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Opportunities and Challenges to Providing Cross-site Technical Assistance and Evaluation among Diverse HIV Programs

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HIV Care Connect – 2019-2024

National Program Office

UAB
Birmingham, AL

Care Resource
Miami, FL

Five Horizons Health Services
Montgomery, AL

University of Mississippi Medical Center
Jackson, MS

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HCC Program Objectives

- Build partnerships between the health care sector and other sectors to address the social determinants of health

- Collaborate with diverse local organizations to connect people with HIV to resources in their communities that provide access to HIV care, medically tailored food, social services, employment training, and transportation.

HCC Program Overview

National Program Office (NPO)

- Cross-site evaluation

- Technical assistance

- Facilitating cross-site communication

- Monitoring progress

Grantees

- Individual program implementation

- Site-level evaluation with local evaluation partners

- Developing local community partnerships

Functions of the National Program Office

- Oversee and Monitor Program Grantees to Ensure Accountability
  - Establish policies, annual reporting guidelines, and best practices to guide program implementation and reporting

- Provide Technical Assistance
  - To assist with planning and implementation, compliance requirements, data collection and reporting, and evaluation

- Convene grantee program sites on a regular basis
  - The purpose of which is to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and build relationships among the grantees

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Functions of the National Program Office Cont.

- Facilitate dissemination of information about HCC, its constituent parts, and program outcomes and impacts
  - To include development of an outward facing Website as well as a community of practice for grantees, key stakeholders, and the HIV prevention community

- Develop ongoing partnerships with key program stakeholders
  - To facilitate networking opportunities for grantees with regional multi-sectoral partners spanning academia, community, clinical and public health partners

- Develop and implement the comprehensive cross-site evaluation
  - In collaboration with program grantees

Care Resource: Project DA^{2}RE—Disparities in Care Addressed through Access, Retention, and Equity

Objectives:

- Form a collaborative with community partners to improve access to and retention in care for 150 HIV infected persons through offering a broad range of culturally competent, coordinated, and co-located and patient centered individual interventions and strategies

- Centralize and standardize data collection and sharing across partnering organization

Geographic Area Served: Miami-Dade County

Target Population: Heterosexual people of color, men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender persons living with HIV

UMMC: All-In at CIRCLE (Cooperative for Innovation, Research, and Clinical Engagement)

Objectives:

- Establish a central physical point of contact for PLWH

- Centralize and standardize data collection and sharing across partnering organization

- Incentivize care model for HIV care

- Reduce the proportion of PLWH who are not virologically suppressed with assistance from MSDH Data-to-Care

- Conduct cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analyses of incentivized care

Geographic Area Served: Jackson, MS MSA and adjacent rural areas

Target Population: People of color living with HIV

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MAO: CARE (Creating Access, Retention, and Engagement)*

Goals and Objectives:

- Increase linkage to HIV care within 30 days of diagnosis for pregnant/postpartum WLWH, newly diagnosed WLWH scoring 31 and above of Acuity Scale, WLWH who have not had a provider visit in 12 months, and incarcerated women testing positive for HIV.

- Increase HIV appointment adherence among pregnant/postpartum WLWH, newly diagnosed WLWH scoring 31 and above on Acuity Scale, and WLWH who have not had a provider visit in 12 months.
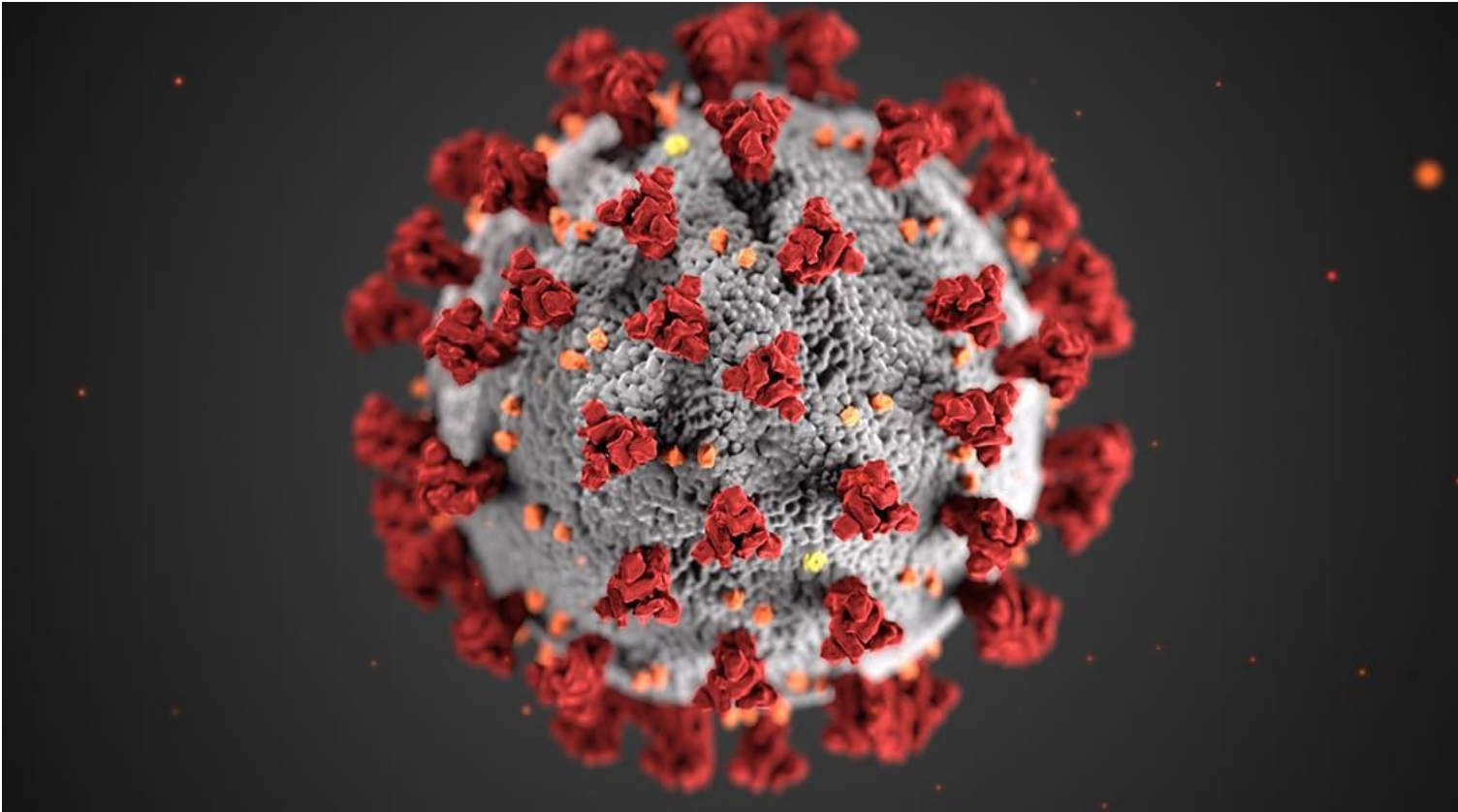
Geographic Area Served: Montgomery and Dothan, Alabama MSAs

Target Population: Pregnant/postpartum WLWH, newly diagnosed WLWH scoring 31 and above on Acuity Scale, WLWH who have not had a provider visit in 12 months, and incarcerated women testing positive for HIV

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Expected Challenges in Multi-site Program

- Staff turnover

- Leadership changes

- Competing priorities over time

- Bureaucratic hurdles

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Record Scratch #1 – March 2020

Record Scratch #2 – Organizational Overhaul

MAO

Uncertainty

Five Horizons
Health Services

The Way Forward – Navigating Technical Assistance Across 3 States

- Site-specific challenges require unique support
- Buy-in across the site is crucial for success

Final Lessons

- Plans change! Technical assistance has to be flexible to accommodate partner needs.

- Crises happen! The NPO's role is to understand, encourage, and support partners.

- Relationships matter. Staff turnover can have huge impacts on project success. Building and maintaining relationships with a team can help.