Improving Linkage and Retention in HIV Care: Insights from Community Health Workers

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To Ask a Question
Welcome

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Agenda

• Welcome
• Learning Objectives
• Community Health Worker (CHW) Project Overview and Goals
• Introduction of Speakers
• CHWs discuss models of care and activities in the field
• Question and Answer session
Webinar Objectives

• Provide a brief overview of this Community Health Worker (CHW) project and the goals of project activities

• Describe two distinct models of care where CHWs were integrated into the care team at two Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program-funded (RWHAP) medical provider sites participating in the project

• Provide current examples of CHW job roles and functions as presented by CHWs themselves as they discuss their work experiences in the field

• Provide a question and answer sessions from the audience
HRSA CHW Initiative: FY 2016-2019

• This cooperative agreement is funded through the Minority AIDS Initiative Fund (MAIF) of the Secretary of Health and Human Services

• Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB), in the Division of Community HIV/AIDS Programs (DCHAP)

• Boston University is funded as the Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center (TAEC)
HRSA CHW Project: Goals

1. Increase the utilization of CHWs to strengthen the health care workforce, improve access to health care 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 CHWs into an HIV multidisciplinary team model.

3. Develop tools, materials and resources to facilitate implementation and use of CHWs in HIV primary care teams.

4. Evaluate the effectiveness of CHWs on linkage and retention in care for PLWH and assess the effectiveness of TA activities on the quality of CHW providers.
CHW Project Structure

- Technical Assistance and Training
- Learning Sessions
- Multi-site Evaluation

10 CHW subaward sites in US
Presenters

- Peter Williams, Support Specialist-CHW
  East Carolina University Adult Specialty Care Clinic, Greenville, NC

- Savanna (Savi) Bailey, CHW
  Legacy Community Health, Houston, TX
Agency Overviews

• East Carolina University
• Legacy Community Health
East Carolina University (ECU) Adult Specialty Care Clinic

- Hours: M-F, 8 am to 5 pm
- Staff: 50
- CHWs: 3
- Serve 1600+ clients from 30 rural counties
- Clinic serves ages 18+
ECU Adult Specialty Care Clinic
Legacy Community Health, Inc.

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Houston, TX.
- Legacy originally started as an STD testing and treatment center for gay and bisexual men.
- Services now include adult medicine, OB/GYN, behavioral health, pediatrics, dental, vision, nutrition, fitness, STD testing, gender care, and pharmacy services.
- Serves over 4,000 clients who are HIV positive.
CHW Program Overview
ECU CHW Program- Care Team Approach

Provider
- Evaluates medical and health care needs, lab results, prescribes medications
- Provide medical advice and referrals to other medical specialists (e.g., Primary Care, Dental, Vision)
- Behavioral Health and PharmD

Medical Case Manager (MCM)
- Support & assist clients with understanding the HIV disease spectrum
- Assist client in navigating medical services (e.g., RWE, HMAP, medical referrals)

Community Health Worker-Support Specialist (CHW)
- Engage in partnership with providers, MCM, & other team members to ensure quality health services
- Assist client with non-medical services to ↑ retention and engagement with care
- Outreach & build relationships with clients and community
- Recognize & address challenges/barriers that impact care
Legacy Community Health, Inc.
CHW Program Model

- Service Linkage Workers
- mSociety
- Other CHWs
- Case Managers
- CHW
- EMR
CHW Roles in the Field
ECU CHW Role

Client Outreach
- Home visits
- Transition to Assisted Living
- Mental health services
- Substance Abuse services

Support Services
- Transportation services (Medicaid, gas vouchers, bus passes, taxi, clinic van)
- Housing (HOPWA)
- Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA)

Client Education
- HIV 101; Communicating with providers; Understanding CD4, VL, OI, STI; HIV medication and adherence; Goal setting; Social support and disclosure

Motivational Interviewing
Trauma-Informed Care
Legacy Community Health CHW Role

**Client Outreach**
- Mostly done by phone or in the clinic
- No home visits yet
- Office based at a community drop in center for men between 18-29

**Support Services**
- Work as the link to the case manager to get them many services
- Can send internal referrals to nutrition, dental, vision, BH, in-house gym, and other services

**Client Education**
- Medication adherence and acquisition
- Lab results
- Community resources
Client Stories
Acknowledgements

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- Legacy Community Health, Inc.
- Southwest Louisiana AIDS Council
- Center for Innovation in Social Work and Health (Linda, Maria, Marena, Mari-Lynn, Rachel, Sally, and Serena)
Questions?

• Please use the Q&A function to ask questions.

• We will answer as many as we can.

• For those we do not answer during the webinar, we will answer them offline and send out a question and answer document to all participants.
Feedback
Thank you!
Please visit
https://targethiv.org/chw
or
https://ciswh.org/project/chw
or
contact us if you have questions or want to learn more about the CHW project.

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