PrEP IN RURAL NORTH GEORGIA – A TALE OF TWO CLINICS

THE LIVING BRIDGE CENTER (TLBC) AND THE WHITFIELD COUNTY MEDICAL ACCESS CLINIC (MAC)

SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

PRESENTER: JEFF VOLLMAN, MPA
TLBC is the North Georgia Health District’s HIV clinic.

TLBC is co-located with the MAC in Dalton, GA. (north west Georgia region)

The MAC is an ambulatory medical clinic serving Whitfield County residents (not HIV specific)

TLBC sees 200+ unduplicated patients a year

Staffing: one MD, 3 nurse case managers, one triage nurse, one intensive nurse case manager, and five support personnel

KEY NOTE: our MD is also the Medical Director at MAC!!!!
THE PERFECT STORM....JEFF GET TO WORK!!!!!!

• Our MD went to an HIV conference and came back saying....PrEP, PrEP, PrEP, PrEP
• Our Benefits Coordinator went to an HIV conference and came back saying....PrEP, PrEP, PrEP, PrEP
• We got a new (and wonderfully supportive) District Health Director who said “Jeff do PrEP, PrEP, PrEP!”
• So Jeff took a three day weekend and then came back to work thinking...PrEP, PrEP, PrEP, PrEP.
BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME.... (THE PROCESS)

- Paperwork first......we are government afterall
- Patient releases, physician orders, basic program structure and expectations, etc.
- Initial visit – clear the patient for launch, lab testing, counseling on stopping transmission
- Once cleared, prescription written for three months
- Three month follow up, clear the patient again, prescription
- Six month, one more full clearance and then off to the races, prescription
- Nine month follow up, prescription
- Annual, full clearance and prescription
BUILD IT AND THEY WILLCOME…..(THE PLAYERS)

• On first visit, patient is seen by a non-Ryan White funded nurse in our clinic – initial screening
• Lab work drawn and submitted by technician located within MAC
• Prescription ordered by MD during MAC hours
• HIV negativity confirmed (four times a year) by testing staff – proper education and supplies provided
• If patient is insured, insurance covers the medications
• If not insured, patient assisted with pharmaceutical patient assistance plan via the manufacturer
SO....DID THEY COME?

- To date: five patients enrolled
- Two are partners of patients enrolled in our clinic (discordant partners)
- One sought us out as we were developing our program
- Two more have enrolled as a result of their coming in for multiple HIV tests (recurring testing due to fear of exposure)
NEXT STEPS……

- Stronger social media campaign through the Health District’s media arm
- Increased awareness in the six health department’s STD clinics for referral purposes
  - Referrals for individuals coming in repeatedly for STD tests, not just HIV
- Expand officially across the entire District, not just in Whitfield County
- Pilot project with a contracted pharmacy provider for insured patients – program income generator
- Incorporate outreach and referral into the CDS positions being developed across the District
ANY QUESTIONS?

Jeff Vollman, MPA
District HIV Director
North Georgia Health District
Dalton, GA. 30720
706-281-2350
Jeffery.Vollman@dph.ga.gov