

# Equip+Edify+Engage: Black Faith Leaders Lighting the Way Toward the End of the HIV Epidemic

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Collaborative Research

20  
22

NATIONAL  
**RYAN WHITE**  
CONFERENCE  
ON HIV CARE & TREATMENT

# Objectives

During this presentation, participants will:

- Learn how we identified the need to engage Black faith leaders in our efforts to end the local HIV epidemic.
- Explore the conversations we had with these leaders, and the outcome of the engagement.
- Understand the process that was used to facilitate dialog and action-planning.
- Get excited about implementing a similar initiative!

# Defining the Initiative

- Overview of the New Haven/Fairfield jurisdiction
- Part A programmatic focus
- What prompted wanting faith leader engagement (personal and professional)
- Engaging community and organizational support, involvement of other HIV programs
- Use of carryover funding from EHE planning to support the work

**Goal:** Integration of Faith-led efforts into Ryan White Part A service delivery

# EHE Planning: Faith Input



# Black Faith Students Discussion

ENDING HIV in CT  
COMMUNITY MEETING  
05.07.21

HOW has the FAITH  
COMMUNITY in CONNECTICUT  
RESPONDED to the HIV  
EPIDEMIC?

DEMISTIFY  
★ &  
DESTIGMATIZE

HOW to SEEK and  
RECEIVE HELP

ESTABLISH  
PRACTICES  
that HELP  
ALL not SOME

HOW do WE  
INCORPORATE  
PEOPLE?

EDUCATE CHURCH  
and COMMUNITY  
on HIV

DISCUSS PREVENTION  
and CREATE a STRONG  
PLATFORM

CHURCHES and  
FAITH LEADERS  
in PARTNERSHIP  
with the COMMUNITY  
to BRING RESOURCES

HOW CAN WE  
SUPPORT AWARENESS  
and ADVOCATE?

HAVE the  
CONVERSATION  
WITH YOUR  
COMMUNITY

WE RECOGNIZE HIV IS  
NOT ONLY a SOCIAL JUSTICE  
PROBLEM it is PART of  
A LARGER ISSUE

WHAT IS THE  
POWER of the  
BLACK CHURCH?

CREATE A SAFE SPACE  
to TALK ABOUT SEXUAL  
EXPRESSION

to TALK ABOUT  
HIV WE NEED  
to TALK ABOUT  
SEX and SEXUALITY

SEX CAN BE FOR  
INTIMACY AND  
RECREATION NOT JUST  
PROCREATION

LIFT UP  
IN LOVE and  
COMPASSION

BE OPEN  
to RECEIVING  
COUNSEL

USE  
SCIENCE  
SUPPORTED  
STATISTICS  
TO LEARN and  
EDUCATE  
OTHERS

INIT TO  
**END IT**  
OUR PLAN TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

# Engaging Faith Leaders

- Overview of existing local faith response to HIV
- Bringing Black faith leaders to the table: Successes and challenges
- How the sessions informed what we are working on now
- Personal experience taking part in this initiative

# Discussions

### IN IT TO END IT MEETING WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN PASTORS & CLERGY GOAL

OUR PLAN TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

BRIDGE THE DIVIDE BETWEEN SECULAR & SACRED TO ELIMINATE HIV

**BAI THE BLACK AIDS INSTITUTE**

GOOD NEWS: 42% DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION  
42% LOW CARE RETENTION  
15% HOMELESSNESS  
15% RACISM POVERTY SHAME STIGMA

ADDRESSING HIV BEFORE THE BAR

**The BAI Response**

1. DISMANTLE UNDERMINING SYSTEMS
2. ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS
3. ENSURE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
4. BUILD CAPACITY & MOTIVATION

STIGMA & BARRIERS  
ANTI-BLACK LAWS & POLICY  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT IT  
ADVOCACY → ACTION  
PUBLIC SUPPORT

EVERYDAY ACTIVISM INDIVIDUAL & INFORMAL

WHAT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HAS WORKED... NOT WORKED

IDEAL MY RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITY SHOULD FEEL...

IMPACTFUL CONNECTION & RESULT  
EMPOWERED CREATIVE  
INCLUSIVE & UNDERSTANDING  
LOVING & TRANSPARENT  
POWERFUL & EFFECTIVE  
RESPECTFUL & PASSIONATE

WHO'S MISSING?  
MID-SIZE & LARGE CHURCHES  
FUND THE WILLING  
STOP FUNDING THE CONVERSATION... INVEST IN THE WORK

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? NEXT STEPS

SENIOR CLERGY CLOSED CONVOS  
MIXED COMPANY  
CROSS FAITH COALITION  
CHRISTIAN MUSLIM HEBREW ISRAELITES

IT LOOKS LIKE RESOURCES & PUBLIC HEALTH AMBASSADORS

CLARITY OF THE ASK  
WHAT'S THE EXPECTATION?  
SHARE THE PLAN

END MEASUREMENT MINUTIAE  
WHITE CULTURE TENDS TO BE EXCLUSIVELY QUANTITATIVE.

KEEP THE MICRO-SCOPE  
BLACK PEOPLE ARE SPIRITUAL & RELATIONAL... "QUALITATIVE"

9-29-2021

### IN IT TO END IT

OUR PLAN TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

1<sup>ST</sup> TIME IN 30YRS RYAN WHITE CAN USE FUNDS TO ENGAGE & SUPPORT EFFORTS IN THE BLACK CHURCH

### PRAYING IN:

CANNOT HAVE SEGREGATION WITHIN CHURCH ONE KINGDOM OF GOD

GOD WE KNOW IT IS YOUR WILL FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO LIVE WELL & BE DISEASE FREE WE WELCOME YOUR PRESENCE

### HEALTH ABING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

HEALTH MINISTRY INCLUDING OF HIV  
GATHERING CLERGY HEALTH COLLECTIVE  
3 JOHN 1:2 HEALTH

PHYSICAL MENTAL SPIRITUAL SEXUAL FINANCIAL EMOTIONAL GOALS  
BIO MEDICAL DISMANTLE INVEST ENSURE BUILD  
AWARENESS EVENTS FACE THE PUMP  
EDUCATION LINKAGE TO CARE RESOURCE PARTNERSHIPS

ALREADY DOING SOMETHING  
WHAT ELSE IF NOTHING ELSE  
PRAY START YOUR OWN SS

### THE GOSPEL OF HEALING

HPTN OGI STUDY  
RELIGION REDUCES RISK FOR BLACK MEN  
SAFE SPACE  
MAKE IT HAPPEN  
HIV EDUCATION  
HIV WORKFORCE  
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

LOVE & SUPPORT TESTING  
SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMS  
CLINIC SERVICES  
PARTNER WITH NP STUDENT PROGRAMS

FUNDING  
LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL GRANT WRITING  
ABOUT HOW YOU TELL THE STORY

### HOW DOES STRUCTURE AFFECT FUNDING?

ANY START-UP CAPITAL GRANTS  
SEPARATE 501 C3 WITH MDA/MOU FOR PARTNERSHIP  
WE MUST BE WILLING TO RAISE OUR HAND TO THIS CONVO

WE THE PEOPLE \* BUILD SHOULD BE #1 START WITH IN-REACH "PUT THE MAN ON THE HORSE" \* NOT A HIEARCHY  
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN OUR PEOPLE OUR PROBLEM OUR SOLUTION  
CAPACITY IS THE ENVELOPE

LESS PEOPLE AT CHURCH... MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE  
FEDERAL ACTION PLAN THE FOUR ARE A FULL FRONT ATTACK  
HERE NOW

### BUILD FROM OUR ASSETS

ADDRESSING 3DOH MEANS WE ALREADY HAVE CAPACITY  
HIV IS OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF MOST "BENEVOLENCE FUNDS"  
CAPACITY IS AN ISSUE... PASTORS HAVE SAID THIS!! LISTEN

WE MUST BE WILLING & HAVE THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT  
FUNDING IS AVAILABLE  
NEED GUIDANCE ON GRANT WRITING & STRUCTURING  
FIND ADVOCACY  
NOT ALWAYS MORE \$ MORE \$ BETTER MANAGEMENT

PASTOR TO PASTOR CONVERSATIONS  
PASTORS' PLATES ARE FULL  
CHURCHES STRUGGLING  
STIGMA IS A BARRIER  
"ORGANIZATIONAL MASTURBATION" GETTING OFF BUT NOT PRODUCING  
ACCOUNTABILITY IS IMPORTANT

### MAKE THIS MOVEMENT A HUMAN ISSUE... WHILE HUMANIZING BLACK FOLK

REAP ALL & LET THE GREAT HARVESTER SORT IT ALL OUT  
"PEOPLE WON'T STOP SCREWIN' & USING"

SKEPTICAL ABOUT INVESTMENTS WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVE & AGENDAS  
CAN'T TELL US HOW TO BIBLE STUDY

THE HOUSE IS ON FIRE  
NEVER-MIND WHO SET IT HOW LONG ITS BEEN BURNING LET'S PUT THAT FIRE OUT!

HOW DO WE GET GUIDANCE TO MINISTRIES THAT WANT TO HELP & BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE

### PASTOR TO PASTOR

THERE IS A PRECEDENT & EXISTING RESOURCE  
THE MINISTERIAL HEALTH FELLOWSHIP  
HELP CHURCHES BUILD CAPACITY & ACT AS FIDUCIARY AGENT  
WE CAN ADVOCATE TO HEALTH MINISTRY TO ENCOMPASS HIV

ACCOUNTABILITY IS BUILT IN  
HERE TWO DOLLARS WHERE'S THAT MONEY  
HAVE TO COMBAT STIGMA  
CULTURALLY ACCOUNTABILITY, TOO  
PEER PRESSURE  
NO LUXURY TO OPT OUT  
THIS EFFECTS US ALL TOO GREATLY  
MARK 4  
DODD SEED IN FERTILE SOIL  
THANK YOU FOR OUR HEART

# 1st Faith Leaders Meeting

**IN IT TO END IT** MEETING WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN PASTORS & CLERGY **GOAL** BRIDGE THE DIVIDE between SECULAR & SACRED TO ELIMINATE HIV

**BAI The BLACK AIDS INSTITUTE** ADDRESSING THE BAR BEFORE THE BAR

**GOOD NEWS** DRUGS ARE AWESOME... PEOPLE ARE LIVING

**NOT GOOD NEWS** DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION 42% LOW CARE 13% RETENTION

**RACISM POVERTY SHAME STIGMA** HOMEOPHOBIA LESS CLASSNESS ISM

**The BAI Response**

1. DISMANTLE UNDERMINING SYSTEMS
2. ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS
3. ENSURE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
4. BUILD CAPACITY & MOTIVATION "END THE BENEVOLENT INVASION!"

STIGMA & BARRIERS  
ANTI-BLACK LAWS & POLICY  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

AS A HUMAN RIGHT!

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT IT

ADVOCACY → ACTION

EVERYDAY ACTIVISM INDIVIDUAL & INFORMAL

WHAT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HAS WORKED... NOT WORKED

ALLOW COMMUNITY TO SELF ORGANIZE & EXECUTE

ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH

FRAGMENTING COMMUNITY I.E. THIS IS FOR YOUNG MSM BASKET WEAVERS

MORE SUPPORT & RESOURCES

INCORPORATE (REQUIRE) THE VOICE OF THOSE LIVING w/ HIV

NEED A GENERAL HUMAN HEALTH APPROACH

RELATIONSHIPS SPACE TO CONVERSE, CO-INFLUENCE & CO-INFLUENCE

RECOGNIZE THE DIVERSITY of the BLACK CHURCH

IDEAL MY RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITY SHOULD FEEL...

IMPACTFUL CONNECTION & RESULT

EMPOWERED CREATIVE

EQUITABLE

LOWING & TRANSPARENT

POWERFUL & EFFECTIVE

INCLUSIVE & UNDERSTANDING

RESPECTFUL & PASSIONATE

MEET FACE TO FACE

SHARE STRATEGIES TO ADAPT & ADOPT

**WHO'S MISSING?** MID-SIZE & LARGE CHURCHES

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? NEXT STEPS**

SENIOR CLERGY CLOSED CONVOS → MIXED COMPANY & PUBLIC HEALTH AMBASSADORS

CROSS FAITH COALITION

CHRISTIAN MUSLIM HEBREW-ISRAELITES

FUND THE WILLING THIS CONVERSATION HAS BEEN HAD OVER & OVER AGAIN

IT LOOKS LIKE RESOURCES

CLARITY OF THE ASK

WHAT'S THE EXPECTATION?

SHARE THE PLAN

STOP FUNDING THE CONVERSATION... INVEST IN THE WORK

SHOW ME THE MONEY

KEEP THE MICROSCOPE

END MEASUREMENT MINUTIAE WHITE CULTURE TENDS TO BE EXCLUSIVELY QUANTITATIVE.

BLACK PEOPLE ARE SPIRITUAL & RELATIONAL... "QUALITATIVE"

"LET'S BREAK IT DOWN ONE MORE TIME"

NO... IT'S ALREADY BROKE!

9-29-2021



# IN IT TO END IT

OUR PLAN TO END THE HIV EPIDEMIC

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 & SUPPORT EFFORTS in  
 the **BLACK CHURCH**

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 SPIRITUAL SEXUAL  
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AGING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS  
 ALREADY DOING SOMETHING  
 WHAT ELSE  
 IF NOTHING ELSE

GOALS  
 BIOMEDICAL  
 DISMANTLE INVEST ENSURE BUILD  
 AWARENESS EVENTS  
 ROCK THE RED PUMP

EDUCATION  
 LINKAGE TO CARE  
 RESOURCE PARTNERSHIPS

START YOUR OWN SS

### THE GOSPEL OF HEALING

HPTN 061 STUDY  
 RELIGION REDUCES RISK FOR BLACK MEN  
 SAFE SPACE

LOVE & SUPPORT TESTING  
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MAKE IT HAPPEN  
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 IT ENCOMPASSES ALL THE COMPONENTS

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 HAVE TO COMBAT STIGMA  
 HOW DO WE GET COMM HEALTH WORKERS?  
 REACH OUT TO LOCAL AGENCIES  
 THANK YOU FOR OUR HEART

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 \*NO LUXURY TO OPT OUT  
 THIS EFFECTS US ALL TOO GREATLY  
 MARK 4  
 GOOD SEED IN FERTILE SOIL

INVITE TO SPEAK  
 REV. ROBYN RESOURCE PACKAGES

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Faith Leaders Meeting

# Community: Faith's Role in EHE Work

- How has Christ positioned the church to take care of god's people?
- Be willing to speak and listen in Faith conversations between LGBTQ+ and heterosexuals—God won't strike you dead for doing this!
- Include faith leaders in harm and stigma reduction
- Educate our churches
- Provide grant money to churches to allow educational programming within their doors
- End fear tactics (“Jesus don’t like that,” “This only happens to people who are wrong in specific ways”)

# Convening Faith Leaders: The Plan

- Identification of existing leaders in the faith community, and students preparing for role in the faith community
- One meeting for five months, 2-hour virtual session, same people at all
- Black AIDS Institute contracted to facilitate discussions
- First three meetings: 1-hour presentation on faith and HIV, followed by discussion (historic engagement, innovations, visioning the future)
- Remaining two meetings to be planning sessions, open to the public

**GOAL:** 1-Year strategic plan to discuss HIV (pulpit and community)

# Convening Faith Leaders: The Reality

- Intentional sabotage, and varied participation each meeting
- Students/new leaders had less HIV knowledge than existing faith leaders, needed to be ramped up
- Excellent engagement of the people who participated! Moving, thoughtful dialog, passion, and commitment
- New people at the HIV table!

**RESULT:** 3-month strategic plan to conduct peer-to-peer connections to recruit additional participants

# The Plan to Move Forward

- Establish more meetings with community faith leaders
- Identify the priority level and consistent commitment of planning the group can commit to
- Promote the initiative to the greater community
- Develop a budget for the initiative
- Identify the policies that need to change to make this work happen

*Continued*

# The Plan to Move Forward *continued*

- Secure technical assistance for grant seeking
- Connect coalition members to people and financial resources
- Facilitate a meeting to connect faith leaders to agencies/organizations
- Facilitate an in-person meeting for faith leader peer-to-peer interaction
- Identifying the policies that need to change to make this work happen

# Contact Us

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