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Strengthening PrEP Access and Peer Support in Group PrEP Care

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Declaration: Nothing to disclose.



Key Words



Lessons Learned: The Precious Cargo Reframe

- **CLEAR** (protocols)
- **ADAPTABLE** (to systems)
- **RESPONSIVE** (to CBO & clients)
- **GOALS** (aligned w/ community needs)
- **ORDER** (soft structure)



Introduction

Disparities

- Increased incidence of HIV reactive status for those who engage in transactional sex

Barriers

- Multiple partners
- Condomless Sex
- Healthcare access
- Trauma
- Structural Violence

Urgent Need

- Community empowered PrEP innovation

Description: PrEPWork

A Centering-Informed Group Care model adapted for PrEP navigation, education and care retention among individuals who trade sex:



Combines individual provider visits with group care sessions

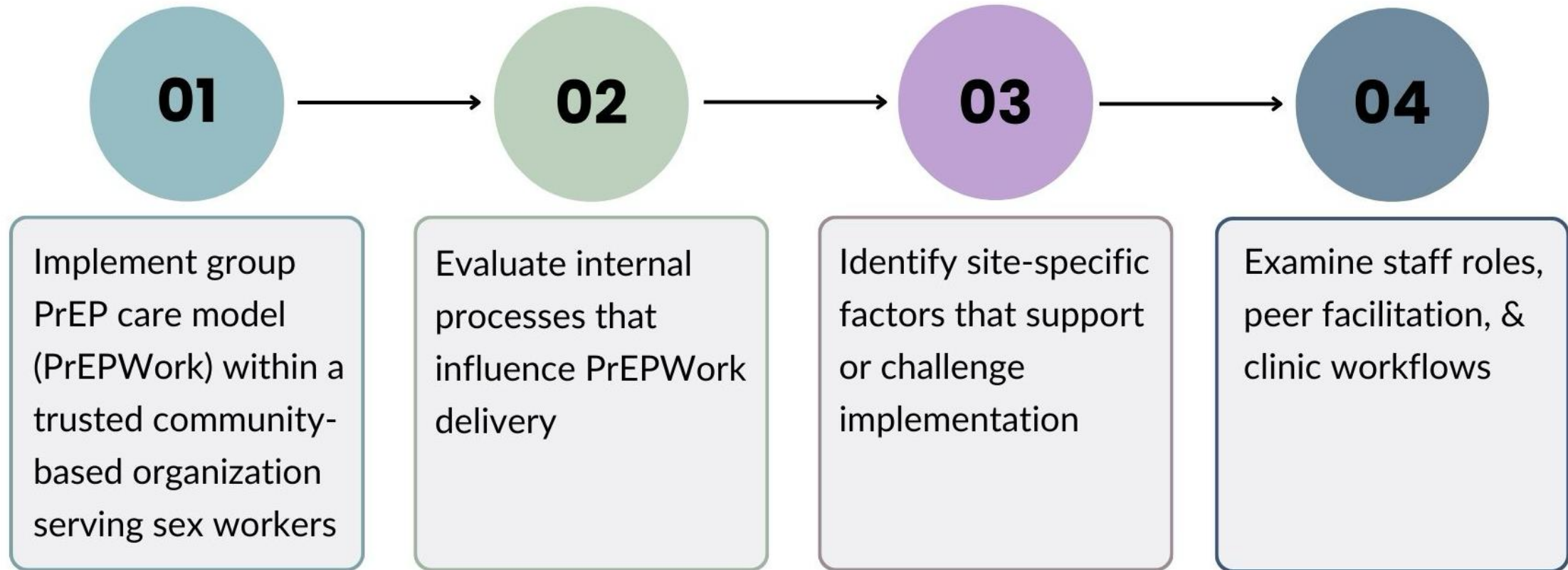
Individual Health Assessment

Interactive Sexual Health & Safety Education

Community Building



Implementation & Evaluation Objectives



Health Assessment

30 min

- **Brief 1:1 with provider:** Common health promotion occurs in group
- **Self- assessment:** PrEP adherence, vital signs, promotes ownership of health
- **Enjoy snacks:** connect with group members & engage in semi-structured activity prior to circling up

Interactive Learning

45 min

- **Group facilitation:** 1 provider & 1 trained peer
- **Activity:** generates discussion on how to make health promotion work in every day lives
- **Topics:** each session centers on one topic; HIV prevention, substance use, side effects of PrEP

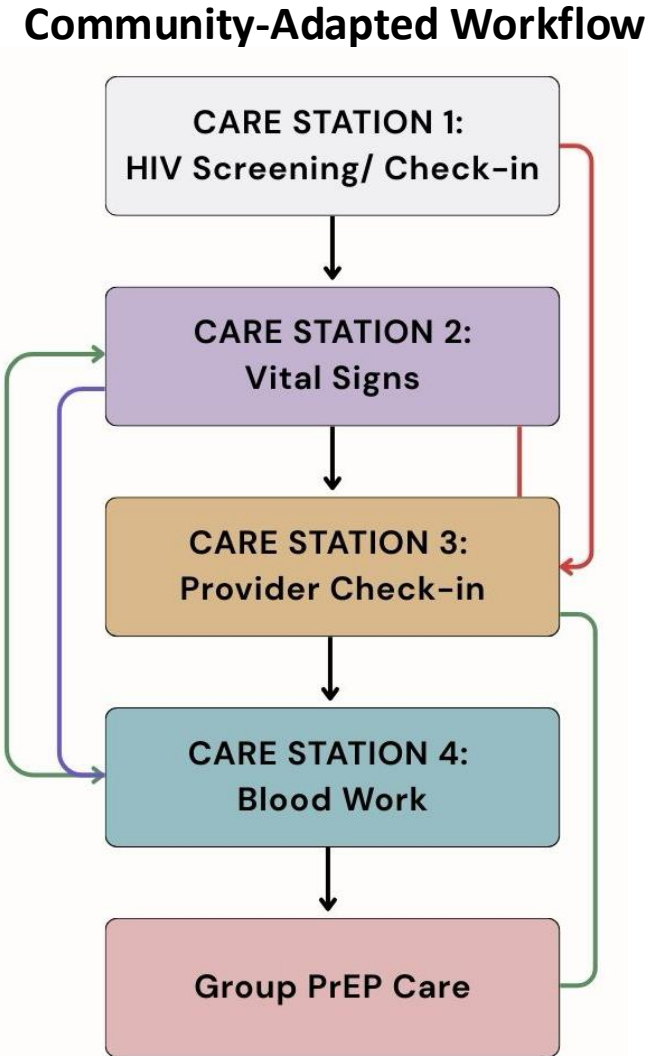
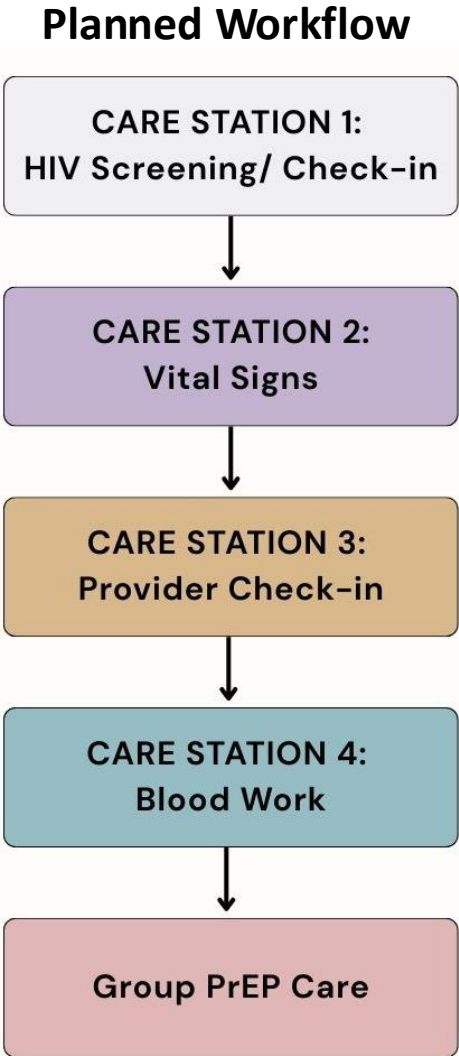
Community Building

- Maintained same cohort of patients & facilitators
- Each session had **opener & closer** to promote community building
- Topics & activities **adapted to meet community** stated needs
- **Reduced power imbalance** often seen in healthcare
- **Met patients where they are** vs. constraints of health care system

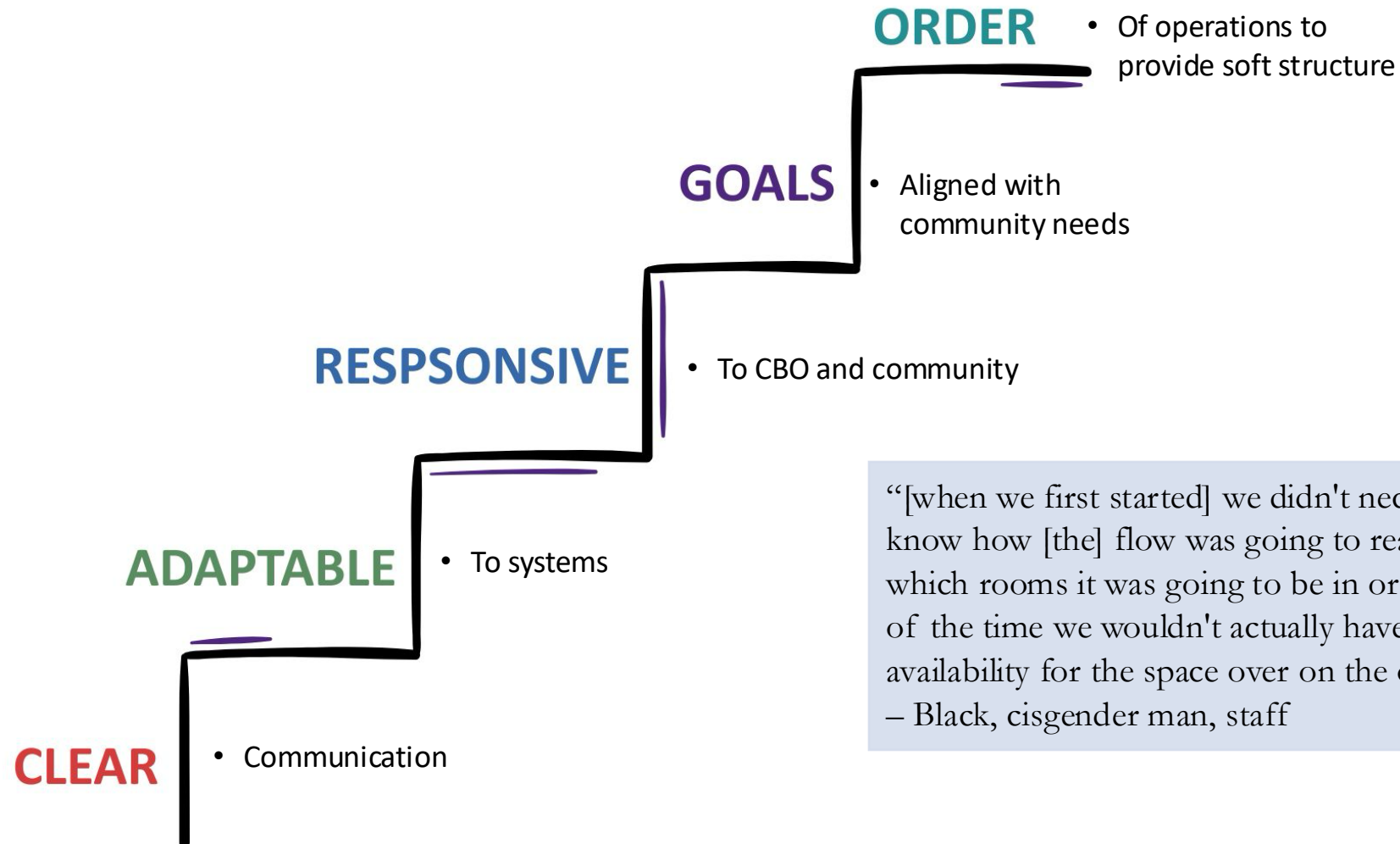
**Same patients. Same facilitators. Same structure for each session.
Promoting health while building community.**

Sessions	Health Assessments	Interactive Learning	Community Building	Goals
Session 1: Introduction to Group PrEP Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PrEP self-report HIV rapid test PrEP lab work 1:1 w/ provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation PrEP/HIV knowledge Self-management <p><i>Ex: HIV & PrEP “word on the street”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group guidelines Intro to sharing Grounding stones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer support Accountability Coping strategies Harm reduction Health promotion PrEP management PrEP persistence HIV prevention Trusted resources
Session 2: Stress Management & Mental Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PrEP self-report HIV rapid test PrEP lab work 1:1 w/ provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substance use PrEP side effects <p><i>Ex: “We listen, and we don’t judge”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer support for PrEP management Sharing experiences & solutions Sharing stones 	
Session 3: Harm Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PrEP self-report HIV rapid test PrEP lab work Dried blood spot 1:1 w/ provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication & negation Safer sex & harm reduction <p><i>Ex: Art Collage</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative checklist for safety Grounding & growing w/ stones & flowers 	

Group Care Workflow



Lessons Learned: The Precious Cargo Reframe

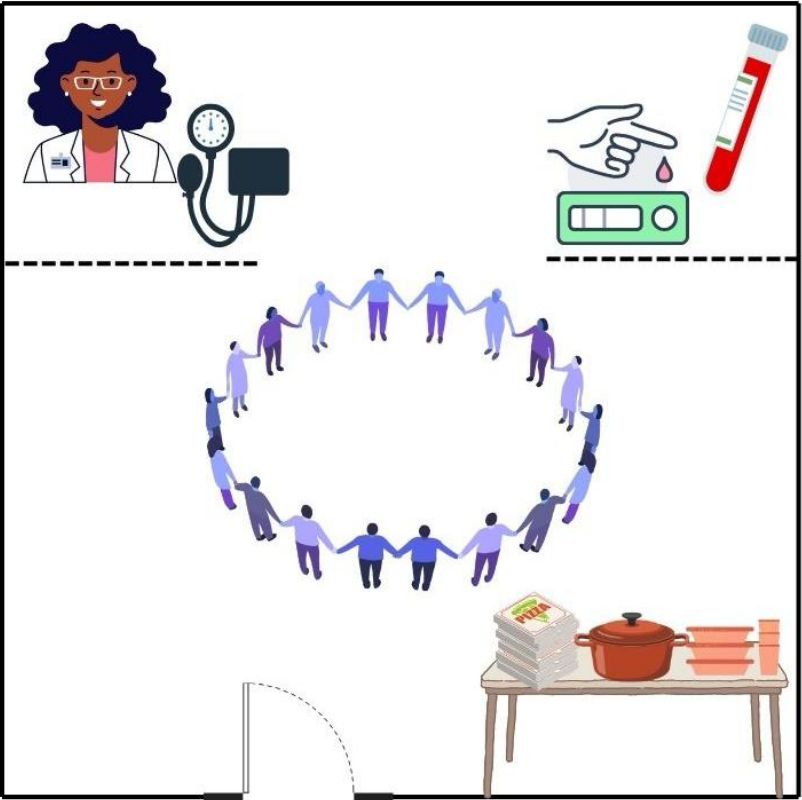


“[when we first started] we didn't necessarily know how [the] flow was going to really go, which rooms it was going to be in or that some of the time we wouldn't actually have the availability for the space over on the other side.”
– Black, cisgender man, staff

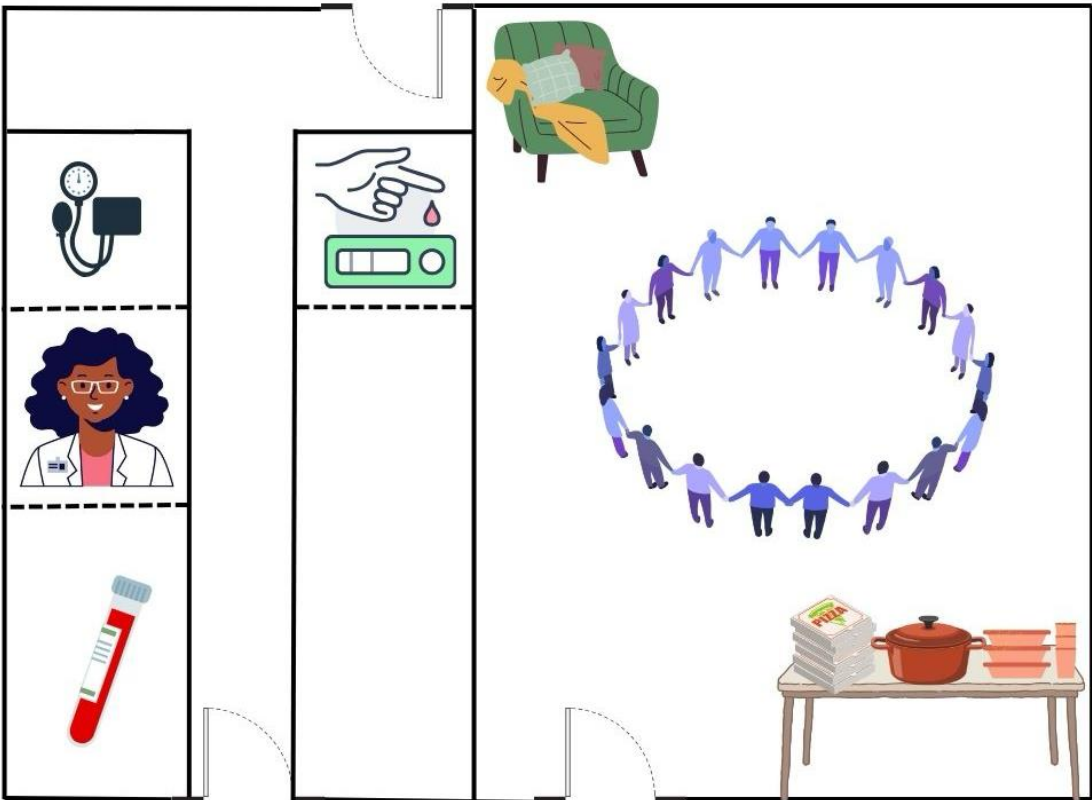


Implementation Adaptations

Planned Layout



Community Responsive Layout



Recommendations

Strengthen communication

Optimize space & time

Amplify community awesomeness
for iterative adaptation/expansion

Redefine to be status neutral



Key Takeaways:

- Group care encourages **empowerment, peer connection, & safe space for real talk** in a stigma-free environment.
- Participants engage with individuals who share their lived experiences.

“I definitely didn't feel judged, and at first it was awkward, but then it's like you start talking to people and you realize you're not the only one.”- 45 years, Latinx/Black, cis woman, participant

“[...] it makes me want to take care of myself and my health more seriously[...]”- 26 years, Black, genderqueer or gender fluid, participant

Thank you!

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