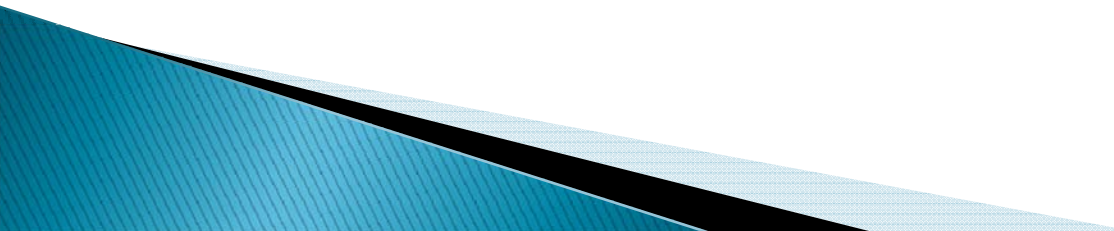


HIV/AIDS ECHO In New Mexico

An HIV Clinician's Perspective

Bruce Williams, MD, MPH
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Overview

- ▶ HIV Services Delivery in New Mexico
 - ▶ HIV Educational Needs
 - ▶ NM AIDS Education & Training Center
 - ▶ Project ECHO in HIV Education
 - ▶ Potential Model of HIV Training Utilizing Project ECHO
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Introducing New Mexico...

- Large rural state regionally defined by geography
- Multilingual, multicultural population (Hispanic 42%, American Indian 9.5%, Anglo 67%)
- 22% below FPL
- 23% uninsured
- 38 MUA/P, 95 HPSAs throughout the state.



HIV Services Delivery in New Mexico

- ▶ Health Management Alliances
 - Sponsored by NM Dept. of Health
 - Four regionally defined catchment areas, each with a 'Center of Excellence' providing full continuum of HIV care for the region.
 - Some have rural contract providers as well.
 - One 'at-large' HMA for Native Americans (case management) based in Albuquerque
- ▶ Others include:
 - Albuquerque VA Health Care System
 - Indian Health Service (Albuquerque, Zuni/Gallup)
 - Private Practices (ID, FM, IM)
 - NM Dept. of Corrections (distance consultation from ID specialist in California)

Differential HIV Expertise

- ▶ HIV expertise is concentrated in the two largest HIV primary care sites.
 - Truman Street Health Services (Albuquerque)
 - Southwest CARE Center (Santa Fe)
- ▶ Others are variable, depending on volume and experience.
 - Recent turnover in Roswell and Las Cruces
 - Major provider in Las Cruces is FM residency program, requires on-going (re-)training as residents turn over.

NM AIDS Education & Training Center

- ▶ Statewide project under auspices of Mountain Plains AETC
 - funded since 1988.
 - administered by University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Internal Medicine/Infectious Diseases
 - co-located with Truman Street Health Services, largest HIV primary care clinic in the state
 - collaborates with HMA 1 quality management program

NM AIDS Education & Training Center

▶ Activities

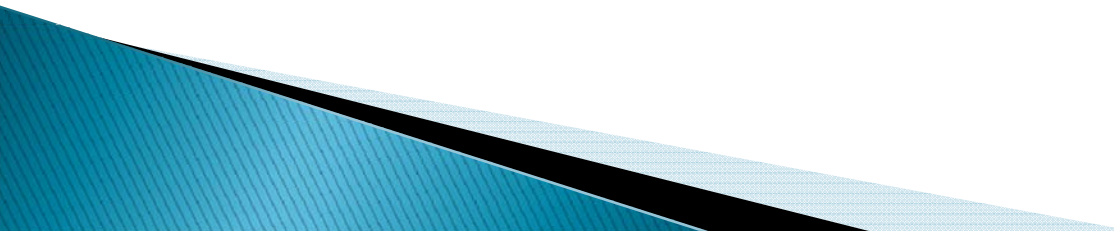
- Annual statewide HIV clinical update
- Monthly HIV/AIDS ECHO sessions
- AIDS InfoNet (www.aidsinfonet.org)
- UNMHSC ID Fellow didactic series
 - 2-year rolling HIV curriculum
- Mini-sabbaticals at TSHS
- Nurse mentorship program (in development)
- Focused trainings
 - community clinicians
 - nurses
 - pharmacists
 - HIV case managers
 - behavioral health providers
 - IHS
 - ED providers

NM AIDS Education & Training Center

▶ Informal Support

- Informal networking
- Telephone consultations
- Nursing mentorship (in development)

HIV/AIDS ECHO Sessions

- ▶ Held monthly, based in Albuquerque at Project ECHO with support video/audio access.
 - ▶ Directed by Karla Thornton, MD (ECHO HIV/AIDS), and hosted by her, Michelle Landiorio, MD (NMAETC), and Elaine Thomas (NMAETC).
 - ▶ Attended by HIV clinical providers, nurses, case managers, pharmacists, behavioral health providers and others.
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HIV/AIDS ECHO Sessions

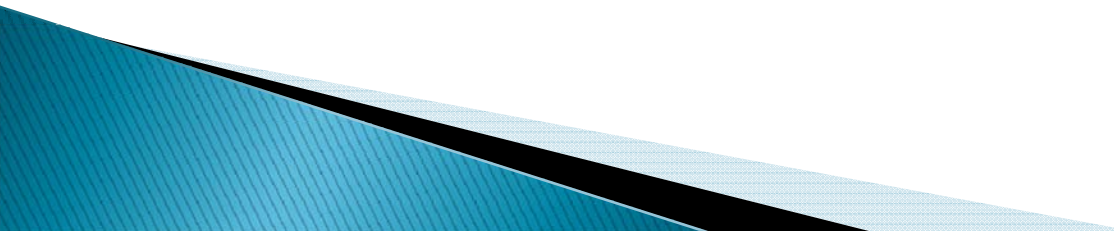
- ▶ Initial didactic by one of the participants (usually a host)
- ▶ Case presentations/discussions (usually 3–5 per session).
 - Recommendations for management made by group.
 - On-going management refined by follow-up presentations.

ECHO Sessions Utilize Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Methodology

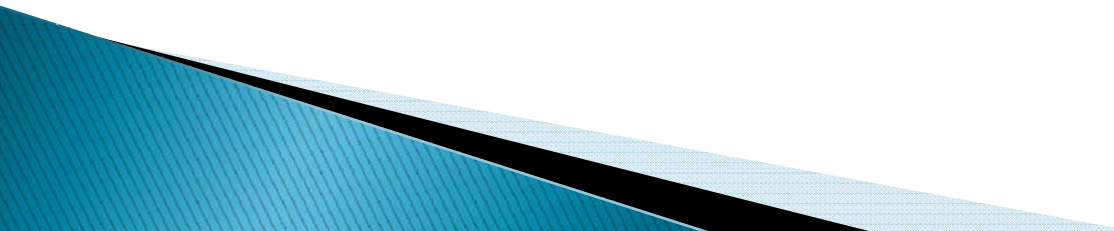
- ▶ Utilize a variety of resources to gather relevant information related to each case and use "best practice" knowledge to support solutions to problems.
- ▶ Work together, posting consensus information and plans.
- ▶ "Learn how to learn" through the use of reflection, research, and communication within the team.
- ▶ Define problems and construct potential solutions.
- ▶ Utilize targeted questions to develop the group as directors of its own learning process

Adapted from: http://cdd.unm.edu/ai/resources/course_design.htm

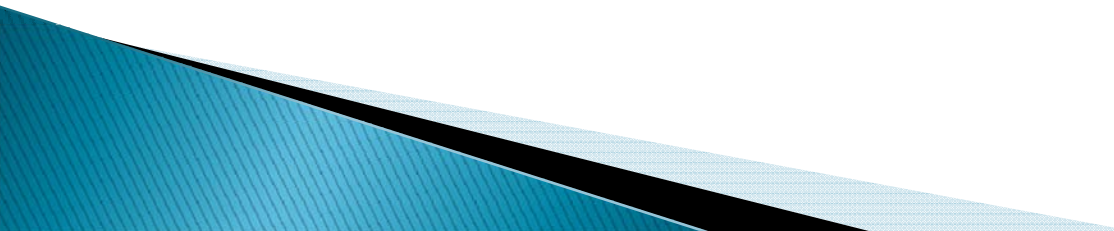
Roles of ECHO in HIV Training

- ▶ Recruitment
 - ▶ Initial Training
 - ▶ Continuing Education
 - ▶ ‘Community of Care’
 - ▶ Quality Assessment & Improvement
 - ▶ Evaluation
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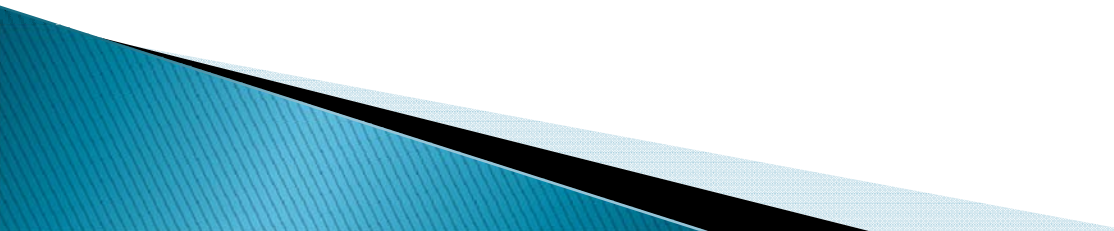
Recruitment, Initial Training & Continuing Education

- ▶ Potential ECHO participants recruited by existing providers and NMAETC.
 - Emphasis on new providers in underserved areas
 - ▶ NMAETC works with new providers to obtain training tailored to individual needs.
 - mini-sabbaticals
 - literature
 - ECHO sessions
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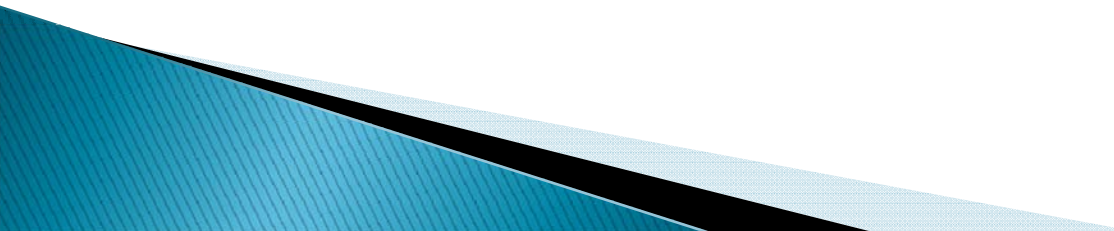
'Community of Care'

- ▶ Single-event access to expertise relevant to multiple facets of HIV care.
 - ▶ Management plans developed by consensus.
 - ▶ ECHO format encourages 'off-line' collaboration and collegiality.
 - ▶ The quality of the care plan is determined by the highest level of expertise in the 'room'.
 - ▶ All providers become familiarized with relevant HIV resources throughout the state.
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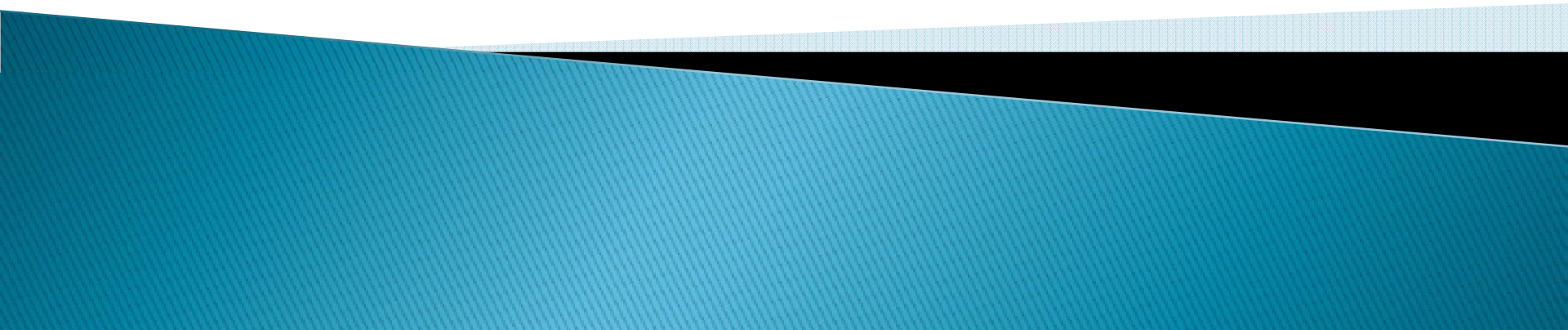
Quality Assessment and Improvement

- ▶ In HMA 1, annual chart audits indicate a substantial improvement in compliance with CQI performance measures among rural providers.
 - ▶ In many cases, these are attributed by the provider to ECHO participation.
 - ▶ ECHO provides HMA leaders an opportunity to identify deficiencies in HIV knowledge and clinical decision-making among less-experienced providers.
 - ▶ In collaboration with NMAETC, these can be addressed through an intensified ECHO-based intervention.
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Evaluation

- ▶ ECHO sessions provide a 'window' on the workforce needs of the region.
 - ▶ Specific areas of expertise and educational needs can be efficiently identified.
 - ▶ Facilitates effective resource allocation and facilitates strategic HIV services planning.
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Role of ECHO in a Potential AETC HIV Workforce Development Model



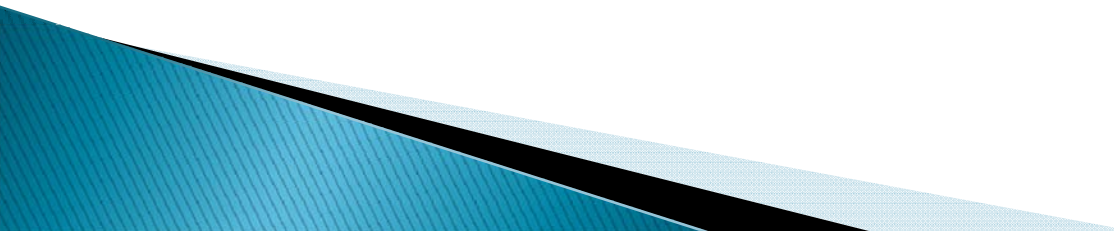
HIV Workforce Development

- ▶ As existing HIV professional workforce ages, there is a need to replace it with those who did not 'grow up' with the epidemic.
 - ▶ Mastery of a large body of knowledge and expertise required to provide high quality HIV care.
 - ▶ Current AETC model was designed to recruit and support existing clinicians into providing care, building on existing clinical expertise.
 - ▶ Need to develop comprehensive HIV curriculum and verify competence of those who complete it.
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Role of ECHO in a Potential AETC HIV Workforce Development Model

- ▶ AETC develops national HIV curricula in collaboration with national experts.
 - ‘Menu’ of web-based lectures available for streaming, download
 - Separate curricula for different disciplines covers all major topics relevant to HIV clinical care:
 - medical
 - nursing
 - pharmacy
 - mental health/substance use

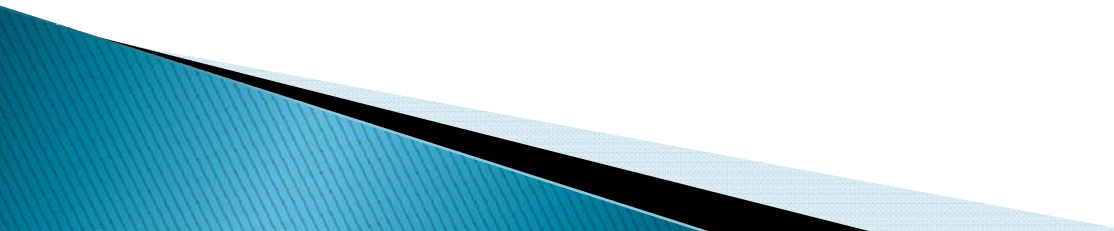
Role of ECHO in a Potential AETC HIV Workforce Development Model

- ▶ AETC sponsors ECHO projects through existing regional grantees.
 - Work with existing health care training programs to integrate an ‘HIV track’.
 - Assess regional HIV care needs and recruit experts in disciplines relevant to them.
 - Telehealth capabilities developed in local ECHO ‘nodes’ with multidisciplinary HIV expertise.
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Role of ECHO in a Potential AETC HIV Workforce Development Model

- ▶ ECHO sessions conducted by ‘nodes’ to provide case- and problem-based learning opportunities for local trainees and existing providers.
 - ▶ Sessions include lectures (web-based or local) relevant to the cases presented.
 - ▶ Regional AETC monitors educational activity in local nodes to ensure that curricular requirements are fulfilled within a specified time frame (eg, 2 years).
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Role of ECHO in a Potential AETC HIV Workforce Development Model

- ▶ Continuing education provided through web-based curriculum, ECHO participation, documented self study, and documented clinical care volume.
 - ▶ Regional AETC serves as ‘clearinghouse’ for CE activities and certifications.
 - ▶ HRSA collaborates with existing professional boards or organizations to develop HIV certifications based on successful completion of its curricula.
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Acknowledgements

Karla Thornton, MD

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University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Michelle Iandiorio, MD

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University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Elaine Thomas, MD

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University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

