Sexual and Gender Minorities

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Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Greater Baltimore HIV Health Services Planning Council Meeting
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Mission and Vision

MISSION

- The mission of the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all Marylanders and their families through provision of public health leadership and through community-based public health efforts in partnership with local health departments, providers, community based organizations, and public and private sector agencies, giving special attention to at-risk and vulnerable populations.

VISION

- The Prevention and Health Promotion Administration envisions a future in which all Marylanders and their families enjoy optimal health and well-being.
Guiding Principles

- “MSM” is a public health label
- Gay and transgender cultures change constantly
  - There is no one gay or trans community
  - Your race, language, ethnicity, age, class, ability, etc. are also important (often more important) parts of who you are
- Gay/Bi/Same Gender Loving men and Transgender People are full and equal
- Direction from target populations is required in planning for authentic and effective solutions
Gay/Bi/SGL Plan

Combating the HIV Epidemic Among Same Gender Loving Men in Maryland

HIV Prevention Among Men Who Have Sex with Men
Unmet Needs

- Structural Interventions
  - Housing, Mental Health, Medical Care, and Support services for homeless sexual minority and gender minority youth
  - Notify treatment providers about prevention services (e.g., MGroups, RISE, Project Re_), and support groups (Jacques, LIGHT H&W)
Unmet Needs

- Structural Interventions
  - Leverage ongoing Planning Council data collection opportunities (e.g., Consumer Survey / needs assessment) to build data sets about transgender community:
    - 1) What sex were you assigned at birth?
    - 2) What is your current gender?
      - Male, Female, Transgender MTF, Transgender FTM, Transgender, ____________________
Unmet Needs

- Structural Interventions
  - Provide guidance in funding documents to promote trauma-informed behavioral health services for SGL men and transgender persons
Unmet Needs

- Behavioral Interventions
  - Providers of services to PLWH/A can inform clients about HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for their HIV-negative partners
  - Target interventions and supportive services to MSM and transgender persons involved in commercial sex work
Community Building

- Planning Council can inform clients about community mobilization opportunities such as the Gay/Bi/SGL Response Team, Transgender Response Team
- Jean-Michel Brevelle is our point of contact for both Response Teams (410) 767-5016
  Jean-Michel.Brevelle@Maryland.gov
Statewide Programs

- HIV Testing and Linkages
- STI/HIV Partner Services
- Ryan White CARE Services for persons living with HIV
  - Case Management
  - MADAP
  - MADAP Plus
- Condom Distribution
Maryland Adult/Adolescent HIV Diagnosis Trends by Exposure Category

Using data as reported through 12/31/2014
Maryland Adult/Adolescent MSM HIV Diagnosis Trends by Race/Ethnicity

Using data as reported through 12/31/2014
Maryland Adult/Adolescent MSM HIV Diagnosis Trends by Age at Diagnosis

Using data as reported through 12/31/2014
Maryland Adult/Adolescent Living HIV Cases by Gender, 12/31/13

Total N = 30,255

Confirmled Transgender = 127

Male, 19,523, 65%

Female, 10,605, 35%

Male to Female, 110, 0.4%

Female to Male, 17, 0.06%

Using data as reported through 12/31/2014
Estimated number and percentage of HIV infected adults/adolescents engaged in selected stages of the continuum of care, Maryland 2013

Using data as reported through 12/31/2014
CVL as a Measure of Risk
Estimated number and percentage of HIV infected adults/adolescents engaged in selected stages of the continuum of care, Maryland 2013

- HIV Infected
- HIV Diagnosed
- Linked to HIV Care
- Retained in HIV Care
- On ART
- Suppressed VL
CVL in a Lower Risk Pool
Estimated percentage of HIV infected adults/adolescents engaged in selected stages of the continuum of care, Maryland 2010-2013
Challenges to Realizing the Care Continuum

- Do people expect to live long enough for engagement in HIV treatment to be relevant?
- Do people believe they are worth the effort?
- Do people trust the systems available to help them?
- Do providers treat clients in ways that honor their culture and make them want to return for subsequent appointments?
RISE (Rewriting Inner Scripts) is a two-day small group retreat in which AAMSM:

- identify inner scripts and their origins
- recognize similarities between racism and homophobia
- recognize the impact of internalized oppression on perception of self and of other Same Gender Loving men
- explore the consequences of inner scripts on partner attraction/selection, and the patterns that characterize their relationships and risk behaviors
RISE Objectives

- Raise the consciousness of African-American men who have sex with men (AAMSM) about internalized oppression and its personal impact;
- Increase AAMSM utilization of MSM health programs including HIV prevention, HIV counseling and testing, HIV care, substance abuse and mental health services; and
- Reduce the transmission of HIV among AAMSM.
Transgender Action Group (TAG)

- TAG is a grassroots response to identify and address the health, legal, and housing needs of transgender men and women engaged in sex work in Baltimore City.

- Formed in October of 2012, TAG conducts street-based outreach twice a month. Volunteers and stipended sex workers from the community work together to distribute safer sex kits, provide legal services and HIV/STI testing, access to healthcare, and information about transgender-safe resources.
TAG Data for CY 2014

Clients returning to outreach center (church) are primarily seeking legal services (name change and/or gender marker change on ID, and criminal record expungement.

Paid Peer Outreach Workers are transgender persons hired from the target population and are either current or former sex workers.
Cultural Safety

- Your cultural safety and that of your clinic have already been evaluated by your MSM and Transgender clients
  - Peer-recommended
  - Waiting room cues—Gay Life, “Safe Space” sticker (GLSEN), posters
  - Inclusive language in intake assessments (e.g., partner, spouse) and in your own speech
  - Open-ended (e.g., “Tell me what brings you in today”) and direct questions
  - Non-reactivity in your responses
RESOURCES TO HELP PROVIDERS
Provider Resources

- Gay and Lesbian Medical Association “Guidelines for Care of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Clients”
  
  [http://glma.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/GLMA%20guidelines%202006%20FINAL.pdf](http://glma.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/GLMA%20guidelines%202006%20FINAL.pdf) on creating a welcoming environment, asking the right questions, asking questions the right way, and diseases to look for.
Provider Resources

- NASTAD and NCSD brochure *Providing Optimal Care for your MSM Patients*
  http://www.ncsddc.org/sites/default/files/provider_brochure2.pdf on successful dialogue and complete sexual screening of MSM as well as recommended vaccinations, PrEP, PEP, and HIV care
**Best Practices**

Project Health – UMB/STAR TRACK

- Technical Assistance plan for outreach, recruitment, and condom distribution to MSM
- Includes cultural competency training and ongoing T.A.
Provider Resources for Capacity Building

- **Training (PHPA, BHA, IHV, JHU AETC)**
  - Cultural competency with MSM and MSM of Color
  - Gender and Transgender Issues (Living Out Loud)
  - Suspending Sexual Judgment
  - Implementing tailored interventions (e.g., RISE, RAPP, etc.)
  - HIV PrEP
Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Resources

- CDC Capacity Building Assistance

- National AIDS Education Training Centers

- National Network of Prevention Training Centers
  [http://nnptc.org/](http://nnptc.org/)

- National organizations
  - e.g., Black AIDS Institute, National Minority AIDS Council

- National LGBT Health Education Center

- Your own resident experts and community partners
Best Practices

- **Center of Excellence for Transgender Health**, at University of California, San Francisco.

  [http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/](http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/)
RESOURCES TO HELP MSM AND TRANSGENDER CLIENTS
Resource for MSM Clients

- NASTAD and NCSD brochure for men only—*Your Sexual Health*
  [http://www.ncsddc.org/sites/default/files/patient_brochure2.pdf](http://www.ncsddc.org/sites/default/files/patient_brochure2.pdf) to arm him with talking points for his next visit to a primary care provider dealing more specifically and in more detail with sexual health
Resource for MSM Clients

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association
“Ten Things Gay Men Should Discuss with their Healthcare Provider”
http://www.glma.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/top%2010%20forGayMen.pdf to arm him with talking points for his next visit to a primary care provider
Resources for Trans Clients

- Transgender Action Group (resource links)  
  http://www.tagoutreach.net
- FreeState Legal Project (legal)  
  http://freestatelegal.org
- Homeless Persons Representation Project (housing)  
  http://www.hprplaw.org
- HealthCare for the Homeless (medical, hormones)  
  http://www.hchmd.org
- AIDS Action Baltimore (HIV prevention, support)  
  http://aidsactionbaltimore.org
Questions?
Contact Information

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