

EHE Community Planning Meeting Notes
July 29, 2020
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Registrants: Shakina Wheeler-Cox, Tia Gilbert, Christa DeVaughn, Karen Johnson, Julie Hope, Dr. Danita Crear, Derrick Steverson, Kim Love, Jessie Schwiesow, Tony Christon-Walker, Marvellus Prater, Morgan Farrington, Dr. Ritalinda Lee, Gina Mallisham, Valerie Adams, Gloria Howard, Mattie Gadson, Brittany Sanders, Warren O'Meara Dates, Kendall Maye, Shirley Selvage, Oronde Mitchell, Kimberly Edwards, Shakina Wheeler-Cox, Cynthia Boykin, Ka'Laun Hambrite, James Duke, Lynette Freeman, Adrinda Carter, Tony Hawkes, Brittney Brooks, Joel Reed, Sarah Laurio, Ana Santos Diaz, Melissa Parker, Kim Love, Jora White, Larry Cowan, Sharon Jordan, Dr. Brittney Washington-Ball, Jerome Edwards, Richard Hailey, LaTeisha Elliott (43)

This month's meeting focused on CDC's "Diagnose" pillar. Discussion questions were provided on the meeting agenda and 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 June meeting.

Proposed strategies to promote opt-out testing

- We need to use incentives for testing
- We need opt-out testing to be policy. People should not have to go through an extra layer of stigma to request an HIV test.
- One concise HIV curriculum is needed for the state
- Other non-profits should offer HIV testing at intake to help normalize testing.
- Buy-in from hospitals is key
- ASOs could consult with local practices and offer to assist with counseling and testing patients on-site.
- Address the dual message—we tell people they must do everything to avoid HIV and tell them they will be fine and not to worry when they contract it. We need to modernize the messages.
- Create and distribute a Fact Sheet about Opt-Out Testing
- Recruit individuals from "underperforming" communities and organizations to participate in a paid training program and make a commitment to teach what they have learned to their colleagues.

Barriers to opt-out testing

- Access to screening is not as much of a problem as internalized and externalized stigma. We need to change the way we talk about HIV because currently we "over-stigmatize" people who need to get tested and we don't market to people who don't think they are at risk.
- Some people assume they are being tested routinely by their providers and do not ask for a test.

ADPH announced HIV testing training will be provided virtually in August. The training dates and links will be sent out to the membership following the meeting. The training will cover Oraquick rapid testing, home tests and distance testing. Brittney Brooks informed the group that data collection officially ended July 15. Members should expect a demographic survey by email this week. Ritalinda announced she will be sending a Zoom link to her needs assessment data presentation.

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