FAITH WITHOUT WORK IS DEAD
IRIS HOUSE LEADING LADIES PROGRAM

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PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- To provide an overview of the Leading Ladies Program at Iris House
- To present the findings of our SISTA, and HIV 101 Workshops
- To discuss strategies on how to work with Faith Based Organizations (FBO)
- To offer best practice and lessons learned
- To offer recommendations for effective program planning and implementation within FBOs
LEADING LADIES

Training of Trainers
Sponsored by Iris House

Trainer: Theresa E. Allen, LCSW

Leading Ladies
A Program Of Iris House

Women’s Health & HIV Awareness
Train the Trainer Workshop

17 Years Of Helping Women & Families
2348 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.
New York, NY 10030
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IRIS HOUSE LEADING LADIES PROGRAM

The Iris House Leading Ladies program has adopted 3 main goals: *Educate, Eliminate* and *Embrace*. The program aims to *Educate* faith based organization members and the community about HIV/AIDS, *Eliminate* the stigma in our organizations that prevents people from getting tested or accessing services and *Embrace* people living with HIV/AIDS.
LEADING LADIES PROGRAM GOALS

- Eliminate HIV/AIDS related stigma in FBOs.
- Develop and demonstrate gender-responsive, peer-led prevention education interventions.
- Establish and expand the coalition of services and community linkages for ensuring gender-responsive HIV/AIDS and STD services.
- Sponsored by the U.S. Office on Women’s Health
Component #1 SISTA and SIHLE Interventions

- Each FBO agrees to conduct one cycle of the SISTA intervention for women 18 and older with at least 12 – 15 women. The goal is to graduate at least 10 women.

- FBOs can then implement SIHLE for teenage girls 14 – 18 or Family Talk for families with adolescent youth.
FBO EXPECTATIONS

Component # 2 – Empowering Leading Ladies:

- Two women from the FBO are required to participate in a two day train the trainers (TOT); once completed, they will facilitate a 2-hour, Women’s Health & Wellness Workshop at the FBO with a target of 25 or more participants.
FBO EXPECTATIONS

Component # 3 - Community Health and Wellness Fair

- FBOs host a health fair to include blood pressure, glucose, HIV testing and other screenings, etc. and reach a minimum of 50 persons and be open to the community. Iris House will provide on-site resources to conduct the education programs and assist with the Health and Wellness Fair. Participating organizations will also receive $500 to support these activities upon graduation of a pre-determined amount of participants.
HIV FACTS

- African American women continue to be disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS.
- Black women and girls account for over half of all women living with HIV/AIDS in United States.
- HIV/AIDS is a leading cause for death for African American Women ages 25-44.
- Most common mode of transmission is unprotected sex with infected men.
FBOS & HIV PREVENTION

CDC Data

The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that persons over 50 account for 15% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses and 24% of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Why is this Important?

• Women over 50 are among the faces of HIV/AIDS
• There is no CDC intervention for women over 50
• Women over 50 play an important role in HIV prevention
• Our data indicates women over 50 benefit from the SISTA Workshops
FBO IDENTIFICATION

- Initially Iris House targeted churches in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) District #1 and expanded outreach to FBOs in the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) New York and New Jersey and Outreach expanded to FBOs in the network.

- Today 23 FBOs in NY and NJ collaborate with Leading Ladies

- Partner with Voces Latinas to reach the Latino FBO community.
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
YEAR 1 OUTCOMES

- SISTA: 20 cycles, enrolled 332, graduated 280 women
- SIHLE: 2 cycles, enrolled 27, graduated 22 girls
- H.S. Teen Prevention Workshop: 2 cycles, 132 graduates
- Train the Trainer Workshop: 2 cycles, 28 graduates
- HIV Workshop: 8 cycles, 141 participants
- HIV Awareness Events: 214 participants
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
YEAR 2 OUTCOMES

- SISTA: 4 cycles, enrolled 31, graduated 30 women
- Train the Trainer Workshop: 3 cycles, 15 graduates
- HIV Workshop: 4 cycles, 55 participants
- HIV Awareness Events: 346 participants
- HIV testing: 76
STRATEGIES WHEN WORKING WITH FBOS

- Communities often rely on their FBOs for support, they need to include HIV within their work.
- HIV agencies need to partner with FBOs to increase HIV prevention messaging, access to services.
- Communities respect FBOs- if it comes from the church the information is accepted.
- Faith leaders need to get involved and educate their community on HIV.
STRATEGIES WHEN WORKING WITH FBOS

- FBOs are asked to address other issues, how do we engage them making HIV a priority.

- Understand that stigma is alive and prevalent within FBOs, address stigma and ways to address HIV.

- Respect the FBO’s believes, even when they are not your agencies.
BEST PRACTICES

- **Leading Ladies is a model program** for other agencies interested in working with FBOs and HIV.

- Follow-up and on-going communication is essential when working with FBOs.

- **Establish trust** with Leading Ladies or those with strong leadership roles within the FBO.
LESSONS LEARNED

- Practice the **ABC Approach** (Abstinence, Be Faithful and Use a Condom)
- Include HIV/AIDS topics in sermons and FBO dialogues
- Seek out creative ways to reduce **stigma about LGBTQ community**
- Encourage outreach to high risk populations
- Empower FBO members to know their status and get tested for HIV
LESSONS LEARNED

- Offer on-site testing or anonymous referrals for HIV testing locations
- Talk to the YOUTH about HIV awareness and safe sex behavior
- Create an **HIV Prevention Committee** (HPC) at FBOs
- Partner with other FBOs and CBOs
- Keep the **faith** that we can collectively prevent HIV in our communities
PARTICIPANT TESTIMONY

“HIV/AIDS is rampant with our people of color, religion and God plays an important part.”

“Thank you for bringing this information into our community. I hope that you will continue working with us. We need you in our schools.”
OUR LEADING LADIES.....
THANK YOU…..

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