



CHAIR'S CHALLENGE

UNITE TO END THE EPIDEMICS 2017-2018

Creative Collaborations: Indiana's Program on Linkage and Retention in Care for Priority Populations

TARGET POPULATION: Black men living with HIV

LOCATION: Indiana

PROGRAM DESIGN: A strategic partnership between a one-stop shop medical home and a community based organization with an African American, HIV-related mission.

ESTIMATED COST: \$60,000 – \$161,000

FUNDING SOURCE: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part B Program, RWHAP Part A Program, State of Indiana, and The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Indiana, along with their community partners, identified that barriers existed impacting linkage and retention outcomes in priority populations from specific geographic and ethnic backgrounds within the Indianapolis community. To address these issues, The Damien Center, Indiana's largest provider of HIV services, teamed up with Brothers United, an organization with an African-American focused HIV mission, to ensure better access to care for the African-American population. Through this strategic collaboration, the organizations created memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that allowed for The Damien Center to operate a satellite location within Brothers United's office, paving the way for the provision of new services that clients had previously struggled to access. These services, critical to maintaining engagement

in care, include linkage to care, non-medical case management (NMCM), and mental health, in addition to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services. The program fills the gap between available medical and supportive services by providing individualized, long-term, one-on-one support for clients.

DATA

Over 100 clients enrolled in NMCM at Brothers United. Since the implementation of the program, participants viral loads have decreased 91 - 93%.

EVALUATION

Client satisfaction surveys indicate a high degree of satisfaction among those individuals involved with this project. Further, tracking of RWHAP recertification and participation indicates clients are accessing additional services at greater

frequency than prior to implementation of the project.

OUTCOMES

Many clients who had previously struggled to remain active in care enrolled in NMCM at Brothers United, a service previously only offered at other locations. This level of engagement helped to identify the need to expand satellite services further, resulting in revising the MOU to allow The Damien Center to send a mental health provider to Brothers United offices at least one day a week. There was also a dramatic increase in the number of clients who maintained RWHAP eligibility, and were connected to other supportive services such as housing, transportation, nutrition, all at a location that was more convenient to access and already familiar to the clients. Because of this successful collaboration, funding was secured to expand The Damien Center PrEP program to partner with Brothers United to create specific, culturally competent materials targeting their clients.

FUNDING & COST

Funding for NMCM comes from Indiana state funds, while the other services clients are connected to are funded by the RWHAP Part B Program. Mental health is funded through the RWHAP Part A Program, and lastly, the PrEP project is funded by The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis.

STRENGTHS

- Increased access to care and retention in care for the priority population.
- Additional organizational partnership opportunities were identified.
- Improved client satisfaction.

LIMITATIONS

Due to the success of the program, there was a need to also provide mental health services at Brothers United as they did not have a provider onsite. The Damien Center addressed this

limitation of the program by sending a mental health provider to Brothers United one day a week.

STAKEHOLDERS

- Indiana State Department of Health
- Marion County Health Department
- The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis
- The Damien Center
- Brothers United

PROGRAM CONTACT

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