper understanding of cultural attitudes around HIV, including medical mistrust and other healing systems.” (The Florida Department of Health, 2020)

- “5) reinvigorating the Faith Responds to AIDS (FRTA) initiative as an effective way to reach the Latinx population; 6) reducing stigma by removing the focus on sin related to HIV and other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) issues within the church setting; and 7) providing cultural awareness training to clinic staff, including providers and others who may interact with clients.” (The Florida Department of Health, 2020)
What is current guidance on speaking to patients about HIV, PrEP

• “Health care providers play an important role in helping patients with HIV improve their health outcomes. By engaging your patients in brief conversations at every office visit, you can help them stay in HIV care, improve their medication adherence, and achieve viral suppression.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021)

• United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF)
  • Grade A Recommendation: USPSTF recommends the service. There is high certainty that the net benefit is substantial. Offer or provide service.
  • HIV screening ages 15-65 and pregnant persons
  • Prevention of HIV via Preexposure prophylaxis PrEP
What are some ways we can improve communication or reducing HIV stigma for clinicians?

• Start at where they are receiving their education for becoming a clinician, or a healthcare provider to educate about HIV and HIV Prevention as well and to incorporate this in every visit.

• Starting an honest conversation with your patient without judgement will help that patient create trust and eventually open-up more in the future. It may take time for the patient to open up, don’t force them.

• Tell them before hand, hey this may be uncomfortable and if there is something you do not want to answer, it is ok. Don’t penalize your patient. They are looking to you for guidance.

• “Health care providers play an important role in helping patients initiate ART, including describing the benefits of early initiation of ART, offering and prescribing ART, helping to manage long-term ART use, and providing information on other interventions that can reduce HIV transmission risk. Talking to your patients with HIV makes a difference. By engaging your patients in brief conversations at every office visit, you can emphasize the benefits of consistent, long-term adherence to their prescribed ART regimen and the potential consequences of nonadherence. One way you can enhance communication is to ask your patients open-ended questions. These questions can help you better understand each patient’s views, barriers, and ability to adhere to their treatment regimen” (CDC, 2021)
Who can we connect/partner with to implement more stringent guidance for clinicians to understand U=U and how it applies to their patients?

- School and medical boards.
- Implementing HIV testing and prevention as a mandatory CME for license renewal.
- More awareness in the Primary Care Community.


https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/stigma
Carlos A. Mercado, MBA
Director, Disease Control Division, Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Challenges to Achieving EHE and FTC Objectives

• Challenges in developing and implementing prevention policy in Hillsborough County for HIV?
Challenges to Achieving EHE and FTC Objectives

• What does prevention policy look like today, and what should we begin planning for in the future?
Contact Information

Carlos A. Mercado
Director, Disease Control Division
Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County
https://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov/

Office: (813) 559-4345
Cell: (813) 267-2130
Email: carlos.mercado@flhealth.gov
Treatment Policy and Implementation

Charurut Somboonwit, MD, FACP
Associate Director, Division of Infectious Diseases – Morsani College of Medicine

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Population

~10% population increase since 2017
HIV Diagnosis

Change in HIV diagnosis ↑5.2% (2017-2021)

- 2017: 307
- 2018: 315
- 2019: 288
- 2020: 249
- 2021: 323
PWH along the HIV Care Continuum in 2021, Living in Hillsborough County, Florida

Note: 90% of persons retained in care had a suppressed viral load.
Persons Who Received an HIV Diagnosis along the HIV Care Continuum in 2021, Hillsborough County, Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV Diagnoses</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linked to Care in 30 Days</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained in Care</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppressed Viral Load</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EHE Component C/A1

- Clinic Assessment
- Scaling Up
- PrEP and nPEP
- Linkage to care
- Partnership
All clinics provided 4th generation HIV and extragenital testing, and most provided some PrEP services. However, nPEP and HIV treatment services were rarer.

Number of clinics providing each of 12 HIV services

- 4th gen testing
- Extragenital testing
- Linkage to HIV care
- PrEP assessment/referral
- PrEP lab tests
- nPEP assessment/referral
- PrEP by RX
- Viral load testing
- PrEP onsite
- nPEP by RX
- HIV TX onsite
- nPEP onsite

31 Total STD Specialty Care Clinics
7 Receiving EHE Component C funding
24 Not receiving EHE Component C funding

FDOH-Hillsborough provides all 12 services.
Scaling up

- Hire and retain a provider and clinic nurses
- Using heat map for HIV and PrEP campaign
- Monthly lunch and learn with the Ratelle PTC
• Increased PrEP Prescription and coverage ~3x since 2017

Source: https://ahead.hiv.gov/
Linkage to care coordinators

IDEA Exchange Tampa

Red Carpet Entry Program
Partnerships
Federal, State and County Policy Alignment

Michael Ruppal
Executive Director,
The AIDS Institute

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
Federal, State and County Policy Alignment

• Federal Budget
  • Debt ceiling negotiations and impact on programs.
  • ABAC Chart (handout)
  • HIV Community Funding Requests Letter (handout)
  • Budget Cuts to EHE (handout)
Federal, State and County Policy Alignment

• State Policy
  • Legislative Session
  • Medicaid “Unwinding”
  • Harmful legislation
  • Preparing for next session
  • Meeting with policy makers
  • Advocacy
Federal, State and County Policy Alignment

- County Policy
  - EHE Hillsborough
  - EHE Pinellas
  - IDEA Exchange Tampa
  - Harmful policies
  - Meeting with policy makers (county / health department)
  - Advocacy
Looking to make a difference?

Ready to put your thoughts into action?

Interested in HIV policy and advocacy in Florida?

Join Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network (FHAAN)!

- Stay up to date on Florida-specific issues & trends, as well as HIV / Healthcare policy issues that impact people living with HIV and those community advocates concerned with this topic.
- Hear from your peers from around the state on what we’re working on, state level strategy, and policy making.
- There’s always more to be done, the work never ends. Help us help others; join our cause in providing education to people and elected officials about our issues and our proposed solutions.
- Help us be part of the solution for people living with HIV in Florida.

Join us at http://www.FHAAN.org and click “Apply to Become a Member”

Have questions? Feel free to contact KBargar@fhaan.org or JWynn@fhaan.org.
Community Access & HIV Services

Keayea Lee
Outreach Supervisor
Empath Partners in Care

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023
About EPIC

EPIC (Empath Partners in Care) a member of Empath Health is a nonprofit organization that offer full support and services for individuals with HIV/AIDS. Our mission is to empower and support clients to stay healthy. We help our clients thrive by providing medication support through our pharmacy, housing assistance, pantry access, counseling, financial assistance, medical case management, prevention & outreach programs, and day center supportive services.
Service Benefits vs. Challenges

Identified Benefits
- Testing
- Prevention
- Education
- Medication
- Supportive Services

Challenges
- Stigma and Privacy
- Misconceptions
- Treatment Cost Fears
Public Awareness of Services

I am convinced that knowledge is power - to overcome the past, to change our own situations, to fight new obstacles, to make better decisions.

Benjamin Carson
INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL EHE FTC ALIGNMENT WORKSHOPS

2023 INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL EHE FTC ALIGNMENT WORKSHOPS
Addressing Criminalization as a Barrier to Ending HIV

Panelists

• Tyrone Singletary
  Prevention Programs Coordinator – Metro Inclusive Health

• Rose Hornedo
  Prevention Team Leader, Region 5 – CAN Community Health

• Michael Ruppal
  Executive Director – The AIDS Institute

Moderator:
Sean McIntosh
Research Coordinator
The AIDS Institute
Scaling Up PrEP Access and Utilization

Panelists

• Jeffrey Lluberes
  Program Supervisor – Empath Partners in Care (EPIC)

• Malik Waters
  Project Lead, Ending the HIV Epidemic – Metro Inclusive Health

• Keayea Lee
  Prevention and Outreach Coordinator – Empath Partners in Care (EPIC)
Scaling Up PrEP Access and Utilization

Carlos A. Mercado, MBA
Director, Disease Control Division, Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County
Hillsborough County Current PrEP Access and Utilization Levels

Source: AIDSVu (aidsvu.org). Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health

### PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)

- **Number of PrEP users, 2021:** 2,040
- **Rate of PrEP users per 100,000 population, 2021:** 167

#### Percent of PrEP users, by Sex, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
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#### Percent of PrEP users, by Age, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aged 13-24</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 25-34</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 35-44</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 45-54</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 55+</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
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#### Number of PrEP Users, 2012-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of PrEP Users</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2,040</td>
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</table>
The 2021 PrEP-to-Need Ratio (PNR) is the ratio of the number of PrEP users in 2021 to the number of people newly diagnosed with HIV in 2020. PNR serves as a measurement for whether PrEP use appropriately reflects the need for HIV prevention. A lower PNR indicates more unmet need.

**PNR, 2021**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>9.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3.08</td>
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**PNR, by Age, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aged</th>
<th>PNR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-24</td>
<td>4.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>7.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>11.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>8.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>12.19</td>
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</tbody>
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Carlos A. Mercado
Director, Disease Control Division
Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County
https://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov/
Office: (813) 559-4345
Cell: (813) 267-2130
Email: carlos.mercado@flhealth.gov
Optimizing Social Determinants to Achieve U=U

Panelists

- Kayon Henderson
  Manager, Housing and Community Development – City of Tampa

- Kiala Dureke
  Outreach Prevention Specialist - Midway Specialty Care Center
  Director, Inclusive Services – Diversity+ Train

Moderator:
E.S. Myles
EIS Program Coordinator
Metro Inclusive Health
Implementing HIV Status Neutrality in Practice

Moderator:
Anelize Wessler
Nurse Practitioner
CAN Community Health

Panelists

- Dr. Heather Henderson
  Director, Social Medicine Section – Tampa General Hospital
INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT WORKSHOPS

2023 INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL EHE ↔ FTC ALIGNMENT WORKSHOPS
Identified Challenges and Opportunities to EHE in Tampa/Hillsborough County

Scott Lyles
EHE and FTC Alignment Consultant
Fast-Track Cities Institute
HIV Care Continuum Optimization for EHE and FTC Goals

• Get creative in expanding testing- Open testing in places where people don’t expect you
• Meet people where they are at the times that work for them
• Bringing more mobile services to the community
• Continuous education and feedback to providers – re-educate on Rapid ART and PrEP
• Challenges with linkage to care with opt out testing at ED - sensitization on personal circumstances of people getting tested informing linkage
Improving Engagement

Widen the circle

• Youth
  • Find spaces outside the school to engage them

• Parents
  • Educate parents to better support their youth

• Transgender populations

• Faith-based leaders

• Black heterosexual identifying men
  • Address the stigma that is keeping them from the table – invitation not accusation
Centrality of Community

• Community needs to be at the table when developing new programs and policies – there are processes and procedures that don’t fit within the existing programs

• Community organizations need to be prioritized for funding
  • Funding is based on volume, smaller organizations may not have numbers but they have reach
  • Question the existing funding systems and how to make it more relevant to community

• How to build capacity of small community organizations to manage larger budgets?

• Engage community on HOW to spend existing funds
Policy Landscape

- Intersection of racism and HIV criminalization
- Assumed guilt just for living with HIV
- Careful with how U=U is used in criminalization so we don’t separate “good people living with HIV” and “bad people living with HIV”
- How do we mobilize to change these laws?
  - Need to educate legislators on HIV transmission – data alone is not enough
  - Community needs to be in the room in educating legislators on the impact of laws – LA Coalition on Criminalization and Health
- Once laws are changed
  - Educate law enforcement officers
  - Educate community that this is not something you can be criminalized by
  - Remove people from sex offender list
  - Prepare a body of lawyers that are equipped with the knowledge to stand by the community
Scaling up PrEP Access and Utilization

• Stigma associated with HIV makes people hesitant to hear about PrEP
• Normalize PrEP as part of wholistic care
• Representation matters! – inclusion of black and Latinx women on advertisements for PrEP
• Access – need to make the processes for accessing PrEP easier
  • Need to keep up momentum so people link to PrEP
  • Same day PrEP
  • Bring PrEP directly to community events
Stigma

• Stigma in healthcare settings – training as a continuous process
• Need to normalize U=U and PrEP – kitchen table conversations
• De-stigmatize black men’s assumed role in transmission
• Religion and stigma- Capacity building for faith-based leaders to support their communities.
• Language matters!
  • De-stigmatize language on sex and sexuality
Social Determinants of Health

• Federal funding cuts for affordable housing; unsustainable cost for building more affordable housing (lasagna of money)—creatively “braiding” funding
  • HOPWA dollars, EHE dollars, other funding/medical dollars
  • Unique partnerships to ensure affordable housing – Gulf Coast Housing Perspective working with health insurance providers and FQHCs

• Resources that can be mobilized at local level
  • DHHS resources
  • Office of community development
  • Available lots
  • Making the budget stretch - townhomes, duplexes

• Intersecting vulnerabilities of those who are unhoused – beyond HIV. How can these intersecting vulnerabilities be addressed?

• Need to think about other social determinants of health
  • Transportation
  • Social injustices
  • Socio-economic status
HIV Status Neutral Services

• Funding – how to get funding for wrap around services to implement status neutrality
• Status neutrality is not limited to HIV – it should focus on equitable whole person quality of care and quality of life irrespective of serostatus
• Capacity building for providers on linkage to care for ALL
Actionable EHE and FTC Implementation Steps in Tampa/Hillsborough County

Dashiel Sears
Regional Director – North America
Fast-Track Cities Institute
• FTC-EHE Synergies are significant
• Areas of joint focus in 2022-2025, including:
  • Technical guidance: Inter-/Intra-jurisdictional planning
  • Health inequity: Social Transformation Agenda
  • Capacity-building: LAI tx/PrEP implementation, person-centered care, cultural responsiveness
  • Best-practice sharing: Best Practice Repository
  • Assessment tools: QoC, QoL surveys
  • Public policy interventions: Housing, criminalization
  • Health workforce: Stress, burnout, well-being survey
  • Stigma elimination: #ZeroHIVStigmaDay
# Leveraging FTC for EHE

## EHE Goals

- Expanding Engagement Points for EHE Advocacy – Widening the Circle
- Integrating treatment and prevention strategies together to achieve status neutrality
- Local stakeholder buy-in and education [health networks/districts, clinicians, educators]
- Strengthening Health System Resilience
- Upscaling integrated care models addressing intersectional infections and conditions (MPX, hepatitis, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, under-or non-insured, unhoused, mental health, addiction)
- Measuring and assessing Quality of Care and Quality of Life Metrics

## FTC Advantage

- Social Transformation Agenda
  - Leveraging FTC core groups to enhance engagement with community-based stakeholders towards comprehensive planning that supports EHE and equity-based goals for social determinants
  - Inter-jurisdictional holistic HIV planning,
  - Best Practice documentation/validation/sharing,
  - Implementation Science funded studies
  - Research and guidance for universal stigma, QoC, QoL metrics
Leveraging FTC for EHE, Cont.

EHE Goals

- Policy advocacy for holistic HIV health systems
- Increase HIV awareness in non-traditional medical fields and general community
- Eliminating disparities in HIV health outcomes, rates of new infections, and PrEP uptake
- Optimizing the urban and rural HIV care continuum
- Enhancing accessibility for HIV service and clinical interfacing for key populations

FTC Advantage

- Model Policies, HIV Care Optimization Guidance, Status Neutral implementation
- Normative Implementation guidance for DoxyPep and DoxyPrEP
- Normative guidance on strengthening STI capacities for clinics and health departments
- Data and Research for policy impact
- Social Transformation Agenda, Inter-Jurisdictional Planning, QoL/QoC Assessments
- Global reach for leading edge partnership exploration
For Tampa/Hillsborough County

Identified need

• De-Siloing admin and planning orgs
• Need identified champions for identified funding and collaboration understanding funding limits and flexibility
• Data sharing – PrEP and service collaboration
• Work force development, knowledge transfer, and engagement
Closing Remarks

Dr. José M. Zuniga
President/CEO
IAPAC and FTCI

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023

INTRA-JURISDICTIONAL
EHE <-> FTC ALIGNMENT
2023 WORKSHOPS

IAPAC
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PROVIDERS OF AIDS CARE

FAST-TRACK CITIES
INSTITUTE

Ending
the
HIV
Epidemic
• **TOGETHER**, we can achieve a future in which:
  o New HIV infections are **EXCEEDINGLY RARE** and AIDS-related deaths are a thing of the past
  o People living with and affected by HIV are **VALUED** and not subjected to inequality

• Lags in our global, national, municipal HIV responses reflect underlying **SOCIAL INEQUALITIES**:
  o **GAY MEN, OTHER MSM** who are forced to live on societal margins
  o **TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS** whose identities are violently suppressed
  o **RACIAL, ETHNIC MINORITIES** who lack socioeconomic opportunity and confront racism
  o **WOMEN, GIRLS** who often lack a voice about their own bodies and healthcare decisions

• Ending the HIV epidemic does not just mean suppressing or even curing the virus, but rather **ADDRESSING MYRIAD INJUSTICES** that have been both causes and effects

• HIV is as much about **HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE** as it is about public health or science

• EHE and FTC are well **ALIGNED AND SYNERGISTIC** to advance a **HOLISTIC** HIV response
Closing Remarks

J. Carl DeVine
CEO
Banyan Tree Project, Inc.

Tampa, FL
June 6, 2023