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STIRR-IT: Co-located HIV/HCV prevention & treatment in a behavioral health setting

ABSTRACT

STIRR-IT (**S**creening & **T**esting for HIV/HCV, **I**mmunization for Hepatitis A & B, **R**isk **R**eduction Counseling linked to Co-located and **I**ntegrated HIV **T**reatment) responds to calls to provide HIV/HCV testing and care in the behavioral health setting¹⁻³ and will provide the STIRR intervention linked with co-located HIV medical care for African American men and women receiving psychiatric treatment at the Walter P. Carter Clinic.

The Walter P. Carter clinic is a community based organization affiliated with the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. The Walter P. Carter clinic provides comprehensive mental health, substance abuse treatment and wrap-around services to 1050 adults living in Baltimore City. The clinic has approximately 100 new intakes per year. Over 80% of clients in the clinic self-identify as African-American. The average age is 53 years (range: 18-69 years). Over half are women. Over 70% of the clients have a diagnosis of serious mental illness with the vast majority reporting a history of substance use.

The overarching goals of this project are to provide co-located, integrated mental health, substance abuse and HIV/HCV testing and medical care services for African American men and women at high risk for HIV/AIDS and HCV seeking psychiatric care within a community mental health clinic. Specifically, this project will: (1) expand beyond mental health and substance abuse services to provide HIV and Hepatitis C screening, immunization for Hepatitis A and B, and risk reduction counseling through the STIRR intervention and (2) for those who screen positive, provide on-site, co-located and integrated HIV medical care. To do this **STIRR-IT** will use nurses trained to deliver the evidenced based practice STIRR with additional assistance from peer support specialists trained to provide motivational interviewing (MI). MI, an evidenced based practice, will be used by the peer support specialist to help decrease substance use, improve retention in mental health, substance abuse and co-located HIV medical care. Linkage to on-site, co-located and integrated HIV medical care will be facilitated through a nurse practitioner trained to provide HIV medical care within an already established medical care program co-located at the Walter P. Carter clinic.

LITERATURE CITATIONS for ABSTRACT

- (1) Meade CS, Sikkema KJ. Voluntary HIV testing among adults with severe mental illness: frequency and associated factors. *AIDS Behavior* 2005;9:465-473.
- (2) Backus LI, Boothroyd D, Deyton LR. HIV, hepatitis C and HIV/hepatitis C virus coinfection in vulnerable populations. *AIDS* 2005;19 Suppl 3:S13-S19.
- (3) Osher FC, Goldberg R.W., McNary S.W. et al. Substance abuse and transmission of hepatitis C among persons with severe mental illness. *Psychiatric Services* 2003;54:842-847.