



CHAIR'S CHALLENGE

UNITE TO END THE EPIDEMICS 2017-2018

Illinois' Summits of Hope Provide Necessary Services to Justice-Involved Persons Impacted by HIV and/or Hepatitis C (HCV)

TARGET POPULATION: Persons under parole supervision and probation who are recently released from incarceration

LOCATION: Illinois

PROGRAM DESIGN: Twenty in-person events annually with one-stop access to public health and support services in the community

ESTIMATED COST: \$1,000 - \$2,000 per event

FUNDING SOURCE: Illinois State General Revenue funds, local resources provided in-kind (e.g., volunteers, venue location, vendors, and onsite clothing/food supplies)

SUMMARY

The Summits of Hope program in Illinois is connecting justice-involved individuals to health services within their community. Participants are offered voluntary services, such as HIV and HCV testing and health insurance enrollment. Drug screenings are also offered, but are not punitive. Instead, if a participant tests positive they are linked to an appropriate community-based treatment center. Since its founding in 2010, the Summits of Hope program has engaged more than 30,000 individuals, and has helped to destigmatize participants and re-integrate them into their community by connecting them to local services.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Engagement with Parole/Probation Officers

A Summit of Hope event begins with a meeting between participants and their parole or probation officers to review mandates and any expectations for follow-up following the event. This meeting counts towards participants' regular site visits with parole representatives.

Comprehensive Health Screening & Enrollment in Coverage

After check-ins with parole/probation officers, participants move to health screenings, HIV and HCV testing, and enrollment with Illinois Medicaid or Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace qualified health plans (QHPs), when appropriate. The

participants can refuse any of these services provided onsite at any time.

Participants are offered drug screenings which are completed as a random selection or as part of the terms of their parole mandates testing. No participant is negatively impacted by a positive test (e.g., arrest). The program is instead designed to link the participant to an appropriate community-based treatment center. As part of this arrangement, the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) made an agreement that these events must be focused on assisting individuals with integration into their community rather than punitive actions.

Community Fair for Wrap-Around & Community-Based Services

After moving through all screenings and testing stations, participants are linked with a "Summit Guide." Summit Guides are volunteers that come from the community where the event is being held (e.g., congregation members, parole agents, college students, AmeriCorp members) as they proceed through the community fair portion of the event. The Summit Guide assists the participant in completing an assessment tool which identifies service providers they would benefit from linking with. The Summit Guide then accompanies the participant during the fair and guides them through each stop with service providers. At the end of the fair experience, each participant leaves with printed information, service follow-up appointments or referrals, and a state-issued identification (e.g., driver's license). Just prior to the participants' departure from event, they submit a service assessment, parole sheet, and program evaluation.

DATA

The Summits of Hope have: engaged over 30,000 participants; supported the provision of over 13,500 HIV tests; linked 166 individuals to HIV care successfully; provided over 8,000 referrals to substance use treatment; and issued 15,647 state

identifications (e.g. drivers licenses). In 2012, IDPH started providing HCV testing at Summits of Hope. As of 2016, 2,537 HCV screening tests were performed with 192 positives identified. Participants that test positive for HCV are then linked to Patient Navigators for HCV.

EVALUATION

The Summits of Hope events are evaluated by every participant, probationers, and vendors attending the local event. Feedback obtained from evaluations are utilized by IDOC and IDPH to enhance and improve all future Summits.

OUTCOMES

Since the Summits of Hope's inception in 2010 until 2016, there have been the following outcomes:

- Participants have had access to over 90 types of services
- Participants have reported feeling valued and respected as community members
- Participating agencies have appreciated the volume of networking available

FUNDING & COST

Illinois State General Revenue funds the 20+ Summits of Hope each year. The Summit of Hope events are found to be cost effective to Illinois taxpayers, costing less than .01% of an annual incarceration cost to house an inmate in the correctional facility. A Summit of Hope event cost per participant is equivalent to 12 hours of incarceration (i.e., \$20-\$30). The total cost for one Summit of Hope averages between \$1,000 – \$2,000. There are approximately 20 events are held each state fiscal year.

STRENGTHS

- Local and therefore convenient services available to participants ensure higher uptake
- Co-location of HIV and HCV testing and linkage to care activities bolster multiple bars of the HIV and HCV continuums
- State identification services are popular and highly utilized
- Lawmakers have participated in and supported events
- Positive media response helps to destigmatize participants
- Community participation allows for meaningful reintegration for participants and community-buy in

LIMITATIONS

- Tracking and calculating recidivism rates among participants remains challenging
- Individuals convicted of sex-related crimes are not invited to participate in Summits of Hope due to regulations by IDOC

STAKEHOLDERS

Parolees and probationers (i.e., a person who is released from prison on parole and the primary client for the Summit of Hope); community members that bring local and services and resources necessary to guide and assist participants and to ensure community reintegration, while reducing recidivism; IDOC parole agents; IDPH HIV/AIDS Section.

PROGRAM CONTACT

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