

GNOHIE Corrections-Community Care Continuum Initiative

Bridging the Gap Between Jails and Communities

ENHANCING CARE COORDINATION AND THE QUALITY OF CARE PROVIDED FOR PRISONERS WITHIN AND UPON RELEASE FROM CORRECTIONAL SETTINGS



Background

The stages of HIV care, also known as the HIV care continuum, demonstrate significant gaps in HIV services, and efforts are underway at the federal, state, and local levels to develop and implement strategies to improve health outcomes for people living with HIV (PLWH).

The HIV care continuum can be described by the following sequential steps: (1) diagnosis of HIV infection, (2) linkage to care, (3) retention in care, (4) receipt of antiretroviral therapy (ART), and (5) achievement of viral suppression (a very low level of HIV in the body). In the United States, there are 1.2 million people living with HIV, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 66% have been linked to HIV-specific medical care.¹ Engagement in care is a critical step in ensuring access to highly effective HIV treatment, which can ultimately lead to viral suppression. Viral suppression results in significantly improved health outcomes as well as dramatically decreased likelihood of HIV transmission (96% reduced risk of transmission).² According to the CDC, 30% of people living with HIV had achieved viral suppression, which means that only 3 out of 10 people living with HIV had the virus under control. Barriers to engagement in care include lack of stable housing, poverty, mental health and substance use issues, lack of access to culturally competent care, transportation, and other competing needs; interventions to engage people in HIV care must address these needs at the point of engagement in care as well as in subsequent support for retention in care. Improvements along the HIV continuum of care hold great promise for both treatment as well as prevention.



Who Are the Partners?

- ▶ Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO)
- ▶ Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI)
- ▶ Partnership for Achieving Total Health, Inc. (PATH) (a subsidiary of LPHI)

What Are We Doing?

Our program is working to enhance care coordination for current and former prisoners through the creation of a Health Information Technology (HIT) interface to connect the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) and Correct Care Solutions (CCS) with the Greater New Orleans Health Information Exchange (GNOHIE) system. This interface will close a critical gap in care continuity and access for patients who are released from OPSO's jail facilities and reenter into the greater New Orleans community. This proposed GNOHIE Corrections-Community Care Continuum (GC4) relies on OPSO's new investment in an Electronic Health Record system that will leverage the GNOHIE infrastructure to navigate patients and send medical records

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE GC4 INITIATIVE

- ▶ GC4 gets the **right information** to the right place at the right time of patient care
- ▶ It increases access to community based health care organizations accepting patients **irrespective of their ability to pay**
- ▶ It provides a **unparalleled opportunity** for data driven, population health management
- ▶ It is a cooperative endeavor between Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office and a community driven health information services provider (HISP) representing **22 distinct clinical provider organizations** with over **60 sites of care**, patient navigators, and an ambulance service
- ▶ It exemplifies the **latest best practice in health care** to improve care continuity and care access for chronic diseases, behavioral health, and HIV/AIDS for the jail-involved population

¹ "HIV/AIDS Care Continuum." AIDS.gov. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 6 Mar. 2015. Web. 11 May 2015.

² "Prevention Benefits of HIV Treatment." Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2013. Web. 11 May 2015.

to community based health care organizations accepting patients irrespective of their ability to pay. GC4 further provides both OPSO and community care providers a portal to view shared longitudinal medical records to ensure improved screening of existing problems and conditions, and maintenance of medications. GC4 ensures jail-involved patients with chronic diseases (e.g., HIV/AIDS and diabetes), or behavioral health conditions have access to coordinated care.

Potential Program Impact

This initiative has the potential to impact the health and lives of more than 23,000 current and former prisoners in the Greater New Orleans area.

Initial Trends of the GC4 Initiative

PATH conducted an overlap analysis that indicates 55% of 47,201 OPSO subject-patients who received a jail facility related medical screening in the last three years are also registered with a clinical organization that exists within the GNOHIE. This overlap establishes the potential for PATH and OPSO to improve access to care and health outcomes for current and former prisoners.

Costs Associated with the Initiative

OPSO and community clinical sites are all GNOHIE yearly subscribers and pay annual fees based on the type of agency (e.g., hospital, ambulatory clinic, ambulance service, jail, school based health center, patient navigators) and patient volume. GNOHIE clinical entities also offer clinical and administrative services (e.g., care managers) in-kind. Currently, the cost of operating GC4 is not separated from the costs of subscriptions to the GNOHIE, grant support of PATH operations, and in-kind services contributed by the clinical entity groups.

LOOKING AHEAD

Funds are needed to document the Return on Investment (ROI) for HIT enabled programs such as GC4 and to support the facilitation or implementation of engagement strategies with key partners such as Payers, Managed Care Organizations, and/or Accountable Care Organizations to enhance sustainability of GC4.

Agency Overview

Located in New Orleans, LA, the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) is a nonprofit organization with a 17-year history of leading, designing, implementing, and evaluating public health, health care, and advocacy/social justice initiatives throughout the state of Louisiana. LPHI's mission is to improve the health and quality of life of all Louisianans regardless of where they live, work, learn, or play. LPHI serves as a bridge between the healthcare system and communities to improve overall health. We work to catalyze sustainable policy, systems, and environmental change. We provide technical assistance and redistribute resources to build organizational and community capacity to respond to the broader holistic needs (e.g., health, mental wellness, social, etc.) of marginalized and vulnerable populations.

The Partnership for Achieving Total Health, Inc. (PATH) is a New Orleans based non-profit subsidiary of the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI). Established in 2013, PATH's mission is to advance the provision of quality care for all individuals, better health for populations, and lower per capita costs, through technology, analytics, and supportive services. PATH operates the Greater New Orleans Health Information Exchange (GNOHIE), a shared Health Information Technology (HIT) infrastructure and its enabled care coordination programs, across multiple clinical care organizations (e.g., hospitals, community health centers, specialty care) in the Greater New Orleans area.



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