

End HIV Alabama Meeting Notes October 20, 2022

Attendees: LaTeisha Elliott, Raina Jain, Jessie Myrick, Brittney Brooks, Wanda Richardson, Jora White, Crystal Nelson, Jonathan Joseph, Larry Cowan, and Shey Thorn and Carmarion Anderson-Harvey, EHA Co-chairs. Vanessa Tate-Finney facilitated. (This is a partial list. Registration information was not accessible.)

Presentation

Jonathan opened the meeting with a Power Point presentation on EHE and EHA. The presentation included general information on the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America initiative and its goals by each pillar—diagnose, treat, prevent, and respond. Detailed information was provided on U=U, Ready, Set, PrEP, and responding to clusters. The counties in Alabama with the highest burden are Houston, Jefferson, Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa. Emerging counties are Bullock, Calhoun, Dallas, Franklin, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Russell, Talledega, Walker, and Winston. Priority populations include gay and bisexual men (GBM). MSM, especially in the African-American and LatinX communities, persons identifying as transgender or gender non-conforming, cis-gender women, especially those identifying as African-American, and people who inject drugs (PWID).

Alabama's Jurisdictional Plan utilized a comprehensive needs assessment, supports EHA community meetings, and is monitored by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The EHA utilizes work groups, special projects, and community meetings to monitor the plan and gather feedback. The current plan goals for Year 3 are to

- Increase the proportion of people with HIV (PWH) who are virally suppressed.
- Develop or increase laboratory methods and epidemiological techniques to see where HIV may be spreading most rapidly.

Announcements

- NASTAD has uploaded new EHE videos on their website
- We need participants from the Department of Corrections per the CDC Project Officer
- Co-chair elections for 2023 will take place during the December meeting. LaTeisha will send an email to the full membership asking for nominations.

Vanessa opened the floor for Co-chair nominations. LaTeisha described Co-chair general duties, and Carmarion shared information about her experience as Co-chair. No nominations were made.

Vanessa opened the floor for participants to share lessons learned from USCHA.

- All states across the board report having issues with community engagement and getting approval for "innovation" from their respective health departments. This was recently discussed in the Executive Committee meeting. The OHPC has not been able to get a "definition" of or parameters for "innovation" from CDC, which complicates approval for certain ideas. There seems to be a lack of understanding or

acknowledgement that “Innovation” differs from state-to-state and among individual communities.

- Some areas are putting together a certification program for Peer Navigators
- Quality of Life surveys should be given to consumers of our services
- Importance of facilitating or partnering with community events that do not focus on HIV, but incorporate HIV services

Next Meeting: December 15, 2023