

Women Informing Now (WIN) Using Innovation to Reduce Isolation and Stigma among HIV+ Women of Color

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Virtual

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Presenters

- Dr. Ivy Turnbull, Deputy Executive Director, AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
- Ms. Michelle Scavnicky, Associate Executive Director, The AIDS Institute
- Ms. Kim Molnar, Director, Center for Convening and Planning, The AIDS Institute

Learning Objectives

- At the end of this session you will be able to:
 - Identify social networks of support, engagement, and trust among women of color living with HIV
 - Identify new models that expand supportive networks of women of color with HIV to include those not currently engaged in care.
 - Ensure women are regularly engaged in healthcare while creating stronger community leadership among women of color with HIV.
 - Expand networks of women of color living with HIV to include those not currently engaged in care.

WIN supports community-based organizations and leaders conducting innovative approaches that breakdown isolation and stigma for women of color living with HIV across the gender spectrum.

Funding for WIN provided by ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action for Women's Initiative

The WIN initiative is dedicated to

- Reducing isolation and stigma often experienced by women of color with HIV.
- Improving health outcomes through expanding and strengthening organizational networks that support women's health.
- Increasing the engagement of women of color across the HIV prevention and care continuum.
- Designing innovative strategies of engagement of women of color with HIV.

Elements of this innovative model

- Enhances opportunities to develop networks of support focused on the needs of women living with HIV.
- Leverages existing women-focused resources to engage women who are disconnected from healthcare and supportive care systems.
- Develops leadership among women to address typical barriers that women of color with HIV face in order to access quality care and supportive service delivery systems.

WIN Micro Grantees-FY 2020

- Chicago Women's AIDS Project-Chicago, IL
- Christie's Place-San Diego, CA
- Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies-New Orleans, LA
- Legacy Counseling Center-Dallas, TX
- Let's Beehive!-Orlando, FL
- LoveMeUnlimited4life-Jackson, MS
- Midland Cares-Oakland Park, FL
- Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services-Columbia, SC
- Positive Efforts-Houston, TX
- Radiant Health Centers-Irvine, CA
- Transfusion-Dallas, TX
- UNIFIED-HIV Health and Beyond-Detroit, MI
- Unspoken Treasure Society-Brooker, FL

Further Discussion

- Innovation and adaptability
- The impact of COVID-19 on WIN funded recipients
- Project highlights

PALSS

PALMETTO AIDS LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES

Mission

Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services (PALSS) was formed in 1985 to help South Carolinians fight the war against AIDS. PALSS offers FREE services to people who have been diagnosed with or at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and they also work with their loved ones.

Service Area

- PALSS' service area is centered in Richland County, which has one of the highest rates of HIV in the state.
- Approximately 85% of clients served by PALSS live at or below the federal poverty level, with 99% living below 300% of federal poverty level.
- The agency's client population is approximately 90% African-American, 9% Caucasian, 42% male, and 58% female.

Innovation

- To produce **The Red Chair Diaries (TRCD)** using a therapeutic storytelling intervention that will chronicle the personal experiences of cis and trans gender women of color living with HIV.
- TRCD works closely with program participants through proven interventions such as
 - Behavioral health specialist and a storytelling consultant
 - The use of expressive therapy
 - Role play, individual and small group discussion and storytelling

Innovation-Project Goals

- To increase recognition of internalized stigma among cis and trans gender women of color living with HIV.
- To decrease internalized stigma among cis and trans gender women of color living with HIV.
- To decrease external community stigma against cis and trans women of color living with HIV.

PALSS Adaptability

- Shifted all activities to a video conferencing platform (Zoom, Webex, etc.).
- Will use video conferencing for meetings to develop assessment and other intervention tools.
- They will use video chats for individual assessments, interviews and to interact with participants during individual and group meetings.

PALSS Adaptability

- The biggest challenges they are facing is to make sure each participant has the technology needed, as well as a safe space to participate in each session.

Project Highlights to Date

- Developed tool to be used for consent
- Developed assessment tools to assess the mental and emotional readiness of the participant.
 - Brief Trauma Questionnaire
 - Stigma Scale for Chronic Illness (adapted for HIV)
 - HIV Self-management behavioral scale
 - Brief Coping Scale

Project Highlights to Date

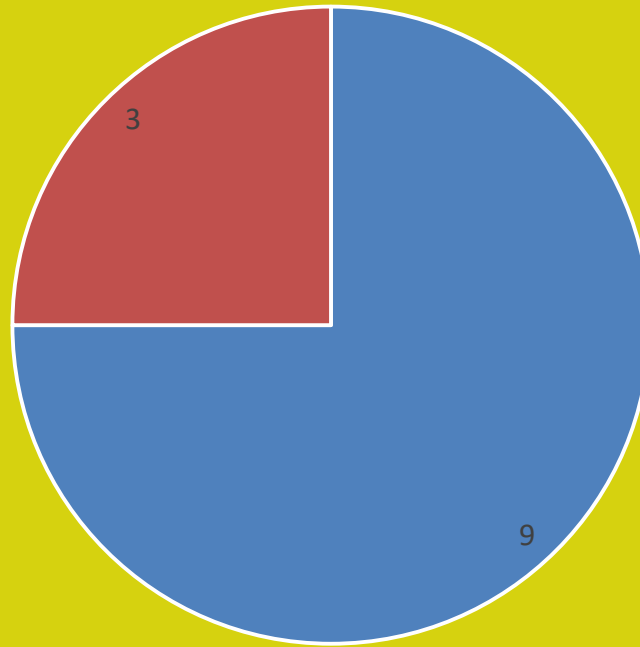
- Quality of Life (Medical Outcomes study health status questionnaire for HIV)
- Self-efficacy in Telling One's Story/Disclosure
- Attitudes about Women Living with HIV
- Attitudes about Transgender Women

Project Phases

- Recruited 12 participants
- Setting up virtual technology for the program utilizing Zoom and Team meetings.
- Screening participants for mental and emotional readiness utilizing our behavior health specialist who is conducting interviews with each participant.
- Intervention

Project Reach by Race/Ethnicity

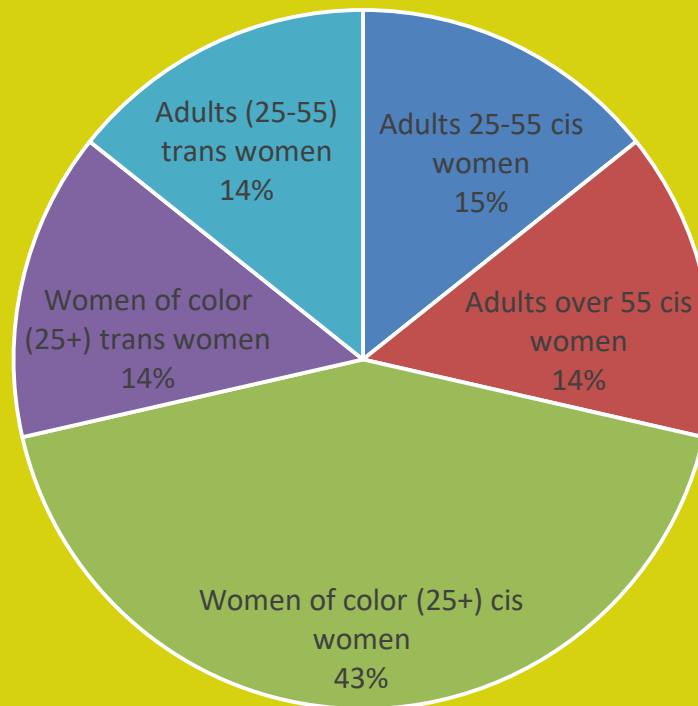
Race/Ethnicity of Participants



■ Black/African American ■ Caucasian/White

Project Reach by Age/Gender

Age and Gender of Participants





Unspoken **TREASURE SOCIETY®**

"Where every trans voice is heard"

Mission

To rally and provide resources on job placement and equality, affordable and fair housing, safe sex education, and HIV awareness through counseling, suicide prevention, and advocating for victims of domestic abuse in efforts to help STOP the violence against transgender men and women.

Areas Served

Based in Brooker, Florida, UTS members are trans people of color and allies in various locations around north central Florida and Georgia. Current locations include:

- Atlanta, GA
- Gainesville, FL
- Jacksonville, FL
- Ocala, FL

Innovation

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, Unspoken Treasure Society (UTS) was fully engaged in serving the trans communities in the geographical locations listed with support groups, guest lectures to partner agencies, social events, and social and print media.

Original Proposed Activities

- Use of social events like drag shows and support groups to engage trans women of color living with HIV.
- Partner with likeminded organizations to provide prevention and sexual health education through social events and introduce these topics in support groups.
 - TranQuility (www.fltranq.com); A Vision 4 Hope (<https://www.avision4hope.org>); Pride Community Center of North Central Florida (gainesvillepride.org); Panglossian Pride; Rise Up Initiative; Faith, Inc., and Divas of Dialogue

Original Proposed Activities Cont.

- Use of print and social media to summarize key educational points after events, furthering the organization's reach.

Impact of COVID-19

- Unspoken Treasure Society has revised its work plan to consist of virtual learning groups, social media campaigns, and telehealth for mental health services to continue community engagement “virtually” until further notice or mandated by government officials.
- Unspoken Treasure Society has partnered with providers to offer telehealth services to their clients via online platforms with HIPAA compliance.

Adaptability

- UTS will continue to implement a robust media campaign utilizing digital and print platforms that will educate at risk communities about the benefits of utilizing protection, accessing nPEP/PrEP, stigma and prejudice
- UTS will measure the project's effectiveness through the number of likes they receive on social media post, the number of newsletters sent via email, and the number of individuals participating in webinars, and virtual support group meetings

Project Highlights to Date

- 9 conference calls/webinars via Zoom. Information was disseminated on the topics of safety and self-preservation, surviving COVID, racism/Black Trans Lives Matter, transgender and LGBT issues, myths on HIV, nPep and PrEP, and preventative measures of HIV.
- UTS is currently preparing to initiate HIV testing and screening on an appointment basis in the Gainesville, FL and the Atlanta, GA chapters. Linkage to care services are also being provided in Jacksonville, FL.



PANDEMIC VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

SURVIVING COVID-19

JUNE 12
2020



6PM - 8:30PM

zoom



Hosting Panel:

Zakia Jemareye: Executive Director - Nations Foundation
Tori Cooper: Director of Community Engagement - (HRC)
Dewayne Crowder: Executive Director - A Vision 4 Hope
Kayla Fien: Vice President - Unspoken Treasure Society Inc.
Alejandro Santiago: CEO - I Am Human & Vice Chair (ITSL)
Natalia Dupree: Founder - Unspoken Treasure Society Inc.
Queen Tanika Hatcher: Activist/Advocate/Wife
Tatiana Braxton: Executive Director for TransInclusive

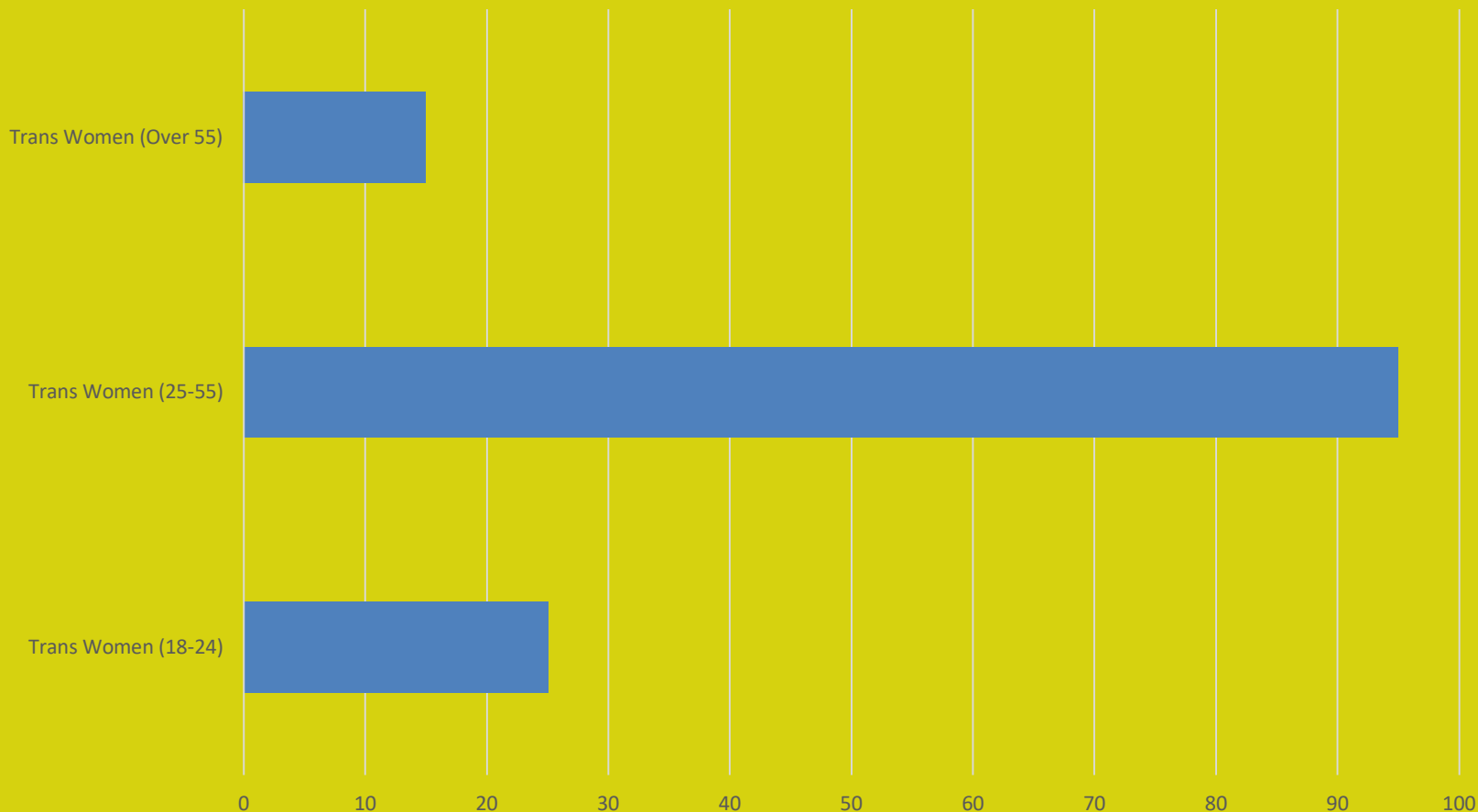
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE TOPICS:

1. After effects of Covid-19
2. Coronavirus & HIV
3. New Purpose & Focus
4. How is the new virtual world making an impact on our communities

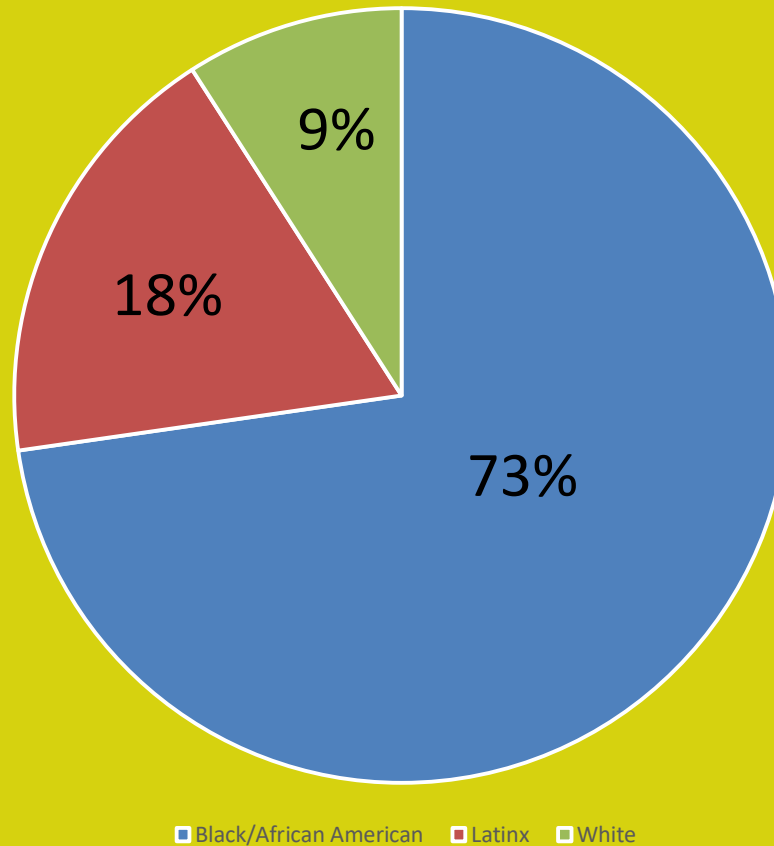
904-769-1265

www.unspokensociety.org

Project Reach by Age



Project Reach by Race/Ethnicity



Summary

- WIN innovative models designed to
 - Expand supportive networks of women of color with HIV to reduce isolation and stigma.
 - Engage women of color with HIV to address barriers to care.
 - Develop leadership among women of color with HIV to ensure engagement and retention in quality care and supportive services.

Contact Information

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For more information about the [WIN Micro Grantee Program](#), visit:

<http://www.theaidsinstitute.org/capacity-building/cba-program/aids-institutes-women-informing-now-win-micro-grant-funding-opportunit>

Q & A

