

Division of HIV Updates for January Meeting

Division Updates:

- Rob Smith has been selected as the new Public Health Program Manager for the HIV Care Section. Rob has been working as the Ryan White Part B Program Specialist since 2021. Rob will begin his new role on January 27, 2025.
- The posting for the Data to Care position has closed, and interviews are scheduled.
- The Division has continued to meet monthly with all seven Regional Grantees to discuss the implementation of Harm Reduction Vending Machines. The AIDSNET region has collaborated with Valley Youth House to implement a machine in their Region. The machine was just received, and final preparations are being worked on including; Software configuration for access and data collection, purchasing a cabinet to hold the Half-Height Vending Machine and placing the items in the machine once all other logistics have been finalized.



Care Program:

- The HOPWA eligibility and inspection changes that were slated for January 2025 implementation have been pushed back to 2026 by HUD.

Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP):

- 2025 SPBP Advisory Council meeting dates
 - Thursday, January 30, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (teleconference)
 - Thursday, April 24, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. (in-person meeting, Penn Harris Hotel)
 - Thursday, July 31, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (teleconference)

- Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. (in-person meeting, Penn Harris Hotel)
- Updates on the SPBP website (www.health.pa.gov/spbp)
 - Medicare Part C & D plan list for 2025 – updated November 2024
 - MyRx Enroll Training Tutorials – updated January 2025
 - Initial Enrollment tutorial
 - Case Manager tutorial
 - Super admin tutorial
- SPBP will be updating the program income eligibility limits in January 2025 after the Federal government releases the new Federal poverty guidelines for the year

Monitoring & Evaluation:

- Katina Blair, Public Health Program Administrator in the Monitoring and Evaluation Section, will be retiring in February. Katina has been with the PA Department of Health in the Division of HIV Health since 2013, having previously worked in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). Her roles have evolved, but she has been working with Participating Provider Agreements (PPAs), County Municipal Health Departments (CMHDs), and other providers in various capacities, most recently as an HIV Prevention project officer for grants and contracts, while with the Division. Please join us in wishing Katina all the best as she moves into her retirement.
- The 2025 Ryan White Part B Monitoring calendar will start with visits to Family Health Council of Central PA in January and continue in February with AIDSNET. We look forward to having productive and positive visits with our Regional Subrecipients again this year.
- Annual County and Municipal Health Department site visits for 2024 have been concluded. Monitoring reports are being finalized and should be distributed to CMHDs by the end of January. We thank the staff at each CMHD for their dedication and efforts in 2024.

Prevention Program:

- The Data to Care position interviews will be held through the end of January.
- For an updated calendar of trainings opportunities, please visit <https://stophiv.com/capacity-building-and-training/>

HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology:

- We have a new HIV Data Analyst (Mr. Darius McDaniel) for Data to Care. Mr. McDaniel started his employment with us on December 2, 2024. He comes with extensive technical skills, and we are happy to have him as part of the HIV surveillance team.
- Ike Onukogu recently submitted an abstract titled “Evaluation of Birth Defects Among Infants Perinatally Exposed to HIV in Pennsylvania, 2010-2020” to the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist conference. The conference is scheduled for June 8-12, 2025 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.