

# Using Community Health Workers to Improve Linkage and Retention in HIV Care: A National Project and Evaluation

APHA 2017 Annual Meeting  
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# PRESENTER DISCLOSURES

Allyson Baughman

(1) The following personal financial relationships commercial interests relevant to this presentation during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

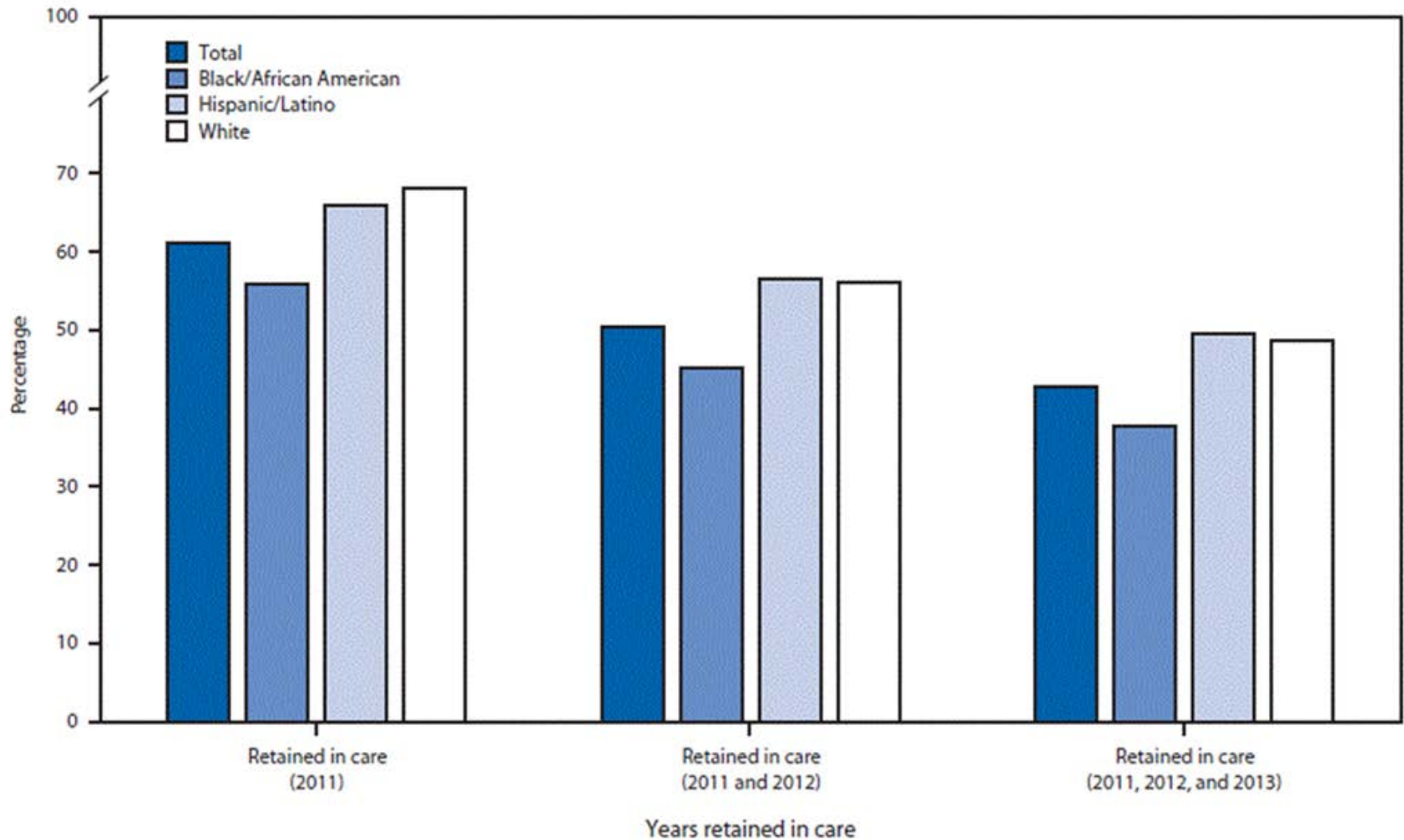
1. Describe a national project to train and integrate Community Health Workers (CHW) into primary HIV care
2. Explain how the project relates to the CHW Core Consensus (C3) Project, and the HIV Care Continuum
3. Identify ways that CHW have been integrated into the project

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

FY 2016-2019

- Improving Access to Care: Using Community Health Workers to Improve Linkage and Retention in HIV Care
- Funded through the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund (SMAIF)
- Administered by HRSA, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Division of Community HIV/AIDS Programs (DCHAP)
- Boston University funded as the Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center (TAEC) for the project

# REASON FOR FUNDING: DISPARITIES



# PROJECT GOALS

1. Increase the utilization of CHW to strengthen the health care workforce, improve access to healthcare and health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority people living with HIV (PLWH)
2. Assist Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program-funded (RWHAP) medical provider sites with the support needed to integrate CHW into an HIV multidisciplinary team model
3. Develop tools, material and resources to increase the use of CHW in health care teams
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of CHW on linkage and retention in care for PLWH and assess the CHW models implemented by RWHAP providers

# PROJECT FRAMEWORK

CHW  
(C3 Project)

HIV

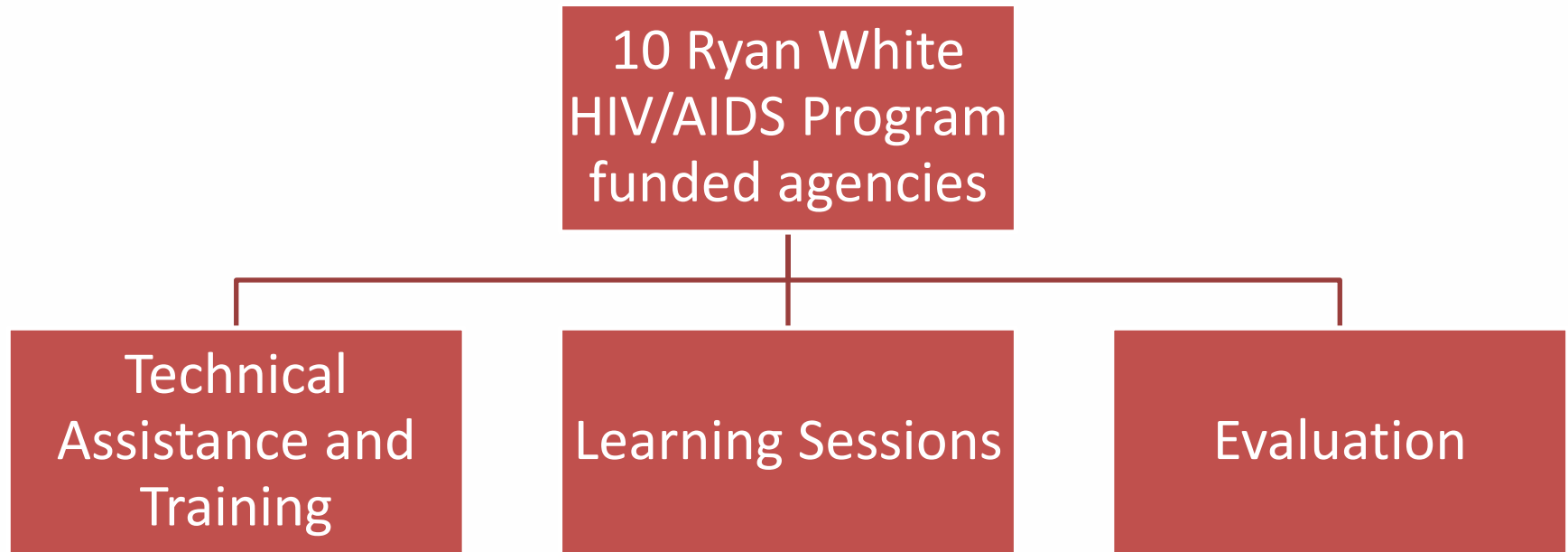


# CHW CONNECTION

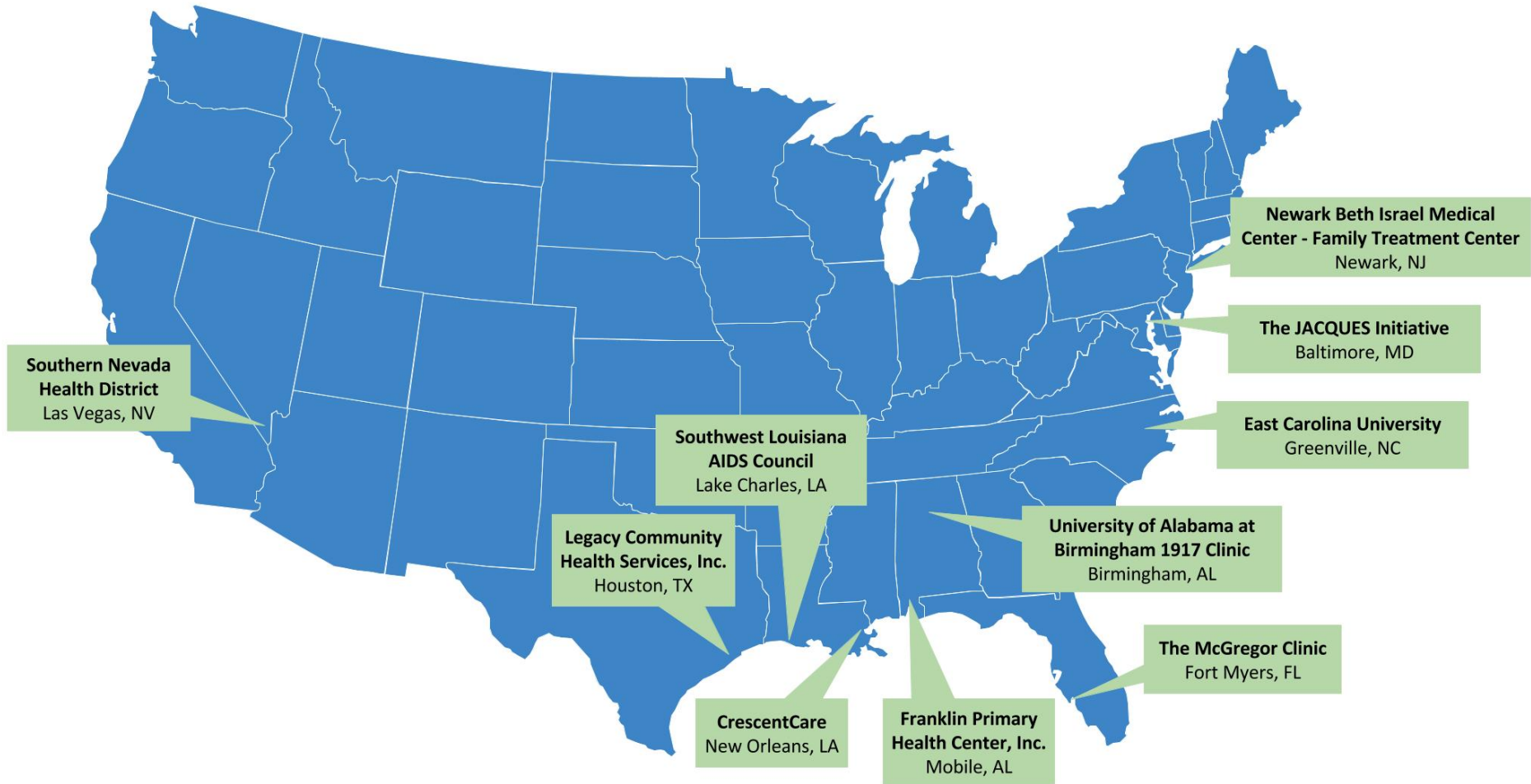
- Project partners (CA, MA, OR)
- Project advisors (AZ, CA, LA, MS, TX)
- Boston University involved in CHW events
  - Boston Medical Center (BMC) CHW Symposium 2017
  - MA CHW/Patient Navigator Conference 2017
  - Unity Conference 2017- Co-Sponsor
  - BMC CHW Symposium 2018- Co-Sponsor



# KEY PROJECT COMPONENTS



# PROJECT SITES



# TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Implementation Guide for integrating CHW into the HIV care team

CHW and CHW Supervisor training

Site coaching

CHW National Library

# LEARNING SESSIONS

Create a community of CHWs and CHW supervisors from the 10 project sites

A venue for CHWs, CHW supervisors and other stakeholders to:

- Learn from one another, share insights, challenges, and lessons learned
- Plan for “action periods” of problem solving and change
- Explore cross-cutting issues
- Identify best practices

Serves as a “safe space” to share anything about the project

# EVALUATION

Focus on two areas

- How the program is implemented
- Program outcomes

# EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

## Overall Concepts

- Envision the problem within the larger healthcare system
- Engage collaborative multidisciplinary teams centrally & locally

### 1. Summarize the evidence

- Identify interventions associated with improved outcomes
- Select interventions with the largest benefit and lowest barriers to use
- Convert interventions to behaviors

### 2. Identify local barriers to implementation

- Observe staff performing the interventions
- “Walk the process” to identify defects in each step of implementation
- Enlist all stakeholders to share concerns & identify potential gains & losses associated with implementation

### 3. Measure performance

- Select measures (process or outcome)
- Develop and pilot test measures
- Measure baseline performance

### 4. Ensure all patients receive the interventions Integrate RE-AIM model:



# EXAMPLE OF PROCESS EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

Activity	Process Measures (selected)	Conceptual Framework
CHW Encounter Form	Frequency of activities, Frequency of contact type for each activity, frequency of location for each activity, frequency of collaboration for each activity	<u>Pronovost 4E: Measure Performance</u>  <u>RE-AIM: Implementation</u>
CHW Interview	CHW role, interactions with HIV care team, referral process, description of supervision received, description of supervisor-CHW relationships, areas where more training and professional development may be needed	<u>RE-AIM: Implementation</u>

# EXAMPLE OF OUTCOME EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

Activity	Outcome Measures (selected)	Conceptual Framework
Chart Review Form	<u>Quantitative:</u> CD4; viral load; HIV primary care visits; mental health, substance use treatment, medical case management, and nursing clinical visits; active prescriptions; clinical/preventive measures; ED and hospital visits	<u>RE-AIM: Effectiveness</u>
Participant Questionnaire	<u>Quantitative:</u> Demographics (gender, race, ethnicity, employment status, housing status, country of birth, language), self-efficacy; unmet and met needs; HIV stigma; program satisfaction	<u>RE-AIM: Reach and Effectiveness</u>



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**THANK YOU!**

