

The Pennsylvania HIV Prevention and Care News Bulletin



**March
2019**

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Announcements

From the Pa Department of Health, Division of HIV Disease

- The Division of HIV Disease is partnering with the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to update that agency's HIV training alert outlining all of the minimum requirements for staff training in HIV treatment facilities. This alert has not been updated since the 90's.



- The Division is looking to expand the Prevention and Care Capacity Building trainings offered throughout the Commonwealth. The Division is searching for a qualified candidate for a Capacity Building Coordinator position to oversee this expansion. Interested applicants may contact Marijane Salem-Noll at masalemnol@pa.gov.



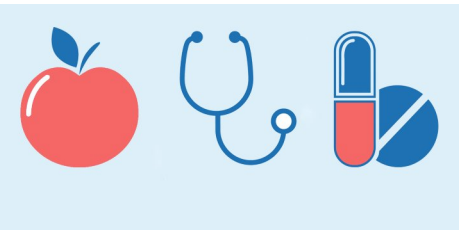
- The Pennsylvania Expanded HIV Testing Initiative (PEHTI) with Penn State University partnered with with the MidAtlantic AIDS Education & Training Center (MAAETC) to develop and distribute a webinar on Routine HIV Testing. It is available at www.maaetc.org. A Third Party Billing webinar will also be available soon!

- The Division's Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Coordinator, Michelle Rossi, is partnering with The University of Pittsburgh on a Demonstration Project in Allegheny County that will examine STD recidivism data and attempt to link individuals to PrEP. The project is in its final stages of development and will begin soon.



- The first Data to Care pilot ended in early January. The results are being compiled and a review of the entire process is currently underway and will be presented to the HIV Planning Group (HPG). Be on the lookout for more information about a rollout in your area!

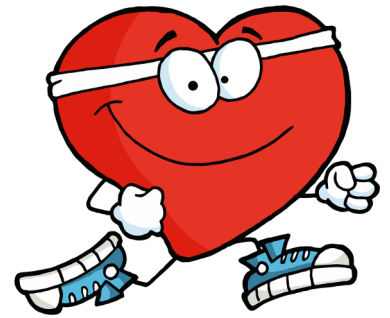
Announcements (cont.)



- The Ryan White Part B Service Standards that were finalized last April will be updated annually. A process for updates and recipient and consumer input is currently in the works.

- The Housing Opportunities for People Living with AIDS (HOPWA) organization currently has sufficient funds to accommodate a temporary government shutdown with no impact on services at this time.

- The Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program's (SPBP) online enrollment system launched on February 12th. The link to the online system can be found at www.health.pa.gov/spbp. The SPBP will also launch a new phone system that will give customer service representatives more efficient access to client information.



- The Division and the Bureau of Epidemiology are working on completing 2018 end of the year reports and/or budget reports for the Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, federal funders, and many more.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Two of PA's poster presentations were accepted at the Ryan White National Conference: one for the SPBP Advisory Council and one for the LGBTQ+ workgroup. Wooohooo!!!



Follow the link below to take a peek!
<https://tinyurl.com/RyanWhiteWinningPosters>

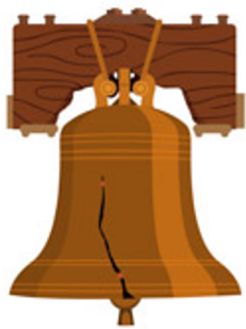
- The Bureau of Epidemiology finished the Comprehensive Epidemiology Profile of Pennsylvania that is completed every five years. That report is currently in the approval stages.

- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) is attempting to revise disease reporting regulations to expand HIV reporting requirements to include all CD4 and viral load results. This is a common national standard, and its absence in Pa impacts data and care. The recommended revisions are moving through the approval process.

Announcements (cont.)

From Community Members, HPG Members, Planning Partners, and Guests

- The Philadelphia area is partnering with the PA DOH and Family Services in Delaware to coordinate HIV testing in an identified area outside of the city. Philadelphia is also starting to cross-train their field staff as HIV testers, while incorporating one of the state's HIV Basics training into the curriculum.



- The Philadelphia Department of Public Health officially identified an increase in new HIV cases among injection drug users in Philadelphia as a “New Trend.” A small cluster of tuberculosis cases among those who are homeless and struggling with addiction has also been identified outside of Philadelphia. The case is still unfolding- be on the lookout for more information.

- Dr. Lauren Orkis is the new Viral Hepatitis Coordinator for Pennsylvania. She will work on enhancing surveillance throughout the Commonwealth and establishing a new stakeholder group. She will also facilitate partnerships both internally and externally to the Division.



- The MAAETC is offering two new products: “pocket guides” for trans men and trans women. Please contact them at www.maaetc.org if you would like some! Please also keep an eye out for information about two Public Benefits training courses coming in the Spring!

**DID
YOU?
KNOW!**

Nationwide, about 6% of those living with HIV also have a latent tuberculosis infection. The CDC highly recommends that a person tested for HIV be tested for tuberculosis and vice versa. Having both can be devastating if left untreated.

The Pennsylvania HIV Planning Group

- The PA HIV Planning Group (HPG) is a diverse group of community members and planning partners working to enhance HIV prevention and care efforts in Pennsylvania. Their work contributes to the development of the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, which implements ongoing objectives and activities to reduce the spread of HIV across Pa.



- HPG meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. The next HPG meeting is scheduled for May 8th and 9th at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel located at 800 E. Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111. Meetings begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.
- For more information about the HIV Planning Group, the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, and to see a list of the HPG's 2018 accomplishments, please visit [PA HIV Planning](http://www.stopHIV.com) at www.stopHIV.com.

•12 New Members Added in 2019•
•22 Total Members•

The Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program Advisory Council

- The Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP) Advisory Council provides program guidance and recommendations to the SPBP in serving people living with HIV. This includes: drug formulary, covered lab services, drug utilization review, clinical programs, eligibility and SPBP management.

- Meetings are held quarterly and rotate between in-person meetings and WebEx conference calls.
- To apply for a seat on the SPBP Advisory Council, please contact SPBP Advisory Council Chair John Haines directly at johaines@pa.gov or by phone at (717) 703-9171. (Speech or hearing impaired persons V/TT) or the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TT).

Thursday, April 25th, 2019
In-Person Meeting
10:00am-3:00pm

HIV Prevention and Care Related Trainings



- The HIV Prevention and Care Project (HPCP) provides many Capacity Building (CB) and technical assistance services, including specialized technical assistance around engaging men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM), programming assistance, needs assessments, Web-based learning opportunities, and hosting distance-based meetings.

- The next available Capacity Building training is for Motivational Interviewing and is scheduled for March 26th and 27th in Bucks County. Visit www.stopHIV.com to see the full list of Capacity Building and technical assistance offerings and training dates.



- The MAAETC provides HIV education, consultation, technical assistance and resource materials to health care professionals throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Visit www.maaetc.org for a complete list of trainings.

This News Bulletin Is Intended For You

As Community Members, Planning Partners, and Stakeholders, the HIV Planning Group would like to thank you for bringing your hard work and dedication to providing prevention and care for HIV to the state of Pennsylvania. Our work depends on your drive and ambition. Let's keep up all of our great efforts!

Visit www.health.pa.gov or www.stopHIV.com for all the latest information

Feedback, News to Share, or Questions?

Please email maz59@pitt.edu to contact us or to unsubscribe