



**TransLife Care Project (TLC)
SPNS Transgender Women of Color**

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Chicago House
July 11, 2018**



Disclaimer

This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H97HA24965, SPNS Transgender Women of Color Initiative, awarded at \$1,500,000 over Five (5) years, with no percentage of non-governmental sources used to finance the project. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



Presentation Outline

- Overview and Introduction to TransLife Care
- Resource Capacity Requirements
- Implementation Successes and Challenges
- Lessons Learned
- Sustainability Concerns
- Take-Aways
- Resources



Overview

Chicago House and Social Service Agency

- Founded in 1985
- Mission: To serve individuals and families disenfranchised by HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ marginalization, poverty, homelessness, and/or gender non-conformity by providing:
 - housing
 - employment services
 - medical linkage and retention services
 - HIV prevention services
 - legal services
 - other supportive programs



Project Goals

TransLife Care (TLC)

1. Engage and Retain Transgender Women of Color living with HIV in gender affirming HIV medical care through the provision of essential support services
2. Increase medical and social service provider capacity for providing transgender affirming care by providing transgender cultural competency training



Services of the TransLife Care

- ***TransSafe*** – Drop-in space held weekly in community spaces
- ***TransHealth*** – Drop-in services available during TransSafe hours in partnership with local FQHC
- ***TransHousing*** – Linkage to housing resources
- ***TransLegal*** – Staff attorney providing assistance with name change, public benefits, discrimination cases
- ***TransWorks*** – Career specialist provides assistance with resumes, job leads, job readiness and coaching



Capacity and Resources

Target Population

- Transgender Women of Color living with HIV who are newly diagnosed or out of care

Staffing

- 1 Full-Time Program Director
- 1 Project Manager
- 4 part-time (1.25 FTE equivalent) Peer Resource Navigators/Outreach Workers

Additional Internal Staffing or External Partnership

- Medical Provider
- Housing Case Manager to assist with housing information and referrals
- Employment Specialist
- Legal Attorney
- Part-time TransSafe Coordinator (20 hours per week)
- HIV Coordinator Testing/Navigation/Linkage-to-Care Specialist



Intervention Components

- Outreach
- Connection to Services –
Legal, Housing, Health Care,
Employment, Safe Space
- Focus on Social
Determinants of Health
- Navigation to Essential
Support Services

TransSafe Drop-In

- Safe Space
- Housing
- Legal
- Medical
- Employment



Implementation Successes

- Trans specific
- Accessible and barrier free
- Stigma-free intervention eligibility criteria
- Bundling of services - “One Stop Shop”
- Collaboration
- Relationship and connection



Implementation Challenges

- Staff turn-over
- Accessible and adequate space
- Access to hormone therapy and trans affirming health care partners



Lessons Learned 1

Relationship, Relationship, Relationship

- Emphasis on trust & relationship building
- Patient, persistent, & consistent presence
- Meet the trans communities in their communities
- Client-centered, trauma-informed approach
- Stigma-free inclusive eligibility criteria
- Peer Services:
 - Balancing community membership and professionalism
 - Intentional Professional Development and Mentoring



Lessons Learned 2

Meaningful Services

- Client centered: resources most desired and requested
- Legal, housing, health care, employment, safe space
- Bundled services in a drop-in environment
- Accessible, no appointment needed, see actual provider
- Not focusing on HIV in order to address HIV



Lessons Learned 3

Integration with Community Partners

- As important as relationships with trans community members
- Collaborative approach – Win/Win
- Focus on services brought to the community served by partner rather than scopes
- Long term commitment to relationship with partners
- Outreach venues in underserved communities



Lessons Learned 4

Short-Term Intervention Favors Identification and Linkage over Retention

- Strong on identification and linkage; lack of focus on retention in care
- Participants feel “done” once successfully linked
- Safe space and community are a draw for some – others feel connected and safe once concrete needs are met



Program Sustainability

- **Successes**
 - Funding under CDC PS16-003 Evaluation of Homegrown Interventions for Transgender Persons
- **Challenges**
 - Does not fit seamlessly under traditional HIV prevention or care funding



Key Take-aways

- Trans specific
- Client-centered, trauma-informed approach
- Stigma-free Intervention Eligibility Criteria
- Bundling of meaningful services - “One Stop Shop”
- Collaboration
- Relationship, Relationship, Relationship



Resources

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