Supported through an unrestricted grant from Viiv Healthcare, which had no input regarding the participants who will attend and/or the presentations that will be delivered at this alignment workshop.
Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) and Fast-Track Cities Institute (FTCI), welcome to one of the 19 workshops we are coordinating across the country to align efforts between the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) and Fast-Track Cities (FTC) initiatives. We are delighted to convene local stakeholders today to focus on the progress made and challenges left to overcome as Houston and Harris County strive to attain EHE and FTC objectives.

During this EHE-FTC Alignment Workshop, you will engage in discussions about efforts to ensure equitable access to HIV testing, prevention, care, treatment, and social support services within the context of an environment enabled to respect every person’s dignity. You will also hear from peers at the city, county, and state about cross-cutting challenges to prevention and treatment policy implementation, county-state policy alignment, and community access to HIV services; and will participate in moderated discussions about criminalization as a barrier to ending HIV, equitably scaling up PrEP access and utilization, and implementing HIV status neutrality in practice. While our goals may seem ambitious for a one-day workshop, I view today as an important first step in leveraging the power of partnership between the EHE and FTC initiatives.

Thank you to our colleagues from Houston and Harris County who advised us on the workshop program and faculty selection. We also express our gratitude to our panelists and presenters for sharing their expertise around various aspects of the HIV response that are critical to our collective success. We appreciate ViiV Healthcare for supporting this series of EHE-FTC Alignment Workshops as part of their longstanding corporate partnership with Fast-Track Cities. Ultimately, I recognize the multistakeholder HIV leadership on display in Houston and Harris County. You are demonstrating the important role community, clinical, political, and public health leadership can play in improving the health and well-being of people living with and affected by HIV.

In closing, I take this opportunity to invite you to join us at the Fast-Track Cities 2023 conference, which will take place September 25-27, 2023, in Amsterdam. Our aim is to highlight success across the Fast-Track Cities network and share best practices in accelerating urban HIV, tuberculosis, and viral hepatitis responses. I encourage you to take advantage of an opportunity to learn from the other 500-plus cities and municipalities worldwide that are committed to ending their urban HIV epidemics by 2030.

I wish you continued success as you strive to attain EHE and FTC objectives on a trajectory towards getting to zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero HIV-related stigma.

Warmest regards,

Dr. José M. Zuniga
President/CEO
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Registration

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM
Welcome Remarks

Welcome on Behalf of IAPAC and Fast-Track Cities

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

Welcome on Behalf of US HHS Region 6

CDR Rodrigo Chavez
PACE Regional Deputy Director
HHS Region 6

Welcome on Behalf of Harris County EHE

Jason Black
Project Coordinator, Ending the HIV Epidemic
Harris County Public Health

Marlene McNeese
Deputy Assistant Director
Bureau of HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis Prevention
Houston Health Department

Welcome on Behalf of Community

Dominique Guinn
Co-Chair Community
Houston HIV Prevention Community Planning Group

Crystal Starr
Chair of the Houston Ryan White Planning Council

Welcome on Behalf of ViiV Healthcare

Ramon Gardenhire
Director, Government Relations
ViiV Healthcare US

OVERVIEW OF LOCAL EHE PLAN STATUS

9:45 AM – 10:25 AM
Presentations

Increasing Access to Testing and Rapid START

Ritchie Martin, Jr.
Chief Public Health Officer
Allies in Hope

Increasing Access to Biomedical Prevention

Dr. Mandy Hill
Professor (effective September 1, 2023) and Director of Population Health in Emergency Medicine
UTHealth Houston

Eliminating Disparities in HIV Health Outcomes

Dr. Thomas Giordano
Chief, Section of Infectious Diseases
Baylor College of Medicine

Reducing Stigma in Clinical Settings

Dr. Lakecia Pitts
Family Medicine Physician and HIV Specialist
Avenue 360 Health and Wellness
10:25 AM – 10:55 AM
Discussion

10:55 AM – 11:15 AM
Break

IDENTIFYING CROSS-CUTTING CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVING EHE AND FTC OBJECTIVES

11:15 AM – 11:55 AM
Presentations

Prevention Policy and Implementation
Marlene McNeese
Deputy Assistant Director
Bureau of HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis Prevention
Houston Health Department

Treatment Policy and Implementation
Dr. Shital Mahendra Patel
Assistant Professor
Medicine, Infectious Disease
Baylor College of Medicine

County and State Policy Alignment
Lindsay Lanagan
Vice President, Government Relations and Public Affairs
Legacy Community Health

Community Access to HIV Services
Jill Jahns
Public Health Director
Legacy Community Health

11:55 AM – 1:25 PM
Lunch Break and Discussion

MODERATED DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR EHE AND FTC

1:25 PM – 1:55 PM
Addressing Criminalization as a Barrier

MODERATOR
Michael Webb
Public Health Policy Strategist
Equality Federation

PANELISTS
Venita Ray
Social Justice Movement Consultant
Venita Ray Consulting + Freelance

Gin Pham
Community Engagement Manager
Transgender Education Network of Texas

Mitchell Katine
Attorney
Partner, Katine Nechman McLaurin LLP

1:55 PM – 2:25 PM
Scaling Up PrEP Access and Utilization

MODERATOR
Jeffrey Campbell
Chief Executive Officer
Allies in Hope

PANELISTS
Dr. Mandy Hill
Professor (effective September 1, 2023) and Director of Population Health in Emergency Medicine
UTHealth Houston, McGovern Medical School

Sha’Terra Johnson
HIV Health Planner
Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group

Dr. Charlene Flash
President and CEO
Avenue 360 Health and Wellness
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023

PROGRAM

2:25 PM – 2:45 PM
Break

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM
Optimizing Social Determinants for U=U
MODERATOR

Kevin Anderson
Founder/Executive Officer

PANELISTS

Melody Barr
Deputy Assistant Director, Housing and Community Development
Public Services
City of Houston

Amber David, Sr.
Risk Reduction Specialist
Houston Health Department

Steven Vargas
Chair, Community Advisory Board, Texas Developmental Center for
AIDS Research
Chair, National HIV and Aging Advocacy Network

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM
Implementing HIV Status Neutrality in Practice
MODERATORS

Jason Black
Project Coordinator, Ending the HIV Epidemic
Harris County Public Health

Marlene McNeese
Deputy Assistant Director
Bureau of HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis Prevention
Houston Health Department

RAPPORTEUR SESSION AND WRAP UP

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM
Identified Challenges and Opportunities to EHE
in Harris County and Houston

Scott Lyles
EHE-FTC Alignment Consultant
Fast-Track Cities Institute

4:00 PM – 4:15 PM
Actionable EHE and FTC Implementation Steps

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

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM
Closing Remarks and Call for Solidarity

Michael Webb
Public Health Policy Strategist
Equality Federation

4:30 PM
Adjourn
Workshop Location
St. John's Downtown Church
2019 Crawford Street
Houston, TX 77002

Slide Presentations
Slide presentations will be shared with you electronically following the workshop.

Social Media
IAPAC encourages you to use social media to communicate your thoughts about the workshop proceedings. Please use the @IAPAC and @FastTrackCities handles.

Internet Access
Participants will have access to wireless Internet both in the workshop and throughout the building.

Questions
If you have any questions, please contact FTCI’s North American Regional Director, Dashiell Sears.

Phone: (215) 218-8842
Email: dsears@ftcinstitute.org