

November 2021 HPG Meeting Announcements

Division of HIV Disease Updates

Care Program

- Staffing:
 - The HOPWA Administrator position was filled by Monica Woodring (mowoodring@pa.gov). All HOPWA questions can be sent to Monica, please continue to include Rob Smith rofsmit@pa.gov while Monica is getting familiar with her new role.
 - The application for the Ryan White Part B Grant has been submitted. This is the full grant application which is required every 5 years.
 - HRSA released PCN 21-02 regarding recertification periods. We are in the process of finalizing guidance and will release that as soon as possible.
- CAREWare:
 - CAREWare centralization is currently underway, completion is anticipated in December 2022.
 - General CAREWare training is available from the Division for those who are interested and request it.
- Clinical Quality Management (CQM):
 - CQM Plan
 - a. CQM Workgroup and DOH staff comment period has ended. The CQM Plan draft was 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.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The M&E program is committed to providing grantees and providers accurate and consistent data to evaluate performance, monitoring of funding recipients to ensure of compliance with Department and federal standards, and contracts management to confirm that funds are being spent appropriately.
- The Prevention Project Officers are in the process of doing annual site visits with the County and Municipal Health Departments (CMHDs). Visits will conclude in January. All visits continue to be virtual. The Care Project Officers are in the process of monitoring the Ryan White B grantees. Visits are expected to be completed in February.
- Performance measures reports for the CMHD grants are available and will be shared with the organizations during upcoming site visits and quarterly thereafter.
- Performance measures data will be shared with the Participating Provider Agreement (PPAs) providers on a bi-annual basis.
- Currently, the M&E section is responsible for monitoring the following:
 - 25 PPAs for HIV Non clinical testing and PrEP Services
 - 9 CMHDs for HIV Prevention services
 - 7 Regional Ryan White Part B grantees who oversee 49 providers of Ryan White Care and Support services
- The Data Team processed 52 Data requests as of October 2021.
- The Data Team also created numerous reports including data visualization reports to support the Care and Prevention Programs and is in the process of centralizing the CareWare reporting platform for the Ryan White Part B service providers.

Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP)

- Next SPBP Advisory Council meeting: Thursday, January 27th 10am-12pm (Virtual Meeting).
- Staffing Update: Nnenna Ezekoye has joined the team as the new SPBP Program Analyst.
- The SPBP Drug Formulary was updated on the SPBP website on Friday, October 1st.
- Medicare Part C & D Premium Payment Agreements:
 - Waiting on agreements to be returned to SPBP
 - Will update the plan list for 2022 on the SPBP website as agreements are returned
- SPBP Customer Service Line:
 - Customer service line has been updated with command prompts when a call comes in
 - Medicare Premium Assistance (Press 1)
 - SPBP Lab Claim Issues (Press 2)
 - Pharmacy calling about a claim issue (Press 3)
 - Speak to a Customer Service Rep. (Press 4) or wait on the line and assistance will be provided
 - New command system should expedite the call process
- HRSA Policy Notice-Client Eligibility/Payer of Last Resort:
 - HRSA allowing programs to determine how re-certification is done
 - Looking to do a yearly enrollment instead of every six months
 - Would require a full application submitted at initial enrollment, then one year later an express application, then one year after that a full application.
 - In the future, looking to align income criteria across SPBP and all other Ryan White Part B programs. How this will be implemented and what it will look like is currently being worked on internally.

Prevention

- The Public Health Program Administrator 2 (PHPA2) Cluster and Partner Services position was filled, and the new staff member will start on November 29th.
- The PHPA Data to Care position was posted until 11/3. We will begin interviews as soon as the candidate list is received.
- Upcoming Capacity Building opportunities are posted at www.stophiv.com
- A Partner Services three-week training series was provided to DOH field staff and CMHD staff. This training was developed as part of our Jurisdictional Capacity Building Plan.

HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology Updates

- The 2020 Annual HIV Surveillance Report is now posted to the Department of Health website. You can access the report by clicking the link below:

[2020 Annual HIV Surveillance Report Final \(pa.gov\)](#)

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

- NASTAD released a new resource called "Pharmacist Initiated PrEP and PEP". To access the resource, click this [link](#). To watch the accompanying webinar, click this [link](#).
- Medscape published an article about contraindications among men who switched to Descovy for PrEP. To read the article, click this [link](#). To learn more about the study, click this [link](#).
- POZ Magazine published an article about a "PrEP-to-Primary Care Pipeline". To read the article, click this [link](#). To learn more about the study, click this [link](#).
- PDPH article – "PrEP Update for Providers" - <https://tinyurl.com/PDPHPrEP>

- NAASTAD Article – “Pharmacist Initiated PrEP and PEP”
- <https://tinyurl.com/NAASTAD>
- “I Didn’t Really Have a Primary Care Provider Until I Got PrEP”: Patients’ Perspectives on HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis as a Gateway to Health Care -
<https://tinyurl.com/PrimaryCareProvider>
- “Switching From Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate to Tenofovir Alafenamide for Human Immunodeficiency Virus Preexposure Prophylaxis at a Boston Community Health Center” - <https://tinyurl.com/SwitchingBoston>

HPG Community Member Updates

- **From Mike Hellman**

- *Colleagues and friends,*

Thank you to all who have guided and encouraged me to always continue learning and sharing my story. My term is expiring, and I am minimizing my volunteer commitments to match my retirement. I may pop up on occasion in a virtual capacity sometime in the future. I am confident in your actions and support for PLWH. I do encourage all of you to maintain a diverse representation at the table to ensure independent participant perspectives across the Commonwealth.

*My best to you all,
Mike Hellman*

- **From Victor Hurdle**

- Please see the following article from POZ Magazine, featuring Victor!
- <https://www.poz.com/article/making-different-choice#search-query=Victor%20Hurdle>

HIV Prevention and Care Project Updates

- 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.
- Upcoming Capacity Building Trainings:
 - December 1st – “Social Determinants and Healthy Equity”
 - December 8th-9th – “HIV Testing in Nonclinical Settings”
- As always, a schedule and description of upcoming courses are available on www.stophiv.com under the 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.

MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center (MAAETC) Updates

- A full list of upcoming trainings and descriptions can be found on www.maaetc.org
- Upcoming Trainings:
 - MAAETC Webinar Wednesday: HIV is not a Crime: HIV, Health, and Criminalization
 - Wednesday, November 17th, 2021 12:00pm – 1:30pm ET
 - Featured speakers: Michelle Troxell and Julie Dillon

- By the end of the presentation, participants should be able to describe the issue and impact of HIV criminalization: What is HIV Criminalization, Why is HIV Criminalized?, How does this impact public health progress?, discuss ways to become involved in efforts to reform the criminalization of HIV, and identify ways that people with HIV can protect themselves from potential HIV criminalization.
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/19351>
- The Howard University Regional Partner of the MAAETC presents: Stigma: A Trauma Informed Lens as part of Howard University's 12th International Conference on Stigma.
 - Thursday, November 18th, 2021 2:00pm – 3:00pm ET
 - Featured speaker: Stefanie Rhodes, MPH
 - This session will address stigma as an outgrowth of trauma and the importance of integrating a trauma-informed approach into our systems of care. At the end of the session, participants will be able to: Understand the purpose of a trauma-informed approach in healthcare, Understand the need for trauma-informed systems to address stigma, and Understand the impact of trauma and violence on HIV prevention strategies.
 - DETAILS & REGISTRATION: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/19345>
- The Johns Hopkins University Regional Partner of the MAAETC presents: Adherence Across the Life Span HIV Symposium
 - Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021 9:00am – 2:00pm ET
 - Featured speakers: more information coming soon.
 - The Mid Atlantic AIDS Education Training Center (AETC) site at Johns Hopkins University will host the 7th Annual Adherence Across the Life Span HIV Symposium. This symposium will address the unique issues of getting to viral suppression through Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) adherence in adolescents as well those aging up with HIV/AIDS. Experts in the field will

provide current information pertaining to the timeline from treatment to viral suppression of HIV including barriers such as COVID, mental health, substance use disorder, and stigma. We will also cover patient advocacy and best practices, through informative interactive presentations. You must register both on maaetc.org and also Zoom Meeting to attend this event.

- DETAILS &

REGISTRATION: <https://www.maaetc.org/events/view/190>

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