

August 2021 HPG Meeting Announcements

Division of HIV Disease Updates

Care Program

- Staffing:
 - Joanne Valentino has retired. Please send all HOPWA questions to Moira Foster mofoster@pa.gov and Rob Smith rofsmit@pa.gov.
 - The Program terms Report and Progress Report were both submitted to HRSA in July.
 - The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Ryan White Part B Grant has been released. The application is due November 8, 2021. This is the full grant application which is required every 5 years.
 - We are in the process of starting a Case Management Workgroup. Participants are being notified and the first meeting date will be set.
- CAREWare:
 - CAREWare centralization is currently underway
 - If there is interest, the Division will provide general CAREWARE training to those who request it
- CQM:
 - CQM Plan Review Checklist-1st step in the development of the 2022 CQM Plan. CQM Plan Review Checklist was reviewed and completed by the CQM Workgroup. A copy of this document will be posted on the Regional Grantee SharePoint as well as provided to HPG.
 - CQM Plan Policy-this will be posted on the Regional Grantee SharePoint and provided to HPG.
 - The 2022 CQM Plan will be based off 1/1/2021-8/31/2021.
 - a. Our DOH data team will develop a data report identifying a list of unique client service category utilization, which will indicate the service categories required to have performance measures.

- b. To the extent possible, please encourage providers to submit the August monthly CAREWare PDE by 9/8/2021.
- o CQM Plan
 - a. CQM Workgroup and DOH staff will review CQM Plan draft and provide feedback. CQM Plan draft will be reconciled and submitted for DOH formal approval.
 - b. Upon approval, the 2022 CQM Plan will be presented to HPG and posted on the Regional Grantee SharePoint. A “save the date” was sent for a 2022 CQM Plan review in December 2021.
- o Data Visualization Reports
 - a. 2nd quarter Data Visualization Report reviews will be scheduled for the 1st week in September (to the extent possible).

Monitoring and Evaluation

- DOH will continue to do regional annual site visits until the end of the year. DOH will allow the regions to do virtual site visits with providers at least till the end of the year. Regions can choose to do in person visits, but we are not requiring it. DOH’s in person monitoring visits may resume after 2021, if all entities agree.
- None of the monitoring tools have changed for the current round of site monitoring. Guidance that was issued earlier this year goes into effect July 1, 2021 and does not impact this year’s monitoring visits. The guidance will be applied for the next round of site visits.
- It’s an expectation to review charts if at all possible, but chart reviews can be waived until in-person site visits resume. Once in-person site visits resume, DOH will request that selected charts from the last 12 months be included in the monitoring.
- The time and effort guidance are being finalized and will be made available to the Regions next week.

Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP)

- Staffing updates
 - o Currently in the process of interviewing candidates for a new position - SPBP Program Analyst 2

- Updates on the SPBP website (health.pa.gov/spbp)
 - Drug Formulary – updated 7/1/21
 - New generic HIV treatment meds added
 - EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE (Truvada)
 - EFAVIRENZ-EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE (Atripla)
 - In addition, several other brand and generic meds were also added to the formulary
 - Pharmacy Network list – updated 7/1/21
- Medicaid back-billing
 - Manual void/rebill process with pharmacies
 - 3rd cycle of recoveries is in process
 - Recovery process will continue to occur quarterly
- Medication adherence pilot update
 - 31 prescriber's offices were identified for conducting outreach to
 - 650 clients who were identified as non-adherent on HIV medications
 - Consultations with 20 of the 31 prescribers have been completed
 - So far 345 clients were addressed through consultations.
 - 12 clients were identified for additional ongoing case management
 - Pilot project will be ending in July and data will be compiled to assess the outcomes of the pilot.
- Next SPBP Advisory Council Meeting will be held Thursday, October 28, 2021 – 10:00 a.m., conference call or in-person meeting still to be determined

Prevention

- Reporting:
 - The Annual Performance Report (APR) is due September 13. Both Surveillance and Prevention are working on completing the required documents.
- Staffing Updates:

- Benjamin Parrish-PHPA 2 has departed from the Division of HIV. He served as the Cluster and Partner Services associate under the supervision of Jon Steiner.
- Gaby Dashler-PHPA 2 has joined the Division of HIV as the HIV and hepatitis C testing associate under the supervision of Jon Steiner.
- Upcoming Capacity Building Opportunities (Virtual):
 - HIV Testing in Nonclinical Settings – August 18-19
 - Social Determinants and Health Equity – September 8
 - HIV Navigation Services – September 13-14
 - Mental Health Awareness & Suicide Prevention – September 15
 - Cultural Humility – September 15-16
 - Integrating Hep C into Your HIV Work – October 1
 - HIV Testing in Nonclinical Settings – October 12-13
 - Suicide Prevention QPR – Question, Persuade, Refer – October 19
 - ARTAS – October 20-21
 - Mental Health Awareness – November 16

Register for trainings at www.stophiv.com

HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology Updates

- Annual report is still going through the approval process

Syringe Access Services Updates (from Roseanne Scotti)

- Please see the link below for a list of organizations that are publicly supporting expansion of syringe services programs in PA as of 7/22. The sign-on is ongoing. Any organizations that still want to sign on can just email Roseanne Scotti at c-rscotti@pa.gov
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15AKM9RozKNtfYdSjCuUj7SJQmCArbJJE/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115051112405795256119&rtpof=true&sd=true>

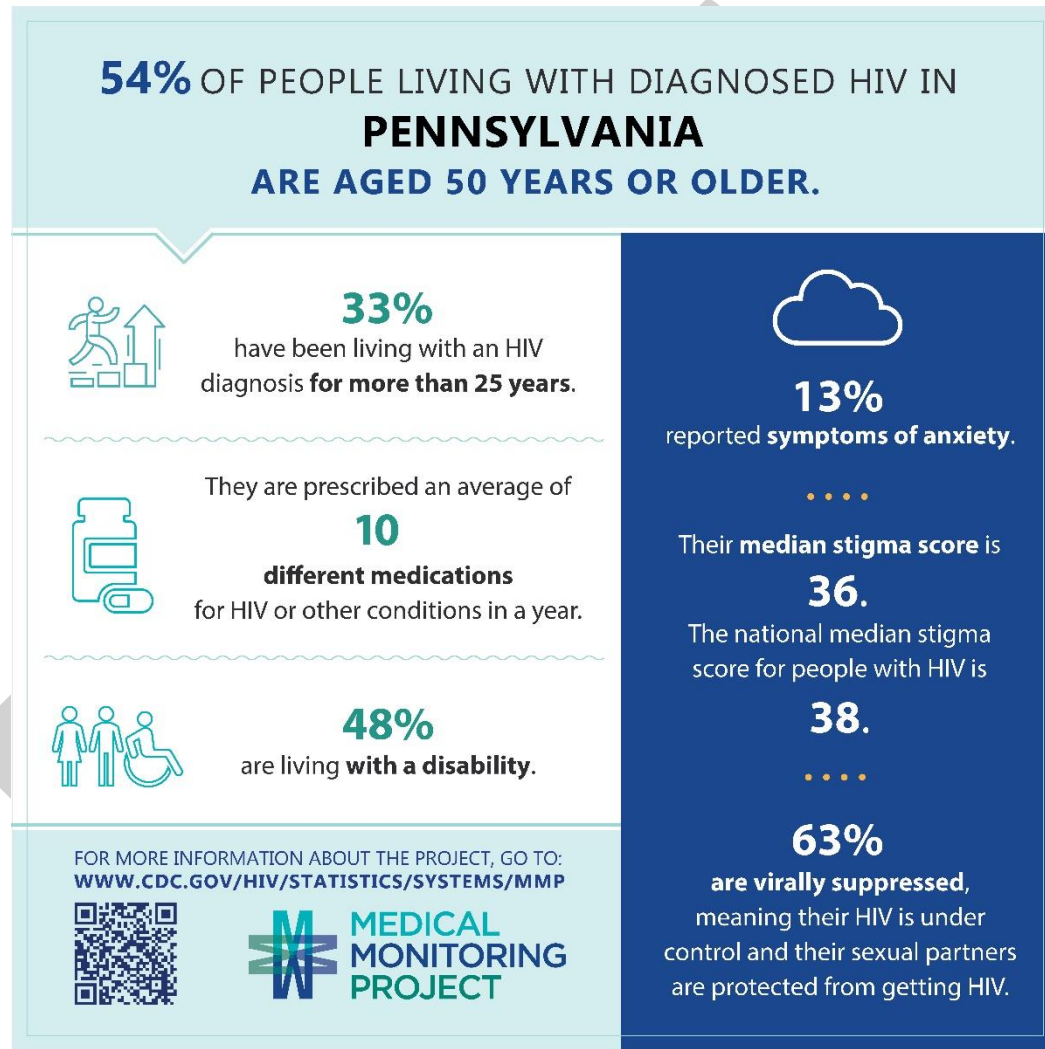
From HIV Planning Group Community Members

- *From Mike Hellman*
 - Please see the link below with a list of legislation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly that would impact LGBTQ older adults. You will notice the list indicates the main sponsors/co-sponsors, link to the co-sponsorship memo, which committee the legislation currently sits,

and who the R and D chairs are of those committees. There is also links at the bottom of the General Assembly website, and links to all four of the caucuses.

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1umzfGgHYRAKj6X-Ob07wMIONKstacDJh/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115051112405795256119&rtpof=true&sd=true>

- *From Rob Pompa*



- **From Michael Latady**

- Allies for Health + Wellbeing in Pittsburgh is looking to hire a new Linkage to Care Coordinator
- *“The Linkage to Care Coordinator (LTC) works to establish services for individuals with HIV/AIDS who are not in treatment. They collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies providing services to at risk*

communities and healthcare organizations. Additionally, the LTC facilitates access to treatment, advocates to eliminate ethnic and racial disparities in services, and increases community awareness of the Linkage to Care Program. The service area includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. The position reports to the Director of Client Services and will work collaboratively with other Client Services and Clinic staff, local AIDS Service Organizations, the Allegheny County Jail, and a multitude of other agencies.”

- See the full job description on www.alliespgh.org

Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH)/AIDS Activities Coordinating Office (AACO)

- Philadelphia Department of Health/AIDS Activities Coordinating Office, an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about the changes in the HIV Prevention System as part of our Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan. Click the link to view the article HIV prevention system as part of Ending the HIV Epidemic plan. Here is the link to the article: <https://www.inquirer.com/health/hiv-testing-philadelphia-funding-clinic-mazzoni-bebashi-20210710.html>.
- Philadelphia Department of Public Health - Our colleague, Coleman Terrell, will be presenting at the upcoming [Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS \(PACHA\)](#) full council meeting on Tuesday, Aug 3 in a session from 2:20 PM – 3:30 PM in a session on **EHE Jurisdictional Plans from the Local Government** on Philadelphia’s EHE Plan. Hear this important presentation by our former Director. Members of the public can watch the meeting through [HHS Studios’ livestream](#).
 - *What is PACHA?* Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) provides advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Health & Human Services regarding programs, policies, and research to promote effective treatment, prevention and cure of HIV disease and AIDS, including considering common co-morbidities of those infected with HIV as needed to promote effective HIV prevention and treatment and quality services to persons living with HIV disease and AIDS. This includes advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary regarding the development and implementation of the Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. and the HIV National Strategic Plan.

- Full meeting and agenda at <https://www.hiv.gov/blog/watch-pacha-s-virtual-meeting-august-3-4>
- Sharing a new resource attached above (NASTAD). NASTAD has released a fact sheet for PrEP services covered with no cost-sharing. The fact sheet addresses federal guidance on implementation of Prevention services provisions, and cost-sharing requirements.
 - More information at: <https://www.nastad.org/sites/default/files/resources/docs/nastad-prep-coverage-brief-on-prep-services.pdf>

The HIV Prevention and Care Project (HPCP)

- All Capacity Building and Technical Assistance courses will continue to be done virtually for the time being, and will possibly remain virtual throughout the rest of 2021.
 - As always, a schedule and description of upcoming courses are available on www.stophiv.com under our Capacity Building tab.
- The [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#), in partnership with the [Pennsylvania Expanded HIV Testing Initiative](#) (PEHTI) and the [HIV Prevention and Care Project](#) (HPCP), continues to offer HIV Self-Testing (HST) for individuals who reside in Pennsylvania (excluding Philadelphia County). The goal of the *getmyHIVtest.com* program is to help people get tested who wouldn't otherwise go to their doctor or to a testing clinic.
 - Tests are available from the website getmyhivtest.com. Individuals are asked to read the information on the website and answer a few questions in order to receive an FDA-approved, OraQuick home HIV test kit mailed to their provided address.
 - Individuals who reside in Philadelphia County should visit PhillyKeepOnLoving.com to order the HIV Self-test kit.
 - If you have any questions, please send an email to info@getmyHIVtest.com.

The MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (MAAETC)

- **See below for information on pocket guides and upcoming virtual events provided by the MAAETC and their partners**
 - Link to our webpage with links to newest pocket guides: <https://www.maaetc.org/p/may24newpocketguides>
 - Other pocket guides and other Clinical Tools developed by the MAAETC: <https://www.maaetc.org/p/clinical-tools>
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- **Upcoming Trainings**

- For a full list of trainings and descriptions, visit www.maaetc.org
- Wednesday, August 18th from 12:00pm -1:30pm ET
 - ***LGBTQIA+ Telehealth and Digital Equity***
 - Featured speakers: Dr. Shanin Gross, Dr. Tarun Kapoor, and Dr. Angela Skrzynski
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18059>
- Wednesday, August 25th from 12:00pm – 1:30 ET
 - ***Black Transgender Women, Health Equity, and HIV***
 - Featured speaker: Rhonda Carr
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18034>
- Tuesday, August 31st from 9:00am -11am ET
 - ***HIV Testing and Counseling***
 - Featured speakers: Britt Gayle, MD/MPH, AAHIVS & Ingrid McDowell, DrPH(c) MPH
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18511>
- Thursday, September 9th from 2:30pm – 3:30pm ET
 - ***COVID-19 Variant***
 - Featured speaker: Jason Farley, PhD, MPH, RN
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18664>
- Thursday, September 16th from 2:30pm – 3:30pm ET
 - ***COVID-19 and Pediatric Patients***
 - Featured speaker: Stephen Eppes, MD
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18665>
- Tuesday, September 21st from 9:00am – 11:00am ET
 - ***HIV Prevention Overview***
 - Featured speakers: To be announced
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18512>
- Wednesday, September 29th from 12:00pm – 1:30pm ET
 - ***Intersectional Stigma and LGBTQIA+ Persons with HIV***
 - Featured speaker: Adam Thompson
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18058>

- Tuesday, October 26th from 9:00am – 11:00am ET
 - ***HIV Treatment and Adherence***
 - Featured speakers: Deborah McMahon, MD
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18677>
- Tuesday, November 16th from 9:00am – 11:00am ET
 - ***Syndemics of HIV, Substance Use, and STIs***
 - Featured speakers: To be announced
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION:
<https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/18514>

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