THE BUILDING LEADERS OF COLOR PROGRAM

Twenty one people living with HIV (PLWH) and members of the statewide Virginia Quality in Care Consumer Advisory Committee (VACAC) attended the VDH funded Building Leaders of Color (BLOC) program from January 21-24, 2020 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part B funds supported the training.

The BLOC program, facilitated by NMAC (formerly the National Minority AIDS Council), builds the capacity of consumers to engage in planning, implementation, and evaluation of HIV-related services at different levels of service delivery. This training uplifts and enhances the voices of those communities that are over represented in the number of new cases of HIV, but under-represented in current leadership and/or decision-making processes. The core components of the BLOC program are defining traits and characteristics of leaders, developing leadership skills in community-level advocacy, data analysis, and performance measurement – specifically pertaining to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) systems, planning councils, and other decision-making bodies. The participation of constituents ensures that persons of color who are living with HIV, and their allies, are actively supporting the planning and decision-making processes that affect the quality of life and health outcomes for persons of color living with HIV.

Within sixty days of completion of the three-day training, participants are requested to engage in Virginia's planning processes of local community groups serving PLWH, such as VACAC, Ryan White Planning Councils, Community HIV Planning Group, Prevention and Care Integrated Planning, Quality Management Advisory Committee and their subcommittees, Quality Improvement Teams and Consumer Advisory Boards.

IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF HIV DISEASE COURSE

This course is designed for clinicians who are actively involved in the medical care of people with HIV. It discusses the implications of new information on strategies for the clinical management of HIV prevention and treatment. Information will be presented through a mix of lectures and clinically relevant cases developed by an expert faculty of HIV/AIDS clinicians and researchers.

Continuing Medical Education, nursing, and pharmacy credits are available. American Board of Internal Medicine Maintenance of Certification points are also available.

Friday, May 8, 2020
National Press Club
529 14th St NW, 13th Floor
Washington, DC

Early Registration (by April 24, 2020) - $85
Preregistration (by May 1, 2020) - $105
On-site registration - $115
Fellow/student registration - $40

For more information, including registration, go to https://www.iasusa.org/events/2020-spring-dc/.
MAKING THE CASE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH: AN OP-ED TOOLKIT FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has launched a new resource to help health departments and other organizations highlight the impact of their work through op-eds. Op-eds are a valuable tool for communicating with the public and policymakers, and can be used to raise awareness, educate, and advocate.

The resource, Making the Case for Local Public Health: An Op-Ed Toolkit for Local Health Department HIV, STI, & Viral Hepatitis Programs, includes tips for getting started, a sample op-ed, and recommendations for tailoring messages based on local needs, trends, and priorities. For more information or to access the toolkit, visit here.

LIBERATING HEALTHCARE: SRH IN UNDOCUMENTED & SEX WORKER COMMUNITIES

Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health (NSRH) is launching a Rotations series. This series of regional events across the country are designed to engage and activate local providers, students and advocates ready to advance sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice in their communities. The first NSRH Rotation, Liberating Healthcare: SRH Care in Undocumented and Sex Worker Communities, is slated for Thursday, February 13, 2020 in Oakland, California. Using an interactive equity lens, community-based nurses and midwives will present best practices for providing care to communities often overlooked in healthcare. Register here!

RESOURCE ALLOCATION: GUIDELINES, EMERGING PRACTICES, AND INNOVATION WEBINAR

Ashley Yocum, HIV Services Planner, and Safere Diawara, Clinical Quality Management Coordinator, from HIV Care Services (HCS) presented on Virginia’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part B Program (RWHAP B) during the Resource Allocation: Guidelines, Emerging Practices, and Innovation webinar. This webinar was hosted by Integrated HIV/AIDS Planning Technical Assistance Center (IHAP TAC) and John Snow Incorporated (JSI). The webinar streamed nationally on January 28, 2020.

The main focus of the presentation was understanding guidelines and effective practices for resource allocation of RWHAP funds. There were approximately 150 attendees. Presenters from the IHAP TAC presented on key definitions and requirements for resource allocation, and effective resource allocation processes including tips, strategies, and resources.

Virginia HCS staff presented some processes for allocating RWHAP B funds with a focus on how to utilize subrecipient performance to assess and allocate funds, as well as the role that Ryan White Cross Parts funding plays in decision making for RWHAP B allocations and subrecipient awards. In addition to Virginia, the Philadelphia Office of HIV Planning presented on how they allocate Part A funds across their Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA).
The webinar can be viewed at https://targethiv.org/ihap/resource-allocation-guidelines-emerging-practices-and-innovation. If you have questions about this presentation, please contact Ashley Yocum at ashley.yocum@vdh.virginia.gov, or Safere Diawara at safere.diawara@vdh.virginia.gov.

STATUS NEUTRAL SERVICE NAVIGATION AWARDS

Twelve awards have been made for the Status Neutral Service Navigation (SNSN) grant program. The SNSN program is designed to provide high impact HIV prevention service navigation services for persons of unknown HIV status, persons who are HIV-negative, and persons who are living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Services will focus on populations disproportionately impacted by HIV to include transgender people, people of color, people who inject drugs (PWID), and men who have sex with men (MSM).

The awards are as follows:

- **Community In Development (CID)** in the Central region will implement outreach, referral to essential support services, navigation for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP), linkage to HIV care, condom distribution, the CLEAR intervention, and a group-level intervention and ministers’ training for faith leaders.
- **Council of Community Service (CCS)** in the Southwest region will implement outreach, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care, condom distribution, CLEAR, a transgender group workshop, and a Harm-Reduction Skills Building 101 group level intervention.
- **Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Services** in the Northwest region will implement outreach, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care and drug treatment, condom distribution and CLEAR.
- **Health Brigade** in the Central region will implement outreach, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care and drug treatment, condom distribution and CLEAR.
- The **International Black Women’s Congress** in the Eastern region will implement outreach, condom distribution, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care, CLEAR, Ladiez Night Out for transgender women, and Mpowerment for MSM.
- **LGBT Life Center** in the Eastern region will implement outreach, condom distribution, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care and drug treatment, RISE for MSM and ManDate for MSM of color, CLEAR, and the Healthy Living Project for people living with HIV.
- **Minority AIDS Support Services, Inc.** in the Eastern region will implement outreach, condom distribution, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care, and CLEAR.
- **Minority Health Consortium** in the Central region will implement outreach, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care and drug treatment, condom distribution, the Hapi intervention for Black MSM living with HIV, CLEAR, Willow for women living with HIV, Positive Brothers, Trans Talk Tuesday, ManDate for MSM of color, Positive Living Group, and Positive Images Support Group.
- **Nia Community Development Corporation** in the Central region will implement outreach, condom distribution, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care, d-up: Defend Yourself! for Black MSM, CLEAR, and the Landscape of Our Spiritual Warfare for faith leaders.
- **NovaSalud** in the Northern health region will implement outreach, condom distribution, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care and drug treatment, CLEAR, T-SISTA for Transgender women, RISE for MSM, and Real/Talk.
- **Serenity** in Central region will implement outreach, condom distribution, referral to essential support services, PrEP and nPEP navigation, linkage to HIV care and drug treatment, and CLEAR.
- **Strength In Peers** in the Northwest region will implement outreach, referral to essential support services, PrEP navigation, HIV and HCV counseling, testing, and referral services, linkage to HIV and HCV care and drug treatment services, and condom distribution.

If you would like additional information about any of these agencies, contracts, interventions or geographic areas in which services will be provided, please contact Adyam Redae, Service Navigation Coordinator for HIV and Hepatitis Prevention. She may be contacted at (804) 864-7960 or adyam.redae@vdh.virginia.gov.
**CDC MATERIALS REVIEW PANEL**

Any subrecipients (contract agencies) using pass through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, must submit their materials to the CDC Materials Review Panel (MRP). This includes: written materials, audio visual materials, and pictorials, including social marketing and advertising materials, educational materials, social media communications and other electronic communications, such as internet/webpages. This is to ensure the content is consistent with the provisions of Section 2500 (bd) of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 300ee(b-d). For additional information on the CDC MRP guidance, visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/fundedprograms/1308/pdf/Content_Review_Program_Guidance_2016.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/fundedprograms/1308/pdf/Content_Review_Program_Guidance_2016.pdf), or consult your Contractor’s Guidelines.

For questions on the materials review panel you may contact the MRP Chair, or your assigned contract monitor. Please note that the MRP Chair has transitioned from Agapito Ruiz-Millan to Sarah Lannon. The MRP approval form and contact information can be found on the DDP [Resources page](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/fundedprograms/1308/pdf/Content_Review_Program_Guidance_2016.pdf) under the, “Community Partners,” tab.

**NASTAD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENT**

**Darnell Barrington**, Bridges 757 Project Coordinator and Supervisor for the Ryland Roane Fellowship Program, has been selected as a participant in the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) 2020 Minority Leadership Program (MLP). Over the course of 10 months, Darnell and the other members of the cohort will receive mentoring and support to develop leadership and other skills essential to advancing their careers in public health. NASTAD’s program overview states: “Persons of color working in health departments and other government agencies face myriad challenges as it pertains to job advancement, leadership development, and growth opportunities in these institutions. NASTAD recognizes the need to increase the capacity of emerging leaders in health departments and seeks to equip them with skills, mentors, and introspection to help them advance in their varied personal career trajectories. NASTAD’s vision for the MLP is “to encourage and increase the number of people of color in leadership roles in public health systems who competently promote health equity and reduce stigma. Through collaboration, marginalized communities will experience a shift from surviving to thriving.” MLP alumni Safere Diawara likely has some words of wisdom for Darnell as he embarks upon this journey. Congratulations to Darnell in being selected for this highly competitive program.

**PERSONNEL**

**Welcome**

**Mabel Martin** joins the HIV Surveillance Program as a Regional Epidemiology Consultant. Mabel previously worked in DDP as a Contract Case Surveillance Epidemiology Consultant, conducting HIV/AIDS case surveillance and investigation activities, and in Medical Monitoring Project (MMP), conducting medical record reviews, data abstractions and interviews of HIV/AIDS diagnosed persons. Through her work with both MMP and HIV case surveillance programs, she has over seven years of experience with HIV surveillance and investigation activities. In her prior public health roles, she has also worked as a Community Health Educator, Field Consultant, and H1N1 District Response Specialist. She has a Master’s in Public Health from Walden University, Baltimore. Mabel can be reached at (804) 864-7356, or mabel.martin@vdh.virginia.gov.