SUPPORTING TRANS WOMEN'S EFFORTS TO END THE EPIDEMIC

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Training Goal

• To provide workshop participants with Exponents successful model of engaging and retaining transgender women of color in our efforts to end the epidemic here in NYC by 2020.
Training Objectives

• Disseminate information on NYS’ ETE Blueprint and Exponents’ corresponding efforts

• Provide an overview of Exponents’ highly impactful ARRIVE program

• Discuss proven strategies to engage, train, and retain transgender women of color
Organizational History

• Exponents was founded in 1990 by Howard Josepher, LCSW and Joseph Turner, Esq. to ensure continuation of ARRIVE, the successful NIDA-funded demonstration HIV prevention education/recovery readiness program that Howard was the principal investigator for and Joe was one of the initial trainers.
Organizational Mission

• We are a non-profit organization located in the heart of New York City compassionately dedicated to serving those impacted by HIV/AIDS, substance use, incarceration and behavioral health challenges. We deliver these services through a client-centered, strength-based approach which greatly improves health outcomes and promotes overall wellness in our communities.
Current Programs

- ARRIVE
- HIV Testing
- Care Coordination
- Project START+
- Second Chance
- Seeking Safety
- **TRANS**formation Support Grp
- Job Readiness/Retention
- Healthcare Enrollment

**APGP**
- ARTAS
- Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment
- ASPIRE
- Peer-2-Peer (Recovering Annex) Program
- Living Well
- TASC preparation *(classroom instruction, 1:1 tutoring)*
- TES
- Center for Personal & Professional Development
Evolution of Exponents’ Transgender Women’s Program Census

- Exponents has always created/sustained an inclusive environment for all
- Inclusion on Community Advisory Board since 2012
- In 2014, brought on an LGBT Recruitment Specialist
- From 2011 – 2015, Exponents experienced a 100% increase in the number of trans women accessing our HRR program (ARRIVE/APGP/TES)
ETE Blueprint

• Announced 3-point plan by Gov. Cuomo in June, 2014
  • Identify persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and link them to health care
  • Link and retain persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and get them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent transmission; and
  • Facilitate access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV-negative.
Identify persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and link them to health care

- **In-house Testing (P.O.S.E)**
  - Routine offering at time of engagement
  - Re-engagement efforts
  - Re-testing of recent ‘transplants’ for documentation/accessing care, treatment and entitlements (*particularly in HRR programs*)

- **Mobile Testing**
  - ORE (Outreach, Recruitment & Engagement)

*HIV Service Navigation (HNS)*

*Care Coordination*
Link and retain persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and get them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent transmission

• ARRIVE/ARRIVE Post-Graduate Program (APGP)

• Strong, long-standing clinical provider partnerships (Mount Sinai Health System, Brightpoint Health, Callen-Lorde CHC)

• Primary Care Status Measure data collection at 90-day intervals

• Peer Accompaniment
Seeking Safety is a trauma-informed, present-focused intervention for individuals screened for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and have histories of substance use. Seeking Safety is a 12-week (weekly 2hr groups) intervention which help survivors of trauma identify the far-reaching impact of trauma and find healthier, safer coping skills.

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Facilitate access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV-negative.

• Once again, strong, proven partnerships to clinical providers

• Regular staff in-service presentations

• Membership in the NYCDoHMH-supported PrEP/nPEP Provider Network

• Ongoing engagement with the Center for Excellence on Transgender Health

• Linking PrEP/nPEP services to other low-threshold engagement activities (e.g. TRANSformation Support Group, Kiki Lounge, etc.)
Recommendations Exponents is Addressing

- BP18: Health, housing, and human rights for LGBT communities
- BP19: Institute an integrated comprehensive approach to transgender healthcare and human rights
- BP21: Establish mechanisms for an HIV peer workforce
• QUESTIONS/COMMENTS