

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of small white dots. Overlaid on the left side are several concentric circles and a large circular scale with numerical markings from 140 to 260. Some of the circles have arrows indicating a clockwise direction.

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

FIRST, A LITTLE BACKGROUND.....

- 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 WILL COME.....(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?

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