

Employing Status-Neutral Approaches to End the HIV Epidemic

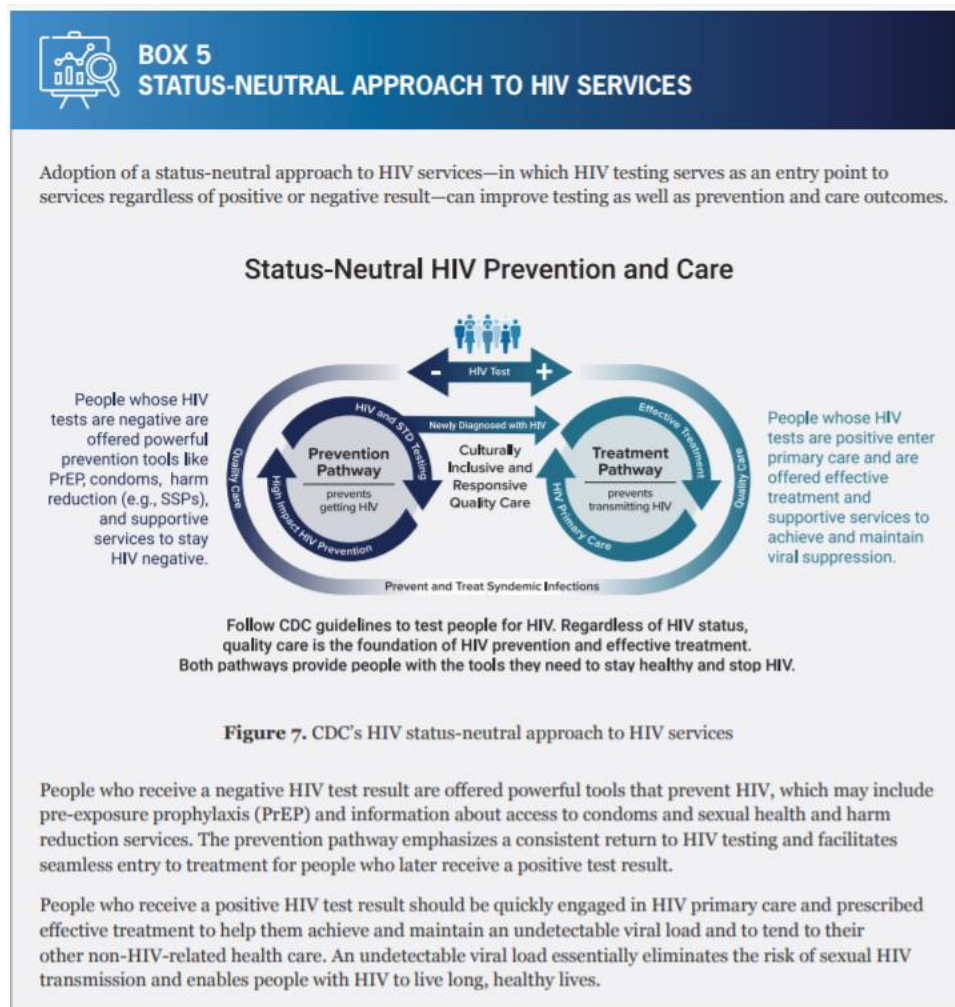
Webinar 1: Status-Neutral Approaches 101

December 14, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM



Status-Neutral Approach Guidance

- NHAS: Incorporate a status-neutral approach to HIV testing, offering linkage to prevention services for people who test negative and immediate linkage to HIV care and treatment for those who test positive.
- Integrated Plan Guidance: Implement innovative program models that integrate HIV prevention and care with other services and other service organizations as a means to address comorbid conditions and to promote a status neutral approach to care.



Agenda

❖ Introduction

- ❖ Maria E. Alvarez, MPA

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Lead
CDC

❖ New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene

- ❖ Paul A. Santos, MPH, CHES

Sr. Capacity Building Assistance Specialist

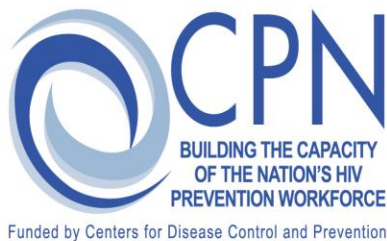
- ❖ Moya Brown-Lopez, MS, MCHES

Director of Capacity Building Assistance

❖ Q&A/Discussion

❖ Wrap Up





Status Neutral Approaches to to HIV Prevention & Care

December 14, 2021

Paul Santos & Moya Brown-Lopez
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
(DOHMH)

NYC CBA – Who We Are

- Within the NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and STI (BHHS)
- Providing national training and TA since 1988 through BHHS' Training and Technical Assistance unit (T-TAP) and CDC CBA since PS14-1403 (categories A & B – HDs and CBOs)
- Deliver CBA TA throughout the northeast U.S. region, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands



Today's Agenda

- Status Neutral HIV Care
- Applying a Status Neutral Lens in NYC
- Benefits & Lessons Learned



Status Neutral HIV Care

Overview



The Status Neutral Approach

“If you do it right, the HIV status of someone is less important. What’s important is: How do you provide the service to the person to optimize their health.”

~ Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, CDC



The Status Neutral Approach

Providing...

- ✓ Care for the whole person with a “one-door” approach, meaning both treatment and prevention in the same place offered alongside other medical and supportive services.
- ✓ Comprehensive support and care to address the social determinants of health that create disparities, especially as they relate to HIV.
- ✓ Culturally affirming, inclusive, stigma-free, and responsive quality care.



Eliminating Stigma & Reducing Health Disparities

Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) – Most Impacted Populations



*Latinx Gay, Bisexual
and other Men who
have Sex with Men*



*Black Gay, Bisexual
and other Men who
have Sex with Men*



*White Gay, Bisexual
and other Men who
have Sex with Men*

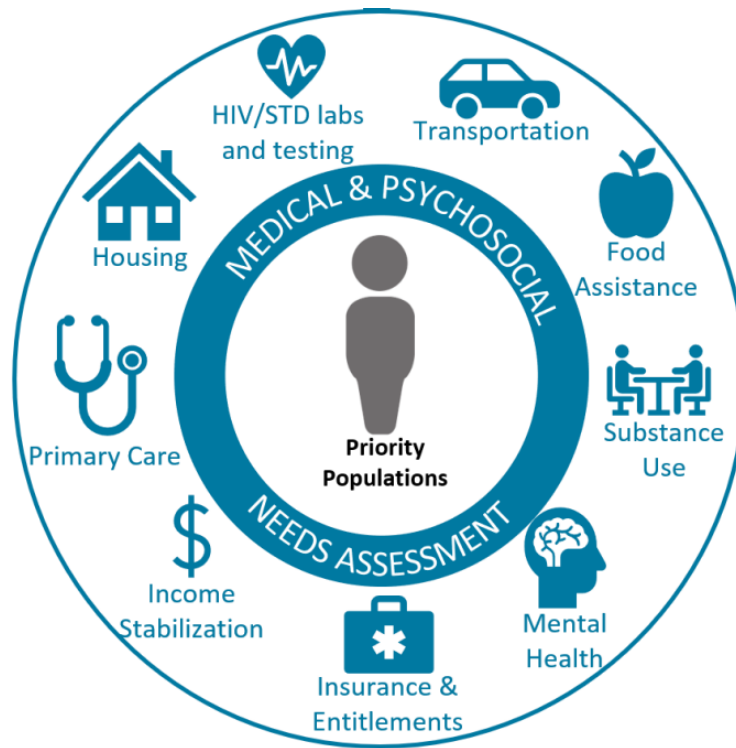


Black Women



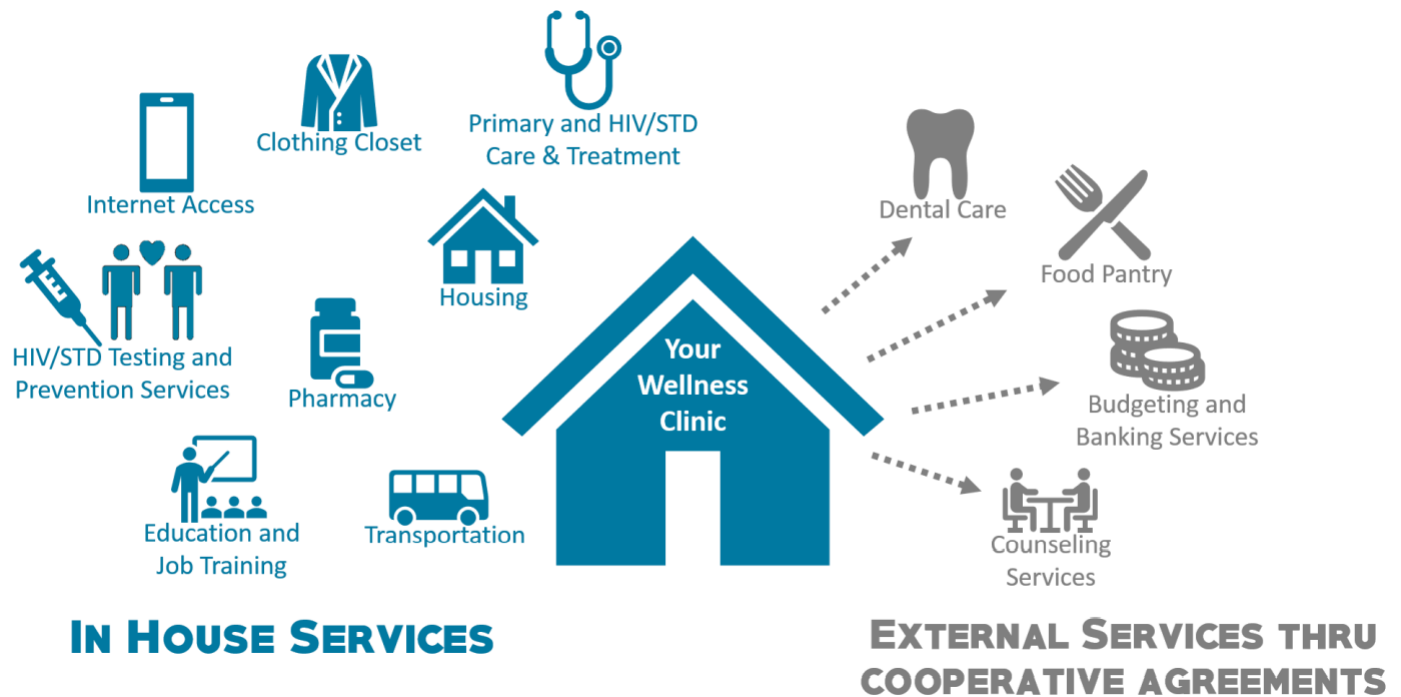
*Transgender Women
(particularly Black and
Latinx transgender
women)*

Status Neutral at the Individual Level

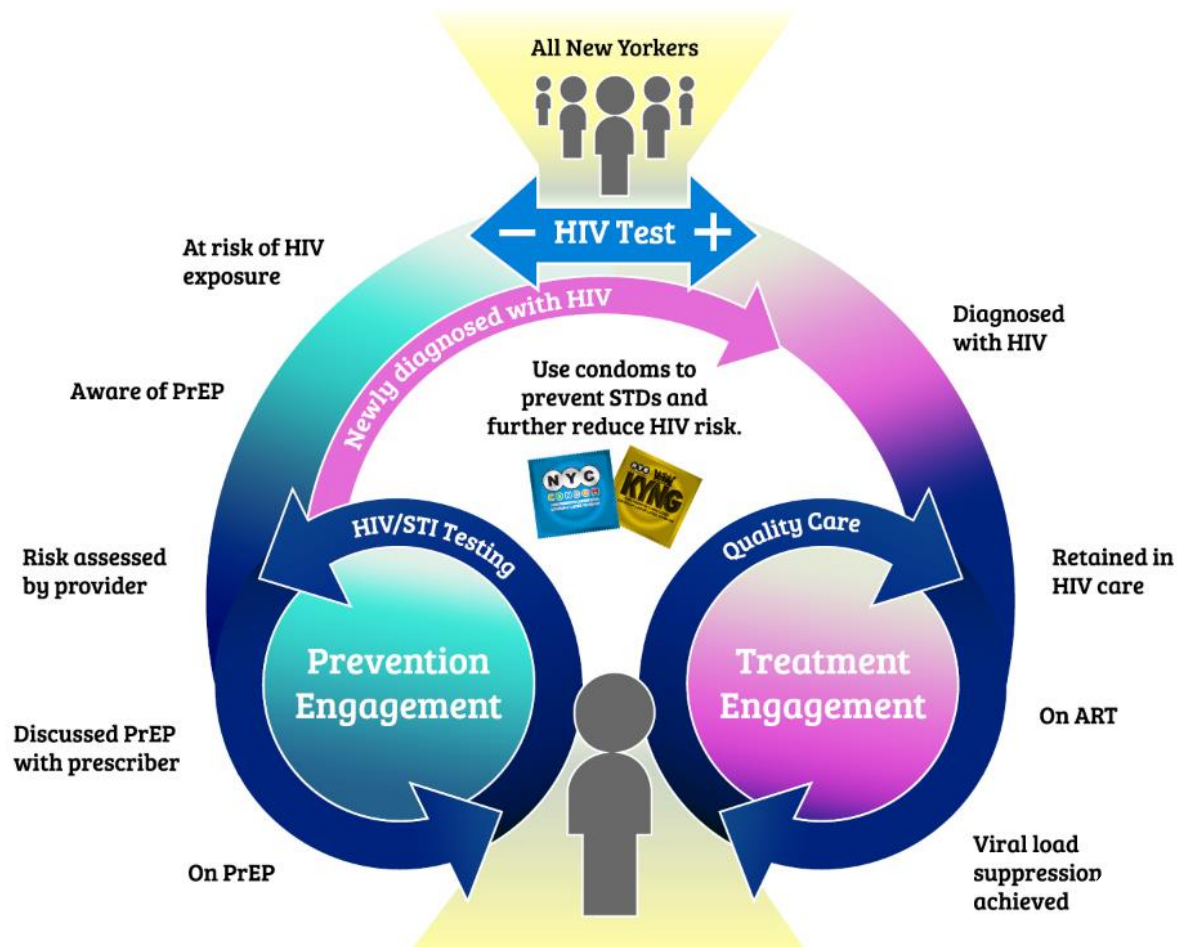


A Status Neutral Approach. Achieving Together to End the HIV Epidemic. Texas Status Neutral White Paper. 2021.

Status Neutral at the Community Level



A Status Neutral Approach. Achieving Together to End the HIV Epidemic. Texas Status Neutral White Paper. 2021.



NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. 2021. [hiv-status-neutral-prevention-and-treatment-cycle](https://www.nyc.gov/hiv-status-neutral-prevention-and-treatment-cycle) (nyc.gov).

Applying a Status Neutral Lens

Establishing Culturally Affirming Care in New York City



Applying a Status Neutral Lens

NYC DOHMH's Experience

1. Applied a status neutral lens to social marketing
2. Rebranded City STD clinics into Sexual Health Clinics
3. Enhanced Ryan White-funded medical case management program



Applying a Status Neutral Lens to Social Marketing



Applying a Status Neutral Lens to Social Marketing



WE STAY SURE
DAILY PrEP + CONDOMS

#PLAYSURE

BE SURE, PLAY SURE, STAY SURE.
If you're HIV negative, PrEP is a daily pill that protects you from HIV. Condoms offer additional protection against HIV and other STIs.

STAY SURE: Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health to design the right HIV and STI prevention combination for you.

NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene



I PLAY SURE
PrEP + CONDOMS

#PLAYSURE

BE HIV-POSITIVE SURE.
If you're HIV positive, PrEP is a daily pill that protects you from HIV. Condoms offer additional protection against HIV and other STIs.

STAY SURE: Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/health to design the right HIV and STI prevention combination for you.

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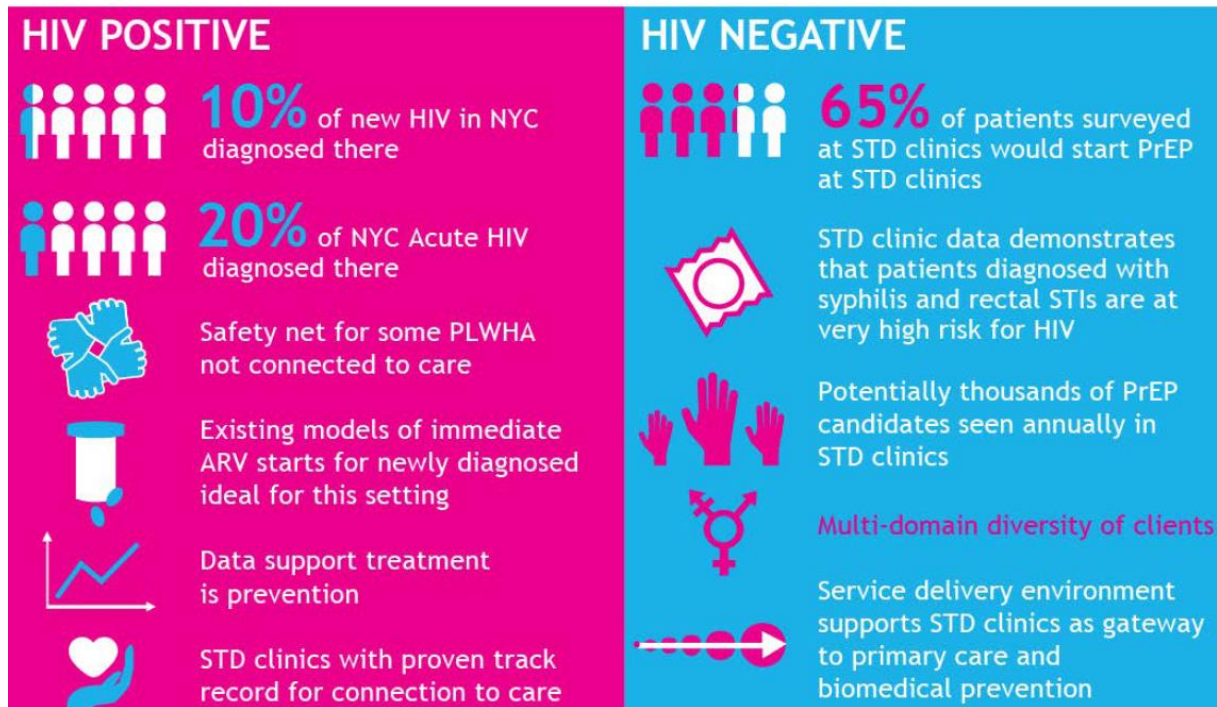
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Rebranding STD Clinics into Sexual Health Clinics



Why Focus on the Sexual Health Clinics?



NYC Sexual Health Clinics *then...*

- STI screening and treatment with limited eligibility for screening-only visits
- Routine medical provider exams
- Emergency contraception
- HIV testing (rapid and acute)
- Linkage to care for HIV diagnosis
- 3-day PEP starter packs with referral
- PrEP referrals



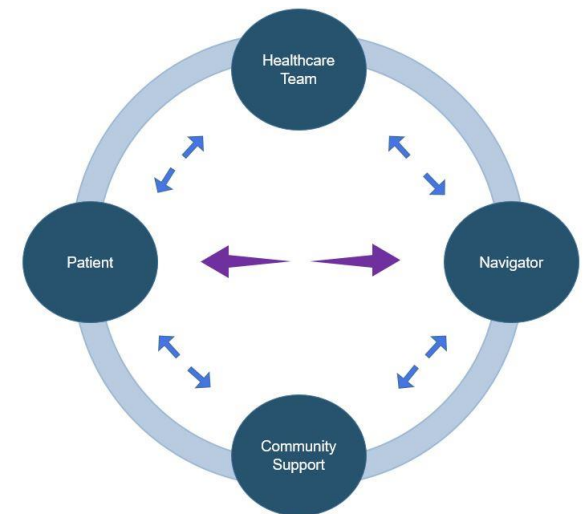
NYC Sexual Health Clinics *now...*

- ✓ Universal access to screening
- ✓ Oral and self-collected anal GC/CT NAAT
- ✓ Full PEP services
- ✓ JumpstART/immediate ART
- ✓ PrEP initiation
- ✓ Rapid trichomonas antigen testing
- ✓ HPV vaccines
- ✓ Mental health counseling/substance use
- ✓ Quickstart contraception and referral



Patient Navigation in Sexual Health Clinics

- Based on the community health worker model
- Helps clients or patients “navigate” an increasingly complex healthcare system
- Incorporates motivational interviewing
- Assists with insurance & benefits, plans for medication adherence
- Addresses barriers to linkage to care, specifically linkage to HIV preventive and treatment care services



Integrating a New Workforce

- Referrals were made by DIS staff to link patients in sexual health clinics to ongoing care; active or passive referral based on service
- Program staff agreed that new positions were required to implement patient navigation
- Trained physicians and nurse practitioners were required to provide initial HIV treatment services in addition to STI treatment, PEP, and PrEP
- Nurses enhanced the triage process to identify candidates for new HIV prevention and care services



Status Neutral Services in City Sexual Health Clinics

HIV Testing Services

PEP

**Immediate
PrEP
Initiation**

JumpstART
Immediate HIV
treatment

**STI Screening and Treatment, Condoms, Partner Services, Emergency Contraception,
Crisis Counseling, and Substance Use Services**

Enhancing Ryan White-funded Medical Case Management

RWHAP MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT

HIV+



Address HIV Healthcare disparities by facilitating access to care and other services



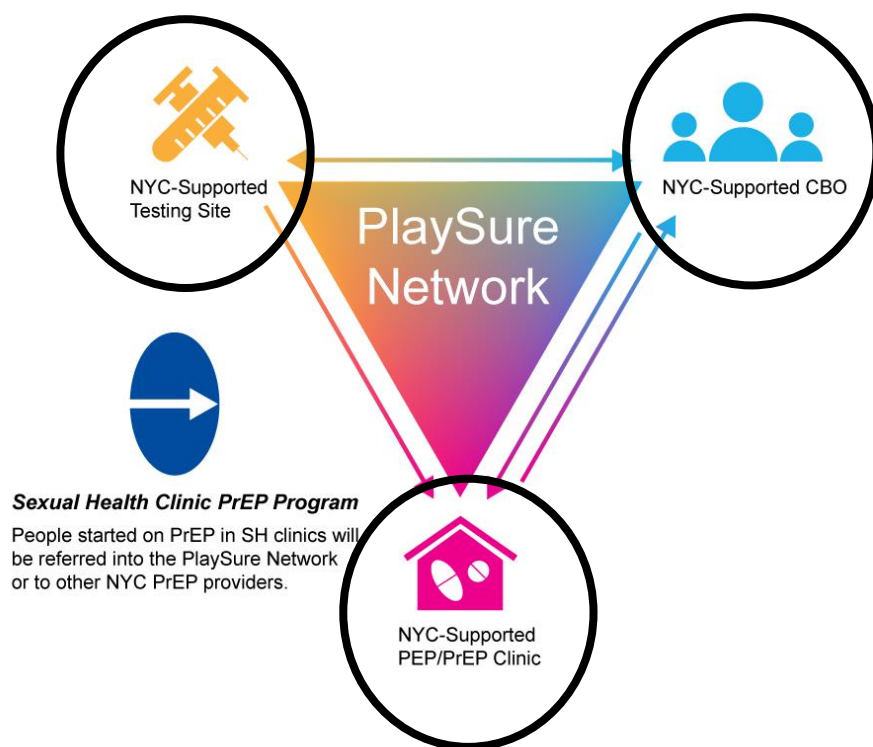
Leads orientation, **assessment** and **care planning**
Verifies program eligibility
Coordinates with medical providers
Facilitates **case conferences**

**CARE
COORDINATOR**

Provides **health education**
Provides mDOT and **accompaniment** to appointments
Provides **navigation** and **support** to clients
Provides **appointment reminders** and follow-up
Provides **linkages** to needed services
Leads client **engagement** and **re-engagement** in service elements
Participates in **planning** and **assessment** activities

NAVIGATOR

Expanding Beyond NYC Sexual Health Clinics



<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/resources/playsure-network.page>

Benefits & Lessons Learned



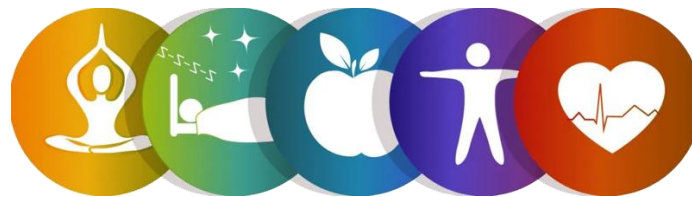
Benefits of Status Neutral Approach

- Reduce institutionalized stigma for people with HIV (PWH)
- Create efficiencies – improve resource utilization
- Gain insights from parallel service delivery
- Become more people-focused – embrace the person; service delivery is secondary



Benefits of People-Focused Approach

- Culturally affirming care
- Support self-esteem by normalizing conversations and strategies to optimize health
- Focus on sexual health and pleasure – harm reduction
- Respect the individual and their autonomy



Challenges

- Consistent messaging and a paradigm shift for providers
- Identifying and securing resources necessary for integration of navigation into Sexual Health Clinics
- Ensuring that priority populations (e.g. men who have sex with men and transgender women of color) have equitable access to navigation
- Ensuring linkage to ongoing HIV prevention and/or treatment services
- Funding streams that ensure access to services don't have specific requirements and require status neutral navigation



Successes

- Integration of new navigation and medical provider workforce embracing a status neutral approach
- Broadened scope of services from Sexual Health Clinics
- Shifting RFPs for funded CBOs and clinical sites to center their care with a status neutral approach
- Reduced HIV and STI stigma
- Setting the standard for culturally affirming, inclusive, stigma-free, and responsive quality care in NYC



Lessons Learned

- Full integration requires a thorough, deliberate approach
- Robust collaboration is needed (internal/external)
- Messaging and programming have to align



Thank You!

CBA

NYC Capacity Building Assistance Project

**NYC Capacity Building
Assistance Project**

NYCCBA@health.nyc.gov



Q&A/Discussion



Discussion

- What plans does your jurisdiction have for implementing status-neutral approaches or what activities have been implemented?
- What challenges has your jurisdiction faced or foresee facing in implementing status-neutral approaches?



Contact Information

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- **NASTAD**

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To Learn More or Request CDC CBA/TA services on this content area
and other TA needs:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/programresources/capacitybuilding/>

