

Midwest Learning Symposium

Integrated Approaches to HIV Care and Prevention in the Midwest

February 27-28, 2024

Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine

Eric P. Newman Education Center

In-person & Virtual Event

The Midwest Learning Symposium is a learning collaborative led and facilitated by CDC-funded Midwest Technical Assistance (TA) providers San Francisco Community Health Center, Washington University in St. Louis, and AIDS United. The purpose of this symposium is to bring together the HIV workforce and provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, networking, and innovative problem-solving in clinical routine opt-out HIV testing and linkage to care (LTC), implementation of PrEP services in rural communities, and diverse approaches to social determinants of health, using scalable, high-impact syndemic strategies in the Midwest Region. This two-day hybrid symposium will convene to build the capacity of health departments, community-based organizations (CBOs), and clinical providers both in person and virtually through presentations, panel discussions, and workshops.

After attending the Midwest Learning Symposium, participants will:

1. Identify two promising practices for implementing and sustaining clinical routine opt-out HIV testing models based on the exemplary services that have been implemented at various clinical sites located in the Midwest and that can be applied to their own testing programs.
2. Identify five peers in the Midwest who have implemented innovative PrEP services that address syndemics in the Midwest region, prioritize rural populations, and apply at least two lessons learned to their own PrEP program.
3. Define syndemics and increase participant understanding of syndemic approaches by reviewing three steps used to identify syndemics in conjunction with social elements; and five strategies for integrating syndemic theory into their public health work.

DAY 1 — Tuesday, February 27, 2024

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM CST

EPNEC Lobby

Onsite Registration Open

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM CST

EPNEC Great Room A/B

Breakfast [Provided by Midwest Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Providers]

9:00 AM – 9:20 AM CST

EPNEC Auditorium

Symposium Welcome and Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Provider Introductions

Welcome and introductions from CDC-funded Midwest Technical Assistance providers San Francisco Community Health Center, Washington University, and AIDS United. The team will provide an overview of their roles within the Capacity Building Network in the Midwest and provide an overview of the significance and purpose of the Midwest Learning Symposium.

9:20 AM – 9:40 AM CST

EPNEC Auditorium

Opening Plenary Remarks [Jesse Milan, Jr., JD, AIDS United President & CEO]

Jesse Milan, Jr. will share opening remarks around the importance of the mechanics of program and organizational collaboration and partnership as it relates to integrated approaches addressing syndemics.

9:40 AM – 10:00 AM CST

EPNEC Auditorium

Syndemics and Health Departments [Kat Kelley, Syndemics Lead Analyst for HIV, STI, Viral Hepatitis, & Harm Reduction Sector at NACCHO]

NACCHO will introduce and begin to expand the discussion on syndemic approaches from a health department perspective and lessons learned gleaned from the COVID-19 pandemic and how those scalable strategies are necessary to be included in the work of comprehensive HIV prevention and care.

Session Objectives:

By the end of this presentation, participants will:

1. Understand core components of a syndemic approach and strategies and opportunities for advancing a syndemic approach at health departments.
2. Understand barriers and facilitators that health departments face in advancing a syndemic approach and lessons learned from this work and from how health departments adapted and integrated services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM CST

EPNEC Auditorium

Intro-Session: Integrated Approaches in the Midwest, Leveraging our Understanding and Experiences [Dr. Joe Cherabie, Washington University in St. Louis]

This session will leverage participants' understanding of syndemics, syndemic approaches, and provide examples of how integrated approaches have addressed syndemics as outlined and defined based on jurisdictions in the Midwest. Track-based examples coupled with integrated strategies/approaches taken by health departments, CBO's, clinics, etc. will be introduced to provide participants an example of how syndemics show up in the Midwest versus nationally.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM CST
EPNEC Lobby

BREAK

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM CST
EPNEC Auditorium

Plenary Panel Discussion

Session Title: *Integrating Services for Transgender Women*

Moderator: Tatyana Moaton, PhD, MBA, HRM, San Francisco Community Health Center

Panelists: Miyonnee Hickman, Imani Sloan, Lia Stokes, Flomichelle Battles, Lashay Williams

Session Summary: Transgender women of color continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV. This moderated panel discussion with Midwest identity consultants of transgender experience will delve into integrated services for HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and other co-occurring healthcare needs. Panelists will share their expertise on transgender women and discuss how organizations can address barriers to quality services. During an interactive Q/A segment, the audience will be invited to share their real-world challenges and learn strategies from the panel that they can take back to their organizations to implement change.

Session Objectives:

By the end of this panel discussion, participants will:

1. Describe at least two integrated health services needed by transgender women.
2. List at least three barriers to healthcare that disrupt integrated health services for transgender women.
3. Identify at least one promising practice to engage transgender women in care.
4. Cite at least two CDC resources to help their organization as they provide comprehensive services for transgender women.

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM CST
EPNEC Great Room A/B

Lunch [Provided by Midwest Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Providers]

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM CST
EPNEC Auditorium

(Track A) Session Title: *Implementing Integrated Clinical Routine Testing and Linkage to Care Models* [Note: Moderator and panelists will appear virtually for the duration of the session and panel discussion]

Moderator: Audra Tobin Severson, San Francisco Community Health Center

Panelists: Nancy J. Miles Olmstead, MSW, LSW of Eskenazi Health, Lindsey Roden, MA, MPH of Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center/ Cermak Health Services at Cook County Jail, Melissa Schwarz, BA of Access Community Health Network

Session Summary: This moderated virtual panel discussion with frontline HIV workers

will showcase routine opt-out HIV testing and linkage to care (LTC) models that align with [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Revised HIV Testing Recommendations](#). These models are practiced within clinical settings that sit in diverse Midwest communities with HIV prevalence greater than .01%. Panelists will address promising practices for clinical HIV testing implementation as well as strategies for integrating testing models that screen for infectious diseases beyond HIV.

Session Objectives:

By the end of this panel discussion, participants will:

1. Cite at least two routine opt-out HIV testing and LTC models used in clinical settings within the Midwest Region.
2. Identify at least two promising practices for implementing and sustaining routine opt-out HIV testing models in clinical settings.
3. Identify at least one effective strategy for integrated testing models that screen for infectious diseases and other health concerns beyond HIV within clinical settings.

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM CST
EPNEC Auditorium

Closeout discussion, next steps for tomorrow, resource room

Session Summary: This will be a brief conversation reviewing what was discussed today, the brief agenda of day 2, and inviting folks to attend the networking reception and office hours and visit the resource room

3:15 PM – 5:00 PM CST
EPNEC Lobby

Networking Reception/ Office Hours

Session Summary: During the Networking Reception, attendees can walk around the resource room, network with one another, and/or meet with members of the three Midwest CBA providers to discuss and problem-solve any concerns they may have. There will be an option for networking and office hours for both in-person and virtual attendees.

DAY 2 — Wednesday, February 28, 2024

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM CST
EPNEC Great Room A/B

Breakfast [Provided by Midwest Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Providers]

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM CST
EPNEC Auditorium

Intro/Overview; Recap of Day 1; and Mentimeter Icebreaker
Overview of the day

10:00 AM – 10:15AM CST
EPNEC Lobby

BREAK

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM CST
EPNEC Auditorium

(Track B) Session Title: Innovative PrEP Programs that Address Syndemics in the Midwest

Panelists: Five PrEP implementers from different agency types throughout the Midwest

Session Summary: This moderated discussion will present a panel of implementers of innovative PrEP programs that address syndemics affecting rural areas in the Midwest. Topics that will be discussed are TelePrEP, PrEP and SSPs, PrEP and COVID-19, and PrEP referrals from STI screening and rapid HIV self-tests. Questions for panelists will include prepared questions from the Washington University in St. Louis CBA team and questions from participants in the in-person and virtual audience. Participants will gain knowledge and skills on how to adapt and integrate PrEP services to address syndemics in the rural Midwest.

Session Objectives:

By the end of this panel discussion, participants will:

1. Identify five peers in the Midwest who have implemented innovative PrEP services that address syndemics in the Midwest and prioritize rural populations.
2. Understand at least three barriers and at least three facilitators to implementing PrEP services that address syndemics in the Midwest and prioritize rural populations.
3. Apply at least two lessons learned from other PrEP programs that have adapted and integrated health services to address syndemics in the Midwest.

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM CST
EPNEC Great Room A/B

Lunch [Provided by Midwest Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Providers]

12:45 PM – 2:15 PM CST
EPNEC Auditorium

(Track C) Session Title: *Approaching Social Determinants of Health Through a Syndemic Lens*

Presenters: AIDS United Capacity Building Team

Session Summary: In this interactive workshop, the HIV workforce will have the space to examine the social and structural factors that contribute to the clustering of diseases and poor health conditions in populations, particularly in the Midwest region. Participants will work together to identify the social and structural drivers that lead to clusters in their respective areas and develop innovative strategies to eliminate them (e.g. Working with BI-POC organizations to address medical mistrust and HIV stigma).

Session objectives:

By the end of this workshop, participants will:

1. Strengthen understanding of syndemic-based approaches by exploring and defining 3 steps to identify syndemics and exploring 6 strategies for integrating Syndemic theory into public health work
2. Examine 6 steps of the Creating a Learning Agenda for Systems Change toolkit
3. Implement 4 steps of the Creating a Learning Agenda for Systems Change toolkit using Syndemic Theory.

2:15 PM – 2:30 PM CST
EPNEC Lobby

BREAK

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM CST
EPNEC Auditorium

Closing Plenary: Recap; Closeout [Midwest Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) Providers]