

EHE Community Planning Committee
Meeting Notes for June 24, 2020
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Registrants: Information not available

This month's meeting focused on CDC's "Prevent" pillar. Discussion questions were provided on the meeting agenda that was distributed to the membership before the meeting date. LaTeisha Elliott opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and gave a brief review of the May meeting.

Suggestions for gaining access to potential PrEP clients

- Expand targeted outreach and have local "community people" work with outreach teams. Have people tested by someone they know and trust and who are invested in their own health.
- Utilize pre/post-test counseling, show genuine concern, and make the offer for PrEP
- Active warm hand-offs to PrEP providers after a negative HIV screen
- Make HIV screening about more than "the numbers". Create a relaxed, fun environment to recruit people for testing.
- Increase awareness about PrEP.

Comments about PrEP services and referral networks

- People/agencies who provide sexual health services are usually good at offering/administering PrEP but many "mainstream" medical providers are not. Many are not responsive to patients who inquire about PrEP.
- We need to normalize conversations about PrEP in non-traditional spaces and change the marketing strategy.
- We need more "non-traditional" PrEP providers and marketing from a higher level than ASOs and CBOs
- Medical students should be educated on the importance of PrEP services

Suggestions for promoting adherence to PrEP

- PrEP should be its own program separate from HIV services. It could be used as a point of entry for referral to primary care and dental services which could in turn promote PrEP adherence.
- Institute non-traditional clinic hours and follow-up visits by phone instead of in-person.
- Have educational conversations with community stakeholders and gatekeepers to reduce stigma in the places people go regularly, like barbershops.
- Funding for uninsured clients

Syringe Services Programs

- There are current advocacy efforts for SSPs in Alabama that involves private funding of a pilot program to prove efficacy to the state to gain buy-in.

Technical assistance needs

- Capacity building: Cultural responsiveness, effective interventions, increasing staff diversity, utilizing Advisory Boards, creative funding, organizational effectiveness,

LBE