

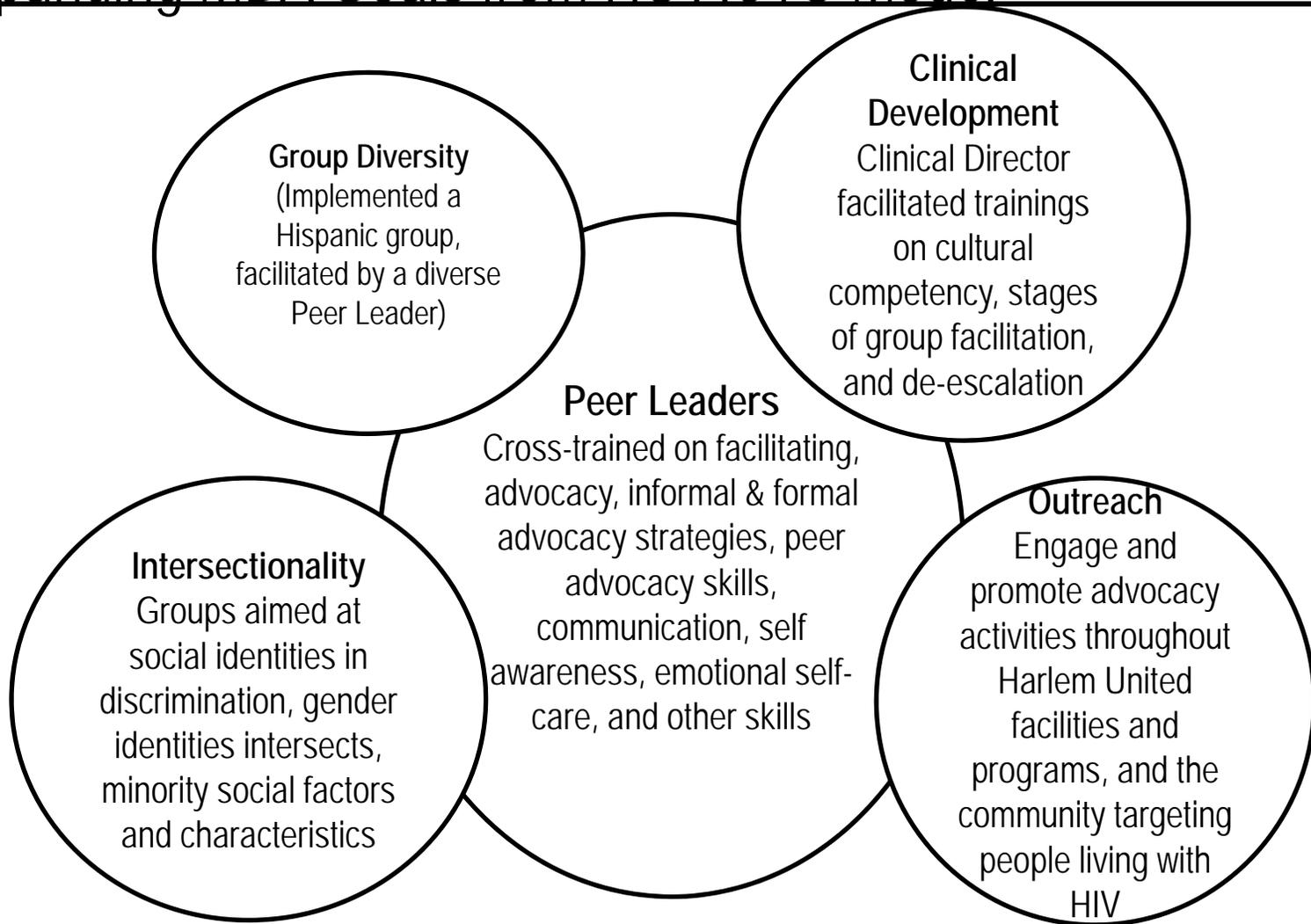


Advocacy is Life
Amplifying Peer Voices in the HIV/AIDS
Community
Iris House 13th Annual Summit: May 7, 2018

Moving Beyond Advocacy (MBA) Peer Leader Program

- ❖ Harlem United's Moving Beyond Advocacy (MBA) Program is a grant in its 4th year funded by AIDS United. For the first half of the grant, previously called HU Acts!
- ❖ Promoting the leadership development of people living with HIV (PLWHIV) through trainings and workshops on advocacy, story-telling, role playing, working with the media, advances in HIV care, and intersectionality issues.
- ❖ Five Peer Leaders trained at the start of the program to conduct Peer Empowerment Groups.
- ❖ This laid the foundation for meaningful involvement of at least 125 PLHIV in self care, grassroots mobilization and advocacy activities.
- ❖ The goal of improving the social, legal, and political environments for effective HIV programs that affect individuals "personal stories" and their communities.

Expanding MBA Goals from HU ACTS Model



Clinical Development

- ❖ The goal to develop and enhance Peer Leader Advocates: client engagement, diverse groups, role play, de-escalation techniques, and effective speaking.
- ❖ Provide Peer Leader Advocates the tools to engage and recruit their peers.
- ❖ Peers Leader Advocates evolved in teamwork and coaching to effectively advocate for themselves, and their community in daily life.



Challenges Faced

- ❖ Peer Leader life challenges and barriers dealing with day-to-day situations which impacted their mental health and advocacy performance.
- ❖ Ageism dealt with the lack of understanding ones culture, gender, and vision.
- ❖ Acceptance from the community, at Harlem United it took some time for clients to accept the advocacy group as its an open dialogue and leads individuals to express themselves utilizing understanding and being culturally sensitive.

Goals Accomplished

- ❖ Participated in training-the-trainer sessions (vocational education, public strategies lobbyists, clinical training, media enhancement, marketing 101, and intersectionality).
- ❖ Facilitated over 50 groups, exceeding the target.
- ❖ Ray Lowe NBC interview on his personal story (HIV awareness).
- ❖ Intensive media advocacy blogs on the Harlem United website.
- ❖ Conducted workshops (Trans Language, Bridging the gap between heterosexual and LGBTQ+ communities, Sexuality impacts on Religious Faith, domestic violence, and Intersectionality).
- ❖ Meet with 30 policy makers advocating for PLHIV services and programs.

Introducing the MBA Peer Leader Advocates

