

Outreach, Care and
Prevention to Engage
HIV Seropositive Young
MSM of Color

Harris County

MSM of Color SPNS Initiative Grantee
Meeting

Washington, DC

13 January 2009

Staff acknowledgements

- Harris County Department of Public Health and Environmental Services
 - Charles Henley, LMSW
- Harris County Hospital District
 - Nancy Miertschin, MPH
 - Diana Parkinson-Windross, LMSW
 - Randall Ard
- Houston Department of Health and Human Services
 - Beau Mitts, MPH
 - Sonny Ballard
 - Sheronda Allen
- Baylor College of Medicine
 - Thomas Giordano, MD, MPH
 - Jessica Davila, PhD
 - Elizabeth Soriano, MA

Overall recruitment update

- Total YMSMC identified = 85
 - Total ineligible = 29
 - Incarcerated, Inadequate mental capacity, transferred from another clinic, decided to go to outside clinic, did not enter care!!
 - Total refused = 5
 - Currently pending enrollment = 15
- Total YMSM of color completed multi-site and local baseline surveys = 36
 - 16 identified through Harris County Hospital District

Overview of current activities

- Efforts to increase identification of HIV+ YMSMC:
 - Use of local surveillance data
 - Routine testing in ER centers
 - Follow-up testing among high risk negatives
 - Social networking
- Standardized linkage to care protocol
- Retention in care program

Use of surveillance data to identify new HIV+ YMSMC

- 49 YMSMC identified through surveillance data
- Most successful strategy for identifying newly diagnosed YMSMC
- Obtain weekly reports of all YMSMC who test positive at one of the City of Houston testing sites
- Strengths: Time and cost-efficient
- Lessons learned: Requires dedicated City of Houston outreach workers to locate,

Routine testing in ER centers

- New program implemented in August 2008
- HIV routine testing program implemented at Harris County Hospital District Emergency Centers
- Opt-out routine HIV testing implemented among patients who visit emergency centers
- 5,000+ ages ≥ 18 years tested, no HIV+ YMSMC
- Strengths: Identifies YMSM who would otherwise not receive an HIV test; Identifies YMSMC who are known HIV+ but not in care

Follow-up testing among high risk HIV negative YMSMC

- Enrolled high risk HIV negative YMSMC for follow-up testing
- After initial HIV test, outreach worker attempted to contact YMSMC every three months to offer an HIV test and reiterate the importance of testing
- Beginning 1/2008, 38 high risk YMSMC followed by HCHD
 - 1 received a follow-up test
 - 3 agreed to be retested but none scheduled apt.
 - 8 were contacted but were not interested
 - 26 were unable to be contacted
- Lessons learned: Difficult to get HIV-YMSMC to return for HIV testing
- Next Steps: Try text messaging rather

Social networking

- Quality vs. Quantity approach to recruitment didn't work among YMSMC
- New strategy: Snowball Sampling
 - Using seeds to identify and recruit new YMSMC for testing
 - Using incentives for recruitment
 - HIV+ and HIV- seeds
 - Minimizing training requirements

Standardized linkage to care protocol

- Very successful strategy for linkage: To date, have successfully linked 78% (n=43) YMSMC into care at Thomas Street Health Center
- Involves a direct handoff procedure between outreach workers (City and HCHD) and case manager (HCHD)
- Strengths: Ensures that YMSMC successfully completes eligibility visit and first provider visit
- Lessons learned: Highly dependent

Retention in care program

- Intensive case management with Motivational Interviewing
- Monthly YMSMC support group
- 79% of SPNS enrolled YMSMC retained in care (PCP visit per quarter for duration of follow-up)
- Strengths: Close relationship develops between YMSMC and case manager; YMSMC learn to navigate the system, strong network developed among YMSMC
- Lessons learned: Some YMSMC become too dependent on case manager; Intensive case management is very time consuming; difficult to handle large volumes of clients; highly dependent on personality and skills of the case

Products

- Abstracts

- Presented: 2008 Ryan White Grantee Meeting

- “Improving Linkage to Care Among Newly Diagnosed HIV+ Young MSM of Color: A Local Initiative”

- Accepted: 2009 International Conference on HIV Treatment Adherence

- “Improving Adherence to Care Among Newly Diagnosed HIV+ African American and Hispanic Youth: A Local Initiative”

- Submitted: 2009 CDC prevention

Plan for next six months

- Project activities:
 - Initiate snowball sampling for social networking
 - Modify high risk negative follow-up procedures
- Evaluation activities:
 - Retrospective analysis for YMSMC linkage and retention in care during pre-SPNS and SPNS eras
 - Analyze local survey data on KAB
- Dissemination activities: