

## **Division of HIV Updates for May Meeting**

### **Division Updates:**

- The collective work of the Division of HIV Health, HCPC, and the HPG is being recognized for the community engagement strategies used in the development of the current Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan.

The Division of HIV Health has been invited by the Integrated HIV/AIDS Planning Technical Assistance Center (IHAP TAC) to participate in a panel discussion on Stakeholder Engagement for a virtual event they are hosting. The IHAP TAC is a consultant group providing technical assistance on behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for integrated HIV planning activities. The five-year Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plans are a federal requirement for receipt of federal awards through both the CDC and HRSA to ensure a coordinated and efficient means to addressing HIV through both prevention and care strategies. Pennsylvania has been recognized for its approach to engaging the community in the ongoing integrated planning process, including implementation, and monitoring Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan activity through its HIV Planning Group (HPG) and work plan development. The virtual event will be held on May 1st from 11:00-12:00 ET. Registration is required.

You can register at the following link: [IHAP TAC Virtual Event: Engaging Community in HIV Planning: Challenges, Successes, and Opportunities | TargetHIV](#)

If you are unable to attend at the scheduled time, the event is being recorded and will be made available through the TARGET HIV library.

- Division staff are continuing to meet monthly with all seven Regional Grantees to discuss the Harm Reduction Vending Machine project. These meetings have been helpful in discussing the implementation of this project and addressing questions and concerns those in attendance might have.

### **Care Program:**

- Updated Case Management and Program Standards are finalized and will be submitted through the approval process for distribution.

### **Housing Opportunities for People living with AIDS (HOPWA):**

- No updates at this time

### **Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP):**

- Remaining 2024 SPBP Advisory Council meeting dates:
  - Thursday, July 25, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (teleconference)
  - Thursday, October 24, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (in-person – Penn Harris Hotel)

- SPBP website updates [www.health.pa.gov/spbp](http://www.health.pa.gov/spbp)
  - Covered drug list – updated 4/1/24
    - The Mpox vaccine, Jynneos, is now available on the SPBP formulary
- Some SPBP clients have encountered an eligibility error when applying for SPBP after being disenrolled from Medicaid. This issue was due to a system issue within the Medicaid system in which the individual was shown as still having prescription coverage through Medicaid, even though they do not. The data issue should be fixed with the next major update to Medicaid’s system in September 2024. If there are any individuals impacted by this when attempting to apply to SPBP, please call our customer service team at 800-922-9384 and an exception will be entered to bypass the data issue. SPBP is also manually reviewing all applications denied for MA enrollment to determine if coverage has actually ended or not.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation:**

- Ryan White Sub-recipient monitoring continues, with PennWest up next, in May.
- Participating Provider Agreement (PPA) monitoring has begun and will continue through June.
- We are hiring two Project Officers to work with our HIV Prevention grants and contracts (PPAs, CMHDs). The positions are currently posted on the commonwealth jobs website until May 2, 2024. That posting can be found [here](#).
- The CMHD Quality Improvement Collaborative continues to meet on a monthly basis. To date, we have revised guidance for partner services, Data 2 Care and HNS as a result of discussions. These documents are available on the CMHD Share Point site as part of our guidance for HIV Prevention Grant activities. The last three meetings have focused on HIV Testing in their STD Clinics, with discussions about barriers to expanding services, and supporting community testing activities within their jurisdictions. We have made some changes to our data reporting for their performance indicators related to known PLWH who may come in for STD testing but decline an HIV test. These test events will not be counted toward their denominator regarding their HIV testing performance measure of 80% of STD Clinic clients receiving an HIV test. The recommendation was also made to investigate expansion of HIV and HCV testing within their clinics.

### **Prevention Program:**

- The limit on condom orders is lifted, we now have adequate stock. There are two items, personal lubricant, and ribbed condoms, that have not been filled yet. We are working with our procurement office to complete this purchase.

- Capacity Building activities will resume now that the University of Pittsburgh team is back onboard. Please visit [stophiv.com](http://stophiv.com) for more information.
- The pilot outreach training with Savage Sisters is scheduled for May 7 from 1-3pm. If a member of the HPG would like an invitation, please email Kendra Parry at [kparry@pa.gov](mailto:kparry@pa.gov)
- The CDC grant application was completed and submitted for the August 1, 2024 through May 31, 2029 funding cycle.
- Maddison Toney will be presenting at the Cluster Detection and Response (CDR) Learning Collaborative Summit on June 25-26 in Atlanta, GA.

### **HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology:**

- No updates at this time.

### **Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) Southwest Regional Grantee:**

- JHF is requested a letter of support from the HPG. The information on this request will be introduced at the May HPG Townhall Meeting as Jewish Healthcare Foundation is seeking support for their proposal outlined below to the Division of HIV Health.

*The Jewish Healthcare Foundation is seeking a letter of support from the HPG for a proposal to the PADOH that would fund a statewide initiative called **"Ending the HIV Epidemic Pennsylvania."***

*Aim: to end the HIV epidemic in PA by focusing on normalizing routine testing, decreasing stigma, increasing access/uptake of PrEP and prevention tools, and increasing efficiency of linkage to care*

*Proposed activities:*

- *Unifying statewide messaging and coordinating statewide media campaigns/digital marketing*
- *Coordinating more efficient patient and provider resource sharing*
- *Implementing RAPID linkage to care protocols statewide for those who test positive.*
- *Improving data collection to better understand statewide trends through incorporation of clinic and insurance plan data.*

*Logistics: employ a "Collective Impact Model" with organizational support from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation.*

*Next steps: Jewish Healthcare Staff will attend the next HPG meeting to answer questions.*

- *A drafted letter of support and a 1-page summary of the proposed initiative have also been included in these announcements.*

Jewish Health Foundation can provide additional information if needed. JHF thanks you for your consideration.