

Overcoming Obstacles to Meeting Clinical Benchmarks for Homeless HIV Positive Youth

HRSA All Grantees Meeting

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Larkin Street Youth Services



YOUTH SERVICES

Disclosures

- Lara Tannenbaum, MSW
Has no financial interest or relationships to disclose.
- HRSA Education Committee Disclosures
HRSA Education Committee staff have no financial interest or relationships to disclose.
- CME Staff Disclosures
Professional Education Services Group staff have no financial interest or relationships to disclose.

Larkin Street Youth Services

The mission of Larkin Street Youth Services is to create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the street. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all.

Goals of Health Services

- To improve health of HIV positive youth by providing care and keep youth connected to care (housing, support services, medical care)
- To find HIV positive youth/young adults and link them to care (HIV testing, outreach)
- To prevent new HIV infections among homeless/at risk youth (HIV Prevention Education)

Youth in Health Services

In 2009 we saw 75 individual clients -28 clients were newly referred to us

- Histories/life stories often involve abuse, homelessness, poverty, foster care
- Very ethnically diverse
- Majority (78%) are between the ages of 21-25
- Majority are male (85%) or transgender (8%)
- 80% identify as Gay, Bisexual, or Questioning
- All are behaviorally infected
- Majority are triple-diagnosed: HIV, mental health, substance use
- 26% have AIDS diagnosis/ 9% disabling HIV diagnosis

Agency Wide Youth Profile: Mental Health & Substance Use

Mental health issues at intake:

- 68% have been in counseling
- 48% have seen a psychiatrist
- 41% have been prescribed psychiatric medications
- 30% have been hospitalized for psychiatric reasons
- 54% of youth report having felt seriously depressed in the previous 30 days

Level of substance use is high:

- 82% have used drugs
- Average age of first drug use is 12
- 37% have used cocaine/crack
- 38% have used speed
- 78% have used pot in the last year
- 17% have injected drugs
- 53% have tried to stop using drugs
- 25% have been in substance use treatment

Services for HIV Positive Youth

- Housing
- Medical Care
- Assistance with health management
- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Intensive Case Management
- Milieu Support: Individual, Peer and Group Counseling
- Mental health and substance abuse support
- Access to Larkin Street's education and employment services
- Focus on Productive, Purposeful Activity

Clinical Benchmarks

- Connection to care (medical and social services)
- Quarterly labs/ contact w/ medical provider
- Starting medications when clinically indicated
- Annual TB test
- Annual dental visit
- Regular flu shot/ H1N1 shot
- Hep A/Hep B immunity
- Medication adherence

Keeping Youth Connected to Care

- Youth-centered continuum of care services model
- Multiple points of entry and re-entry
- Housing as an intervention
- Harm reduction principles
- Multi-service “one stop shopping”
- **Medical clinic on site**

Program Design Strategies

- Some clinical benchmarks as a requirement of being in the program
- Increased focus on incorporating clinical benchmarks into social work care plan
- Interdisciplinary Medical Team Meeting
- Participation as a NIH Adolescent Trials Network site
- Voluntarily hold medications on site for high risk clients
- Special Events to promote health

All Swine Buffet Party

Swine Time Celebration!!!!



Time: 3pm-6pm
Date: 11/12/09

Come get your Swine Flu (H1N1) shots and chow down on an all swine buffet!! MMMM, piggy, piggy, piggy!

Come One, Come All!!!

Oink!
Oink!
Oink!



Swine Time Menu



Date: 11/12/09
Time: 3:00pm

**It's tomorrow! Come one come all!
Get Your Swine Flu (H1N1) Shots Here!**

- Bacon Wrapped Roasted Pork Tenderloin
- Green Chili Slow Cooked Pork Leg & Tortillas
- Pork & Beans with Rice
- Chorizo Stuffing
- Crisp Romaine Salad with Warm Bacon Vinaigrette



***FYI: We will not be having our regular 5pm dinner!!

Documentation Strategies

- Expanded clinical flow sheets
- Quarterly medical linkage form
- Service Plans

Quarterly Medical Linkage Tracking Form

Date:

Quarter:

Client Name:

Primary Provider:

Saw primary provider in last quarter?

Saw any medical provider in last quarter?

Explain.

Had labs done in last quarter?

Date of last labs?

Lab results in chart?

Knows results of labs/general health?

Personnel Strategies

- RN focus with clients:
 - ◆ Medication education with clients *and* staff
 - ◆ Medication adherence
 - ◆ Independent medication management
 - ◆ Setting health goals
- Peer Advocate:
 - ◆ assess life skills/functionality on homevisits
 - ◆ Monitor medication adherence
 - ◆ Accompany clients to medical appointments

Challenges in Meeting Clinical Benchmarks

For Clients

- Fear of disclosing HIV status/ Dealing with stigma
- Inability to decrease substance use
- Failure to practice safer sex activities
- Unaddressed mental health issues
- Challenge of navigating multiple service delivery systems
- Developmental focus on present – not future thinking

For Staff

- High level of non medical, intense client needs
- Difficulty prioritizing non crisis health benchmarks
- Hard to engage clients; high numbers of clients with Axis II disorders
- Fear of needles among many clients
- Lack of access to dental care

Questions???

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