

The Importance of Collaboration to End the Epidemic



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Introduction

Avenue 360 Health & Wellness

- Project Lead - FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center)
- Started as an AIDS Serving Organization (ASO)
- Provides Medical/BH/CM/ Dental/Housing Services/Hospice/Pediatrics and Day Activity Center

AIDS Foundation Houston

- ASO – Direct Care Partner
- Provides Support Services (food, income, legal assistance, and wrap around service).

U of H Graduate College of Social Work

- Prepares leaders in practice/ research to address challenges and achieve social, racial, economic, and political justice
- Evaluator for Project



Results

- Developed an effective and sustainable **referral process** amongst *4 healthcare centers* and an *ASO* via **MOUs** to provide coordination of resources and employment services to patient PLWH/A
 - Arrange **direct access** to client's case manager by other agencies
 - Provide **access to Electronic Health Records System/Data** for Data Specialist to extrapolate necessary information
- Project will be **sustained** by commitment from agencies participating. Thus making the continuum of care in the Houston EMA more coordinated

Background

- 25,831 people are living with HIV in Houston EMA ,with 56% being uninsured and 66% living in poverty (AIDSvu).
- The HIV epidemic has disproportionately impacted minority communities within the Houston EMA with 49%-African Americans, 28%-Hispanics/Latinx, and 17%-White
- 75% of people living with HIV are men while 24% are women.
- Houston area men having sex with men account for about 60%, 30% heterosexual contact, with IDUs reporting 5%.

Activities

- Develop and Execute **Contractor/Subcontractor Contract and Business Associate Agreement**
- **Community Service Assessment** - both organizations along with university came together to determine what services were being offered, by whom and how effective were these organizations at coordinating care to ensure stable housing and meaningful employment. Also taken in to consideration, were the current services being offered at AFH and Avenue 360 to ensure that services were not duplicated and to assess the actual services being offered.

Challenges and Limitations

- Project is currently ongoing – No Cost Extension requested
- Project took longer then anticipated to take off due to contractual obligations
- Turnover of key staff – common in non profit organizations
- Obtaining medical records – no city wide integrated health care system
- COVID19 – no longer able to conduct face to face interviews

Lessons Learned

