Employing Status-Neutral Approaches to End the HIV Epidemic

Webinar 1: Status-Neutral Approaches 101
December 14, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Status-Neutral Approach Guidance

- NHAS: Incorporate a status-neutral approach to HIV testing, offering linkage to prevention services for people who test negative and immediate linkage to HIV care and treatment for those who test positive.

- Integrated Plan Guidance: Implement innovative program models that integrate HIV prevention and care with other services and other service organizations as a means to address comorbid conditions and to promote a status neutral approach to care.
Agenda

❖ Introduction
  ❖ Maria E. Alvarez, MPA
  Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Lead
  CDC

❖ New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene
  ❖ Paul A. Santos, MPH, CHES
    Sr. Capacity Building Assistance Specialist
  ❖ Moya Brown-Lopez, MS, MCHES
    Director of Capacity Building Assistance

❖ Q&A/Discussion

❖ Wrap Up
Status Neutral Approaches to HIV Prevention & Care

December 14, 2021

Paul Santos & Moya Brown-Lopez
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)
NYC CBA – Who We Are

- Within the NYC DOHMH’s Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and STI (BHHS)

- Providing national training and TA since 1988 through BHHS’ Training and Technical Assistance unit (T-TAP) and CDC CBA since PS14-1403 (categories A & B – HDs and CBOs)

- Deliver CBA TA throughout the northeast U.S. region, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
Today’s Agenda

• Status Neutral HIV Care

• Applying a Status Neutral Lens in NYC

• Benefits & Lessons Learned
Status Neutral HIV Care

Overview
The Status Neutral Approach

“If you do it right, the HIV status of someone is less important. What’s important is: How do you provide the service to the person to optimize their health.”

~ Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, CDC
The Status Neutral Approach

Providing...

✓ Care for the whole person with a “one-door” approach, meaning both treatment and prevention in the same place offered alongside other medical and supportive services.

✓ Comprehensive support and care to address the social determinants of health that create disparities, especially as they relate to HIV.

✓ Culturally affirming, inclusive, stigma-free, and responsive quality care.
Eliminating Stigma & Reducing Health Disparities
Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) – Most Impacted Populations

- Latinx Gay, Bisexual and other Men who have Sex with Men
- Black Gay, Bisexual and other Men who have Sex with Men
- White Gay, Bisexual and other Men who have Sex with Men
- Black Women
- Transgender Women (particularly Black and Latinx transgender women)

Status Neutral at the Individual Level

Applying a Status Neutral Lens

Establishing Culturally Affirming Care in New York City
Applying a Status Neutral Lens
NYC DOHMH’s Experience

1. Applied a status neutral lens to social marketing
2. Rebranded City STD clinics into Sexual Health Clinics
3. Enhanced Ryan White-funded medical case management program
Applying a Status Neutral Lens to Social Marketing
Applying a Status Neutral Lens to Social Marketing
Rebranding STD Clinics into Sexual Health Clinics
Why Focus on the Sexual Health Clinics?

**HIV POSITIVE**
- **10%** of new HIV in NYC diagnosed there
- **20%** of NYC Acute HIV diagnosed there
- Safety net for some PLWHA not connected to care
- Existing models of immediate ARV starts for newly diagnosed ideal for this setting
- Data support treatment is prevention
- STD clinics with proven track record for connection to care

**HIV NEGATIVE**
- **65%** of patients surveyed at STD clinics would start PrEP at STD clinics
- STD clinic data demonstrates that patients diagnosed with syphilis and rectal STIs are at very high risk for HIV
- Potentially thousands of PrEP candidates seen annually in STD clinics
- Multi-domain diversity of clients
- Service delivery environment supports STD clinics as gateway to primary care and biomedical prevention
NYC Sexual Health Clinics *then*...

- STI screening and treatment with limited eligibility for screening-only visits
- Routine medical provider exams
- Emergency contraception
- HIV testing (rapid and acute)
- Linkage to care for HIV diagnosis
- 3-day PEP starter packs with referral
- PrEP referrals
NYC Sexual Health Clinics now…

✓ Universal access to screening
✓ Oral and self-collected anal GC/CT NAAT
✓ Full PEP services
✓ JumpstART/immediate ART
✓ PrEP initiation
✓ Rapid trichomonas antigen testing
✓ HPV vaccines
✓ Mental health counseling/substance use
✓ Quickstart contraception and referral
Patient Navigation in Sexual Health Clinics

• Based on the community health worker model
• Helps clients or patients “navigate” an increasingly complex healthcare system
• Incorporates motivational interviewing
• Assists with insurance & benefits, plans for medication adherence
• Addresses barriers to linkage to care, specifically linkage to HIV preventive and treatment care services
Integrating a New Workforce

- Referrals were made by DIS staff to link patients in sexual health clinics to ongoing care; active or passive referral based on service.
- Program staff agreed that new positions were required to implement patient navigation.
- Trained physicians and nurse practitioners were required to provide initial HIV treatment services in addition to STI treatment, PEP, and PrEP.
- Nurses enhanced the triage process to identify candidates for new HIV prevention and care services.
Status Neutral Services in City Sexual Health Clinics

HIV Testing Services

- **PEP**
- **Immediate PrEP Initiation**
- **JumpstART**

STI Screening and Treatment, Condoms, Partner Services, Emergency Contraception, Crisis Counseling, and Substance Use Services
Enhancing Ryan White-funded Medical Case Management

RWHAP MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT

Address HIV Healthcare disparities by facilitating access to care and other services

- Leads orientation, assessment and care planning
- Verifies program eligibility
- Coordinates with medical providers
- Facilitates case conferences

HIV+

CARE COORDINATOR

- Provides health education
- Provides mDOT and accompaniment to appointments
- Provides navigation and support to clients
- Provides appointment reminders and follow-up
- Provides linkages to needed services
- Leads client engagement and re-engagement in service elements
- Participates in planning and assessment activities

NAVIGATOR
Expanding Beyond NYC Sexual Health Clinics

Sexual Health Clinic PrEP Program
People started on PrEP in SH clinics will be referred into the PlaySure Network or to other NYC PrEP providers.

https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/resources/playsure-network.page
Benefits & Lessons Learned
Benefits of Status Neutral Approach

• Reduce institutionalized stigma for people with HIV (PWH)
• Create efficiencies – improve resource utilization
• Gain insights from parallel service delivery
• Become more people-focused – embrace the person; service delivery is secondary
Benefits of People-Focused Approach

- Culturally affirming care
- Support self-esteem by normalizing conversations and strategies to optimize health
- Focus on sexual health and pleasure – harm reduction
- Respect the individual and their autonomy
Challenges

• Consistent messaging and a paradigm shift for providers

• Identifying and securing resources necessary for integration of navigation into Sexual Health Clinics

• Ensuring that priority populations (e.g. men who have sex with men and transgender women of color) have equitable access to navigation

• Ensuring linkage to ongoing HIV prevention and/or treatment services

• Funding streams that ensure access to services don’t have specific requirements and require status neutral navigation
Successes

- Integration of new navigation and medical provider workforce embracing a status neutral approach
- Broadened scope of services from Sexual Health Clinics
- Shifting RFPs for funded CBOs and clinical sites to center their care with a status neutral approach
- Reduced HIV and STI stigma
- Setting the standard for culturally affirming, inclusive, stigma-free, and responsive quality care in NYC
Lessons Learned

• Full integration requires a thorough, deliberate approach

• Robust collaboration is needed (internal/external)

• Messaging and programming have to align
Thank You!

NYC Capacity Building Assistance Project

NYCCBA@health.nyc.gov
Q&A/Discussion
Discussion

- What plans does your jurisdiction have for implementing status-neutral approaches or what activities have been implemented?
- What challenges has your jurisdiction faced or foresee facing in implementing status-neutral approaches?
Contact Information

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