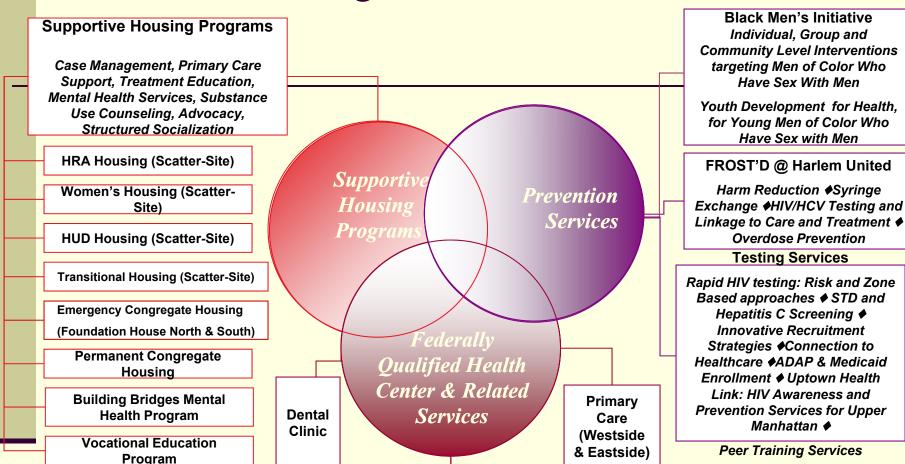
## Harlem United's Maintenance in Care Program "Breaking Down Barriers to Care"

Jacqueline Nieves-De La Paz, Ph.D., C.A.S.A.C.

August 2010

## Integrated Care Model



#### Adult Day Health Center West

Medical Care,
Adherence Support,
Nutrition Counseling,
Substance Use
Counseling,
Structured
Socialization,
Pastoral Care.

## Adult Day Health Center East

Fully Bilingual
(Spanish/English) Case
Management, Treatment
Education, Support Groups,
Harm Reduction Counseling,
Auricular Acupuncture,

Brimary Cara Support

### Healthcare for the Homeless

Healthcare & related services for the homeless in Central & East Harlem

#### COBRA Case Management

Assessment, Intensive Case Management, Advocacy,

Crisis Intervention

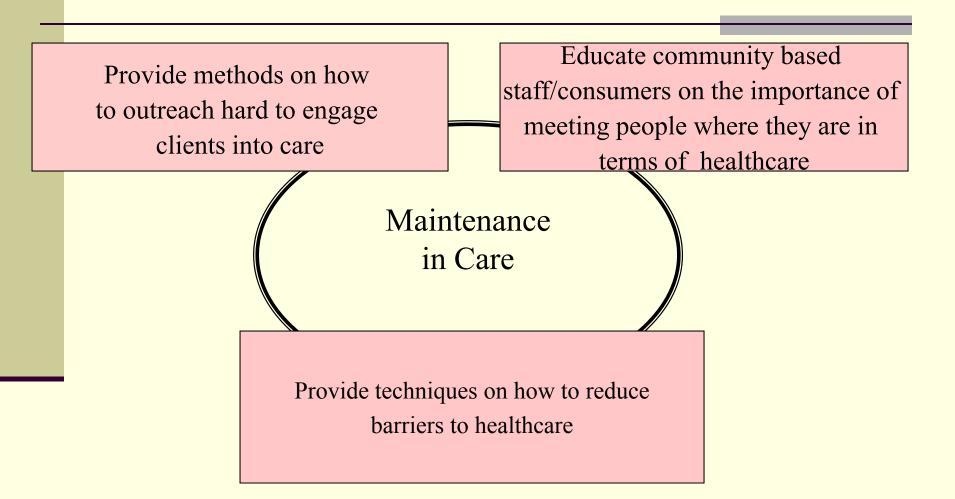
#### Evening Food & Nutrition

Nutritional
Assessment and
Support, Treatment
Education,
Psycho-Social
Support

#### Mental Health Services

Crisis Intervention,
Individual and Group
Psychotherapy,
Medication
Management,
Expressive Therapies

### Learning Objectives



## Program Goal & Objectives

Goal: Reduce HIV-related morbidity by assisting PLWHA out of care or with sporadic care to access and engage in HIV medical services and specialty care. Connect or re-connect individuals to HIV primary care provider within 60 days of enrollment

For clients who could not be connected to care within 90 days of enrollment, connection with supportive services (e.g. substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and housing)

Maintain client engagement (i.e., minimum of 3 visits per 14 months) with HIV primary care provider and/or medical specialty care

## Who is Eligible

## Return to Care:

 Persons lost to follow-up (out of care) for 9 months or longer or with a pattern of sporadic primary care attendance (fewer than 3 primary care visits in a 14 month period).

## Maintenance in Care:

 Persons at risk of dropping out of primary medical care due to adverse circumstances such as loss of benefits, homelessness or imminent homelessness; or co-morbidities such as an acute mental health episode or severe mental illness, or active drug use.

## Program Services

- Medical driven case finding
- Outreach
- Brief assessment of need
- Goal driven service plan, demonstrating need for enrollment
- Quarterly re-assessment and service plan update
- Accompaniment and other strategies for getting patients to their scheduled appointments
- Information and education
- Referral for services which are necessary for engagement in primary care, and follow-up on referrals

## Selling Point to Other Agencies

An MOU between Harlem United and the referring agency will be developed, clearly stating that all clients will be retuned to the referring agency's primary care program. This will enable us to form partnership, so that we can work together to reduce health disparities and connect & re-connect hard to engage clients into care.

## How to Outreach Hard to Engage Clients into Care

Develop a Relationship

- Take time to listen to what they are saying
- Allow them to be themselves

Be Trustworthy

- Do not make promises you can not keep
- Do not miss your appointments-keep your word Integrity-Integrity-Integrity-Integrity

Acknowledge their fears

- Most times they receive bad news when going to their primary care provider
- There anxieties are real to them

## Techniques on Reducing Barriers to Healthcare

## Substance Users

- Learn what is their drug of choice and educate on harm
- Schedule appointments when you know they are sober

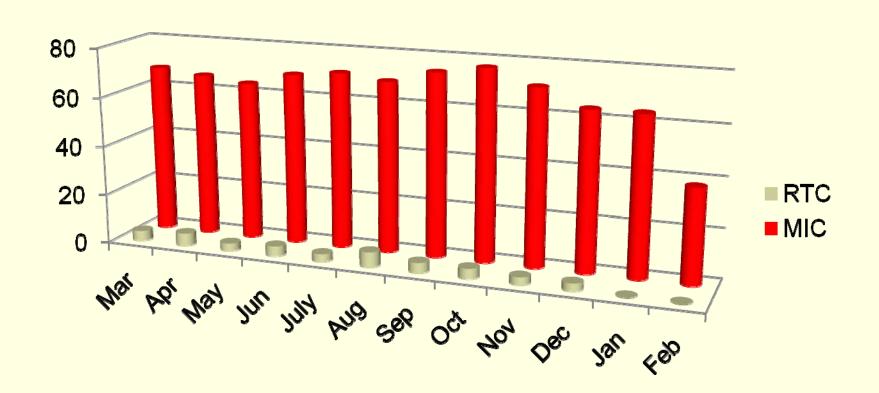
## **Children in the Family**

- Learn children school schedules
- Schedule appointment while children are in school

# HIV/AIDS Disclosure Issues

- Ensure that confidentiality is kept
- Honor identified ways of contact
- Do not force your values on your clients

## Contacts Made



## Group Activity

Kevin is a 32 year old male diagnosed with HIV five years ago. He contracted the virus via heterosexual contact. He has not returned to his primary care provider for two years because every time he attended his appointment his CD4 levels were reducing. He knows he should receive primary care but is afraid of what his doctor will tell him.

What techniques will you employ to address this issue?

How will you deal with Kevin if he tells you he drinks all night long but wants to go to the doctor?

How would establish a relationship with Kevin?

## Questions

Jacqueline Nieves-De La Paz, Ph.D., CASAC
179 East 116<sup>th</sup> Street
New York, NY 10029
212-987-3707 ext. 2010
jndelapaz@harlemunited.org