

# SPRING UPDATES 2018

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## **Bronx Health Access Town Hall**



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## **Please Join Us...**

Please join us on June 14, 2018 for our upcoming "Sustainability: Now, and in the Future" Town Hall. Presenters will share current sustainability strategies for succeeding in a Value-Based Payment environment now and post DSRIP, followed by a Q&A Panel.

## **Presenters will include experts in:**

- Community-Based Organizations
- Clinical Providers
- Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse

## **Agenda**

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<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, June 14, 2018
<b>Registration/Dinner:</b>	5:00PM - 6:00PM
<b>Presentations and Q&amp;A Panel:</b>	6:00PM - 7:30PM
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Bronx Museum Of the Arts</b> 1040 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10456

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### Free Parking

\*Free parking available at the MPG Parking Garage at 1020 165th St

\*Please validate ticket upon registration

## CBO Innovation Fund Request for Proposals

For the second year, the Bronx Health Access CBO Innovation Fund is welcoming proposals from community-based organizations for one-year demonstration projects designed to reduce health disparities in the South and Central Bronx. Organizations that received awards in 2017 may reapply. **Applications are due on 6/11/2018,**

With two tiers of available funding, this year's grant opportunity places a greater emphasis on program impact. Level 1 grants are intended for community-based organizations looking to strengthen their systems for data collection, program monitoring, and evaluation. Level 2 funding will support projects designed to have a demonstrable impact on specific patient health outcomes.

### Funding Details

Funding Level	Funding	Deliverable
Level 1	\$75,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive at least 4 hours of technical assistance in data collection and program evaluation from a team of public health researchers at Columbia University led by Dr. Angela Aidala and Maiko Yomogida, MA. Grantees may fulfill the TA requirement at any point between 5/10/2018 – 9/1/2018.</li> <li>With guidance from the Columbia University research team, prepare a logic model and evaluation plan to assess program outcomes.</li> <li>Submit quarterly reports to the DSRIP Project Management Office (PMO) detailing project outputs.</li> </ul>
Level 2	\$150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit quarterly reports to PMO containing rosters of participants engaged to-date. PMO will provide a data collection template to be used before the official project start date.</li> </ul>

The CBO Innovation Fund is open to Tier 1 and Tier 2 CBOs. The New York State Department of Health defines Tier 1 CBOs as non-profit, non-Medicaid billing, community-based social and human service organizations (i.e., housing, social

services, food banks), and Tier 2 CBOs as non-profit, Medicaid billing, non-clinical service providers (i.e., transportation, care coordination).

[Download Application Now](#)

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## **Spotlight on Workforce Development (Part 2 of 2)**

Bronx Health Access is committed to supporting network partners to create lasting, sustainable and tangible improvements in their delivery of quality health care aimed at improving the outcomes in our communities now and post-DSRIP. A part of that strategy includes a well-educated, diverse, culturally competent, and evolving workforce. The Workforce Committee, led by co-chairs Selena Griffin-Mahon, (Assistant VP HR, BronxCare Health System), and Rosa Agosto, (Chief Talent and Learning Officer, Urban Health Plan), work to engage projects and partners in on-going learning opportunities. Programs such as **SBIRT Training**, **DSMP Train-the Trainer**, **CASAC Exam Training**, and the **CCHL Training Series** are aimed at different segments of the workforce with the goal of instructing providers in the latest and most innovative approaches to their work. By creating an engaged workforce, we believe that will translate into improved employee satisfaction, retention, and improved quality of care. We encourage all partners to take advantage of the various learning opportunities available through DSRIP and enroll their staff. We also encourage partners to share their training gaps and needs through project workgroups or directly with the PMO.

Last month we discussed the Community Health Worker Apprenticeship and profiled 2 graduates. For this newsletter, we are sharing the work of the Domain 4 Workgroup on Increasing Access to, and retention in, HIV Care. This project has been working closely with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to create a strategy that would have a lasting impact on the lives of patients in our network. The project is also building a workforce of peers from those infected and affected by HIV. We also share one story from a graduate from the Alliance for change Peer Program. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and the bright Spring/Summer days to come.

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## **Workforce Success Story: Alliance Graduate**

*One of the true impacts of the work of Alliance is Workforce-related. Graduates lives are changed in so many ways. One graduate agreed to share her story but remain anonymous*

I am one of the Bronx Health Access 2017 PREP graduates. I am extremely honored to be a part of this great movement; this collaboration with exceptional entities that made the PREP training possible for a truly great cause. I was introduced to the PREP program by the loving and caring freedom fighters at BronxCare Health System, Dr. David Ferris, Mr. Francis Asiedu and Dr. Richard Cindrach who have all worked so hard to fight against an epidemic of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.

In 1996, I gave birth to a beautiful baby boy but fell ill shortly after giving birth, I went to the emergency room at BronxCare Health System where they offered me a rapid HIV test. I would have never thought in my wildest dreams that the epidemic plaguing my community and the world would come even close to affecting me. I sat there for 20 painstaking minutes impatiently waiting for my results to come back; I thought about all of the risky situations I had put myself in. I felt that if the results came back positive, it would be the end of my world! I honestly thought I would surely die. To my dismay, the results were positive and in that moment I felt like it was the end but I am still standing. That day wasn't the end of the world it was just the beginning of my new life. From that day forward I made a decision to slowly but surely turn my life around.

Today I can say I am not living with the virus, that the virus is living with me. I am a mother of 7 children, approaching 18 years clean and have a brand new attitude. I have over a dozen trainings under my belt, 2 New York State certifications, a GED, Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree. I have many people in my life who love me, people who I'm honored to love in return. I have been blessed with an amazing support system comprised of all ages, races, sexual identities and many other differences; the focus is love, empathy, compassion and respect.

I have learned many things while on this journey called life. I have learned the importance of educating yourself and then passing that knowledge along to others. I have also learned that it's important to reflect on yesterday in order to prepare for a better tomorrow but to always reside in the present moment. I know that I am now a part of something much larger than myself. I truly believe that the ripples I generate in the world will create waves of positive change and maybe even promote significant contributions in the ending of the HIV/ AIDS epidemic for good.

Never give up, never!

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## **Increasing Access, and Retention in HIV Care**

HIV/AIDS continues to be an illness that disproportionately impacts communities of color, communities with little financial resources, women, and men who have sex with men. In the early days of the epidemic, there was much advocacy and work done to secure support for people dying from the illnesses associated with HIV and reducing stigma associated with the virus.. Today, efforts continue to support those living with HIV and their families. The Bronx carries a huge burden of HIV, with the neighborhoods of Crotona/Tremont and the South Bronx in the top five of neighborhoods with highest prevalence of new infections.

Bronx Health Access has been participating in the DSRIP work related to HIV since 2015. The project seeks to increase early access to HIV care and improve the rate of retention in care for HIV patients. After many discussions, this group agreed to tackle the issue of care in two ways:

- Change the lives of those living with HIV by providing them with a viable income as HIV positive peers.
- Utilize this peer workforce to engage others in seeking testing and supporting newly diagnosed patients in a patient navigator role that includes outreach and escorting clients to medical care appointments.

The workgroup has partnered with community-based organization, The Alliance for Positive Change (formerly AIDS Service Center of NYC) to deliver the trainings. The Alliance's PREP training—Peer Recovery Education Program—is an 8-week intensive capacity-building skills training that empowers participants to sustain long-term recovery as well as to develop a marketable skill set. Throughout PREP, participants learn about HIV transmission and prevention, hepatitis, safer sex, relapse prevention strategies, outreach and group facilitation skills. To be eligible to participate in PREP (Foundational Training) enrollees must meet the following criteria:

- Be in recovery from drug and/or alcohol use for a minimum of 9 months
- Have stable independent housing for a minimum of 9 months
- Be receiving medical care
- Be affected by HIV/AIDS

Peers are then employed by partners and work collaboratively with primary care providers, social workers, case managers, and family members to improve patient care. In 2017 19 graduates completed the program.

The workgroup is also launching a new website ([www.link2carebx.org](http://www.link2carebx.org)) dedicated to helping people quickly and easily locate HIV/AIDS services nearby. BHA is grateful to project leads Dr. Richard Cindrich (BLHC) and Debbie Pantin (CEO, VIP Community Services). We also acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of workgroup partners:

- Brightpoint Health
- BronxCare Health System
- Argus Community
- Bronx Works
- Highbridge Woodycrest Center
- Salvation Army
- Urban Health Plan
- VIP Community Services

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## **CCHL Training Series Library**

In 2017, over **800** staff from our partner network have attended an in-person training offered by the Cultural Competence and Health Literacy Committee. The trainings were designed to enhance knowledge, skills, and awareness around various issues that impact the communities in our partner network. Topics presented include ***Engaging Black and Latino Males in Substance Abuse Treatment; Cultural Competence and Humility; Microaggressions in the Workplace***; and ***Black LGBT Health***. Since some partners are unable to attend the programs in person, BHA has created a library of all the trainings on our website on the [Education page](#). There, you will find the slides and accompanying materials for many of the trainings offered to date. As new programs are rolled out, they will also be posted to the library to help our entire partner network grow in their understanding and skills around these relevant, challenging and sensitive topics.

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## **The Ethics of Cultural Competence Training**

The next "Cultural Diversity/Health Literacy" series will be on June 15th, 2018 and will focus on The Ethics of Cultural Competence.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To define the ethics of cultural competence;

To learn to perceive difference and communicate uncertainty and distress in health care work;

To understand the ethics of cultural competence and the staff's moral consciousness.

**Date:** Friday, June 15, 2018

**Coffee and Networking:** 09:00 AM - 09:30 AM

**Training Time:** 09:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**Location:** BronxCare Health System Wellness Center  
199 Mount Eden Parkway (corner of Morris Ave) Bronx, NY

### PRESENTER:

**Panagiota Korenis, MD**

**Vice Chair, Education, Inpatient and Forensic/ High Risk Services**

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## **Project Updates**

### **Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration**

The IMPACT model is currently fully implemented at 7 out of 10 BronxCare clinics with 179 patients enrolled. The remaining clinics will launch the model in June (2) and July (1) of 2018.

Staff are continuing to build up caseloads at the active sites and collaborative care didactics and practicum have been built into psychiatry residency curriculum as well.

### **Diabetes**

For DY4, the Diabetes Project continues to work on improving chronic care management for patients with diabetes and those with rising risks. Partners have created action lists and are working with CHWs to outreach and engage patients in regular hemoglobin testing, screening for nephropathy and retinal exams. Some sites have requested the project provide point-of-care meters for regular testing in primary care, as opposed to sending patients to a lab, which can create an additional barrier to care.

The project is also exploring ways to incorporate food insecurity screening into the workflow of its partners. Poor nutrition is known to contribute to adverse outcomes in patients with Type 2 diabetes. By expanding the screening and linkage to services, the team hopes to improve the lives and health of its patients.

### **Asthma**

For DY4, the Asthma Workgroup continues to work to educate, engage, and connect patients with asthma to resources. In DY3, the project worked with the NYCDOHMH to expand access to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Services for individuals under 18. The project seeks to expand this service to the adults in the community as well. Additionally, the BBB team is working to link patients to their primary care provider and provide support and information on asthma medication adherence. The team is working closely with the Pharmacy Initiative which engages patients in the ED and IP and delivers medications at the bedside. Patients are also being followed post-discharge to reduce barriers to medication adherence with their local community pharmacies.

### **HIV**

The Workgroup continues to work with the Alliance for Positive Change to develop a 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of the very successful peer training program that launched in the Summer of 2017. This next group would potentially start in September of 2018. The first phase will be the Foundational Training which is a prerequisite to the Phase 2 Certification Training in order to become a certified peer support worker. Anyone interested in learning more or to receive an application should contact Gary Higgins ([gary@alliance.nyc](mailto:gary@alliance.nyc)).

Graduates of last year's program continue to meet as part of the newly formed networking and support group called the Bronx Peer Network. The group meets quarterly at Highbridge Woodycrest to network with peers and other staff from partnering organizations. Each meeting features guest speakers and presenters providing information on job opportunities and general health and wellness information. For more information contact Lenny Vicente ([lvicente@highbridgeny.com](mailto:lvicente@highbridgeny.com)).

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