Ending the HIV Epidemic Planning: Lessons Learned

Presented by: Marlene McNeese, Assistant Director, Disease Prevention and Control Division, Houston Health Department
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November 2015 - Legacy Community Health Services, one of our large FQHC systems, received a Southern REACH grant from AIDS United and the Ford Foundation to develop a plan to end the epidemic in the City of Houston.

- Required to use an intersectional and social/racial justice approach
- Given the political climate, the Texas DSHS was not ready to yet move forward with a state plan, but fully supported and was involved in the Houston plan development.
- December 2015 – Initiated stakeholder and community engagement
- March 2016 - Hosted 2 day conference
  - 5 Work Groups meeting monthly ending in July 2016
- September 2016 - Review draft plan and prioritize
- December 1, 2016 - Launched Final Plan on World AIDS Day
Development of the Plan (cont.)

- Reviewed existing ETE plans:
  - New York State – Blueprint to End AIDS
  - Getting to Zero in San Francisco
  - Washington DC Declaration to end AIDS

- Received technical assistance:
  - Housing Works
  - Harvard Law School Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation

- Created crosswalk between existing integrated plan goals and outcomes
Structure of the Plan

Divided into 5 sections:

1. Prevention – 5 recommendations
2. Access to Care – 7 recommendations
3. Social Determinants of Health – 4 recommendations
4. Criminal Justice – 5 recommendations
5. Policy and Research – 12 recommendations
Designate Staff Responsible for Evaluation
Did not begin with dedicated planning, writing, or evaluation staff
Leveraging existing staff is good for continuity, but isn't as responsive

Mirror Existing Evaluation Framework
Specific actions:
Timeframe:
Outcome/Measure:
Geographic Area: Harris County, EMA, MSA
Data source: depends on geographical area
Responsible Parties:

Transparency
Provide routine updates and outcome reports
And More Lessons...

- Ending the epidemic requires a change in the entire health care delivery system = Health System Intervention
- Social drivers are key – need to expand beyond traditional HIV players
- Plan time and strategy for addressing racial and social justice; intersectionality - people had hard time talking about race
- Plan enough time to be thoughtful and comprehensive
- Be prepared for difficult discussions about ending the epidemic
Acknowledgements

Houston Health Department
- Disease Prevention and Control Division
- Bureau of HIV/STD & Viral Hepatitis Prevention
- Bureau of Youth & Adolescent Health

Legacy Community Health Services

Dedicated Community Advocates – RWPC & CPG, Office of Support

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