

The background is a collage of four quadrants. Top-left: a stack of white papers on a purple background. Top-right: a close-up of a clock face on a pink background. Bottom-left: a stack of papers on a green background. Bottom-right: a close-up of a clock face on a yellow background.

Training to Integrate Viral Hepatitis Prevention

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Re-organization of the Bureau

- In 2005 under the leadership of Marlene McNeese-Ward the Houston Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention officially re-organized as the Bureau of HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis Prevention.
- While some of the basic scopes of our daily operations remained the same. A focused portion of the re-organization was to streamline the components of personnel but also to better and more effectively meet the ever-increasing demands of other STI that were/are impacting residents of Houston/Harris county.
- Included in that process was the expansion of our syphilis elimination efforts.

Re-organization of the Bureau

- The Bureau engaged in the scope of providing more comprehensive services which integrated syphilis screening and testing.
- Funded contractors were educated and trained through our protocol based counseling to include syphilis testing to at-risk populations.
- As a result of increasing syphilis cases the Bureau also created the Syphilis Elimination Task Force to assist in creating innovative processes to address the issues.

Integration of Services

- With the precedent of integrating syphilis, the Bureau has effectively integrated several components of Viral Hepatitis into its fold, which include:
 - The recent funding from CDC to support an Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator for our jurisdiction.
 - Inclusion of perinatal issues that incorporated expanded testing in Labor & Delivery as well as Emergency Rooms.
 - Coordination of our currently funded contractors to include screening and testing of hepatitis C to their respective at-risk populations.
 - Integrated service response that include the Bureau of Immunization in coordinating efforts via our currently funded contractors to make accessible hepatitis B vaccination to communities at-large.

Training Personnel

- Housed within the Bureau is our Training Unit which is charged with meeting many of the training needs for our contracted and Bureau personnel as well community stakeholders.
- As a means of ensuring that contracted personnel have the appropriate tools to successfully screen at-risk populations for hepatitis C. They are trained on the use of the Protocol Based Counseling intervention.
- All contracted personnel are required to complete a minimum of 18 hours of continuing education; that specifically meets the goals and objectives of the funded/targeted program.



Current Viral Hepatitis Training Activities

- Protocol-Based Counseling-
HCV counseling protocol
 - Required for all HIV CTR
Contractor staff
- “It’s Time! Training”
 - Offered quarterly
 - Elective



Current Viral Hepatitis Training Activities

- Fundamentals of HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis
 - Offered monthly
 - Required for all contractors, recommended for community advocates, including the HIV Prevention Community Planning Group
 - Short section on prevention of viral hepatitis

Current Viral Hepatitis Training Activities

- Activity-based trainings conducted by AVHPC as needed
 - Viral hepatitis training for STD clinicians who will be providing HCV screening
 - Risk Factor, Counseling Messages, and Lab Testing Protocol training for HIV prevention contractors offering HCV testing

Questions?

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