Quarterly Updates

Infectious Disease Prevention and Health Services Bureau
HIV Health Services Unit

MARYLAND Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

GREETINGS!

We hope you enjoyed the fourth issue of the Quarterly Updates. As we continue to release future issues we would like to hear from all of you. This publication was created with you in mind, so your input is essential. The current issue includes the following: 1) Sub-Recipient Spotlight; 2) Updates – Health Services; 3) Regional updates; 4) Mandatory Quarterly Meetings and 5) Upcoming Meetings, Events & Trainings. If you are interested in posting organizational updates, local events, or special announcements, please contact Valerie Berkeley at valerie.berkeley@maryland.gov.   The next issue will be released February 2016.

Sincerely,
The Team at IDPHSB / HIV Health Services Unit

Sub-Recipient Spotlight

Monthly Reports
PHPA would like to thank all providers for their patience and cooperation in transitioning from quarterly to monthly reporting. We also want to thank the ambulatory care providers for completing the additional measures.

A special congratulation to the 7 agencies who submitted their September reports on time and with 100% accuracy (no issues with the preliminary review of the reports):
- Anne Arundel County Health Department
- Harford County Health Department
- Sinai Hospital
- Somerset County Health Department
- University of Maryland – Evelyn Jordan Center (EJC)
- University of Maryland – Institute of Human Virology (IHV)
- Washington County Health Department

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Special Acknowledgements from the HSA's
Allegany County Health Department has always set high standards for all programs. However, when undertaking the daunting task of Public Health Accreditation, they realized they had quite a lot to learn and improve in terms of formalizing Continuous Quality Improvement. In the last 2 years, they have established the ACHD Continuous Quality Improvement Council which is comprised of rotating members from each area of the Health Department. The committee meets monthly and oversees the QI initiatives of the agency as a whole. Each individual program within the Health Department conducts

QA/QI activities in collaboration with the Health Officer and the QI Council.

Overall responsibility of the quality of the ACHD HIV Programs lies with the Director of Nursing/ Infectious Disease Program Manager and the HIV Program Supervisor under the leadership of the Health Officer. After completing the DHMH (QA/QI) Organizational Assessment for Ryan White Recipients, using the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) Module, we have set the following goals for the HIV Program for the remainder of FY 16 and for FY 17:

- Goal 1: Formalize QA/QI meetings with HIV Program staff quarterly;
- Goal 2: Assess the level of understanding of the PDSA CQI Model among the HIV Team with the   projected outcome of establishing a baseline level of knowledge to build upon.
- Goal 3: Provide training on Quality Assessment and Improvement to the HIV Team with the projected outcome of increasing the level of understanding of the PDSA CQI Method.

Congratulations to the Allegany County Health Department for striving to improve their programs for their clients.

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Thanks for Your Prompt Response!

Garrett County Health Dept.
Independent Living Foundation
Johns Hopkins University OB GYN
Queen Anne's County Health Dept.

You installed CAREWare Build 874 and sent us the confirmation.

Updates – Health Services

SAVE THE DATE --- 2016 Ryan White Part B, D, MAI, and HOPWA Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 2016
8:30am - 3:30pm
Martins Caterers Martins West
6817 Dogwood Road
Baltimore MD 21244

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SAVE THE DATE --- SCSN All Parts Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Martins Caterers Martins West
6817 Dogwood Road
Baltimore MD 21244

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Open Enrollment for 2016 Starts November 1
Open enrollment for the Maryland Health Connection will be from November 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016. If you have clients who are eligible for MADAP they may also be eligible to receive premium assistance with their quality health plan (QHP). Should you encounter any questions please contact Stephanie Slowly at stephanie.slowly@maryland.gov or 410-767-5672.

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HRSA Wants Feedback From CareWare Users
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) would like to learn more about how your organization uses CAREWare and how well it is meeting your data collection, reporting, and quality management needs. The requested information will be collected through an on-line survey available at
https://cfigroup.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3k3HQ0w1Jeu9n5X

The survey closes on November 12, 2015. It should be completed by the individual(s) best positioned to provide feedback about the system's utility and functionality. The survey will be hosted via a secure server and your responses will remain anonymous. Your feedback is vital and will be used to plan future CAREWare support and enhancements.

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CAREWare Listserv
Are you a subscriber to the CAREWare Listserv? If not, you are missing out on great information from the CAREWare community? To subscribe to the Listserv, go to
https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=careware and click Subscribe (located in the right navigational bar)

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RSR News
Welcome to the 2015 RSR Data Submission Season! The Check Your XML feature is now available for providers to review their Client-level data files. This feature allows providers to check data for validation issues and learn early what information needs to be corrected before the RSR Provider Report deadline. Remember, reviewing your client-level data early will allow you to provide the best possible data when completing your submission. Providers may use this feature throughout the reporting season; however, providers will need to upload the corrected Client-level data into the RSR Provider Report once it opens Monday, February 1, 2016.

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Epidemiological Profiles / Fact Sheets / Presentations
The Center for HIV Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Evaluation is responsible for collecting information about HIV and AIDS in Maryland for use in planning, implementing, and evaluating responses to the epidemic. We work with health care providers, local health departments, and the federal government to collect, analyze, and report this data in a secure, complete, timely, and appropriate manner.

Link to Statistics:
http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CHSE/SitePages/statistics.aspx

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HIV/AIDS Patient Education — Positively! & ¡Positivo! —Interactive Web-Based HIV Education Tools

The Baltimore City Health Department is pleased to offer online informational and self-management education for people living with HIV. Positively! in English, and ¡Positivo! in Spanish, demonstrate why it is important to stay in care and on medication, communicated through patient testimonials, animation, and role-play. Auditory learners can read the script as they watch, and self-checks follow the segments. The core message, conveyed in plain language, is staying in care and adherent. These video clips are designed as a resource for people with HIV, or to start discussions between HIV providers and their clients. They can also be shown in a waiting room. For a fully interactive version click on the link:
http://health.baltimorecity.gov/hivaids/education/positively

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NOVEMBER 19, 2015

The third Thursday in November has been set aside to highlight rural communities as wonderful places to live and work, increase awareness of rural health-related issues, and promote the efforts of State Offices of Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health in addressing these issues.

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World AIDS Day is held on December 1st each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. The Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA) would like to know if your organization is planning an event or activity in observance of World AIDS Day – Tuesday, December 1, 2015. If so, please send your event information to Carmi W. Flood at carmi.washington-flood@maryland.gov by Friday, November 20, 2015 to have your activity included in the World AIDS Day 2015 Calendar being developed by PHPA: 1) DATE, 2)TIME, 3) VENUE (with complete address), 4) TYPE OF ACTIVITY, 5) KEYNOTE EVENT/SPEAKER, 6) CONTACT NAME, and 7) CONTACT NUMBER

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Quality Academy Tutorial Series
We ask that you view the tutorials, take notes, complete the evaluation, and send questions to Valerie at valerie.berkeley@maryland.gov or 410-767-5111. *BONUS FEATURE*: At the end of the tutorial you will receive a certificate of completion. Please make a copy of your certificate because each tutorial counts towards your ongoing Quality Improvement capacity building/training for your program.

Narrowing Your Focus – Using Data to Launch Improvement Activities:
http://tutorials.nqcqualityacademy.org/tutorial10/

In this Tutorial, we will provide guidance to help your quality program in effectively using the performance data that you have collected. It shows you the importance of linking performance data results to actual quality improvement activities, ultimately helping you to improve key aspects of HIV care and services.

In addition, the module introduces quality improvement tools that you can help you improve data analysis, understand what the data mean and identify key steps towards understanding what your specific problem is. You will also learn about best practices for sharing data and about steps that you can take for data analysis follow-up.

This Tutorial will provide you with information on:
- Importance of linking data to improvement activities
- Analyzing data
- Data sharing
- Data follow-up

Evaluation: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GM6ZKMF
Please complete after each QM tutorial

The Quality Management Plan: http://tutorials.nqcqualityacademy.org/tutorial5/

The Tutorial starts by explaining the key terms necessary for writing and updating this quality management plan, and outlines important elements that make up a sound quality management plan. Finally, it offers you ten rules for success in developing your plan.

This Tutorial will provide you with information on:
- Key terminology
- Crucial elements of a Quality Management Plan
- Quality statement
- Quality improvement infrastructure
- Performance measurement
- Annual quality goals
- Engagement of stakeholders`
- Evaluation
- Ten rules for success

Evaluation: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GXZHR6B
Please complete after each QM tutorial

Ideas for Change in HIV Care:
http://tutorials.nqcqualityacademy.org/tutorial15/

The Tutorial details actual improvements that have been made in HIV care. Three topics are presented: (a) change concepts, which are general approaches that have proved useful in developing specific ideas for changes that result in improvement; (b) examples of change concepts and improvements in HIV care; (c) and information on where to locate best practices that your organization may want to adopt.

Evaluation: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JC5TTFP
Please complete after each QM tutorial

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Quality Management Plans
Valerie Berkeley (Quality Manager) would like to thank you for submitting your Quality Management plans. The following QM plans have been approved by the CQM team:
1. Allegany County Health Department
2. Anne Arundel County Health Department
3. Baltimore County Health Department
4. BCHD Clinical Services
5. Caroline County Health Department
6. Carroll County Health Department
7. Cecil County Health Department
8. Charles County Health Department
9. Dorchester County Health Department
10. Family Health Centers of Baltimore (Mercy)
11. Frederick County Health Department
12. Garrett County Health Department
13. Harford County Health Department
14. Health Care for the Homeless
15. Howard County Health Department
16. Independent Living Foundation
17. JHU Psychiatry
18. JHU – Intensive Primary Care (IPC)
19. Kent County Health Department
20. LIGHT Health and Wellness
21. Montgomery County Health Department
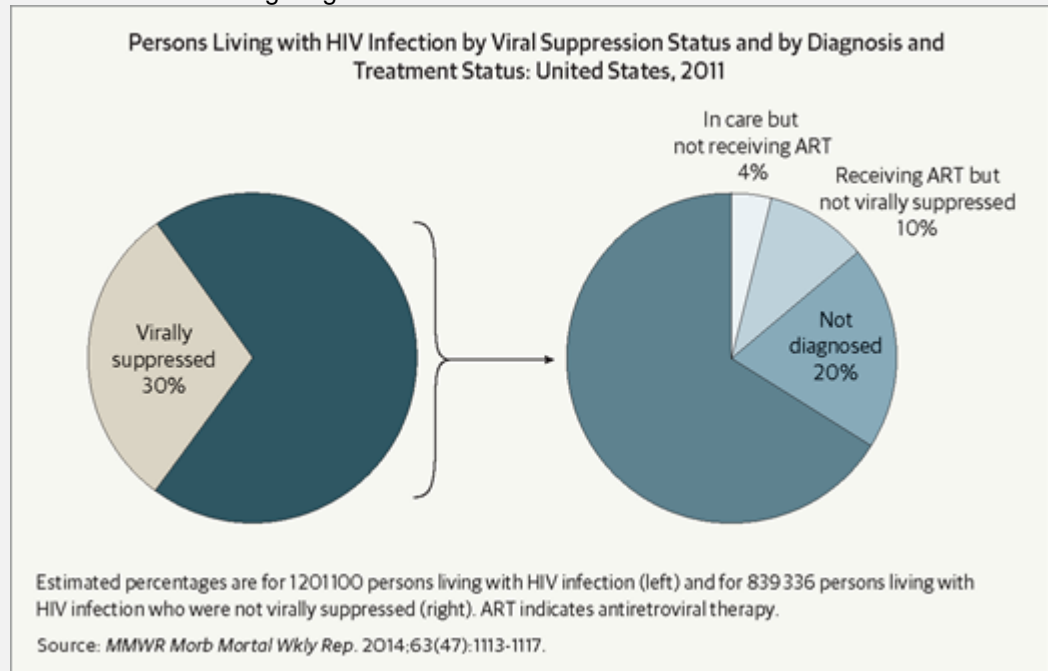22. Park West Health System

23. Prince George's County Health Department
24. Queen Anne's County Health Department
25. Sinai Hospital
26. Sisters Together and Reaching (STAR)
27. Somerset County Health Department
28. Talbot County Health Department
29. Total Health Care
30. University of Maryland - Dental PLUS
31. University of Maryland - Evelyn Jordan
32. University of Maryland - Institute of Human Virology
33. University of Maryland - MidTown
34. University of Maryland - Psychiatry / Drug Treatment Center
35. Washington County Health Department
36. Wicomico County Health Department
37. Worcester County Health Department

For more information/questions please contact Valerie at valerie.berkeley@maryland.gov.

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ABC's of Viral Load Suppression

The Prevention and Health Promotion Administration (PHPA) is continuing to increase awareness on the importance of viral load suppression. Increasing the number of clients with acceptable viral load suppression levels remains a benchmark to improving quality and treatment adherence. Of the estimated 1.2 million people living with HIV in the United States in 2011, only 30% had achieved viral suppression—a key to preventing HIV transmission and living longer with the infection.

Persons Living with HIV Infection by Viral Suppression Status and by Diagnosis and Treatment Status: United States, 2011

Estimated percentages are for 1201100 persons living with HIV infection (left) and for 839336 persons living with HIV infection who were not virally suppressed (right). ART indicates antiretroviral therapy.

Source: *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2014;63(47):1113-1117.

Using data from the National HIV Surveillance System and the Medical Monitoring Project, researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that, among the 70% of people with HIV whose viral loads were not suppressed, 20% had never been diagnosed with HIV, 66% were diagnosed but had not received HIV medical care, 4% received HIV medical care but not antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 10% took ART but had not achieved viral suppression. Patients 65 years or older had the highest prevalence of viral suppression (37%) while those aged 18 to 24 years had the lowest (13%) (Bradley H et al. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2014;63[47]:1113-1117).

To improve HIV diagnosis rates, the researchers recommended that those at high risk for HIV infection—gay men, people who inject drugs, and those with a sexually transmitted disease—be tested at least annually. In addition, all adults, adolescents, and pregnant women should be tested at least once. Antiretroviral therapy should be prescribed immediately after diagnosis, the researchers added. Better interventions also are needed to reach the two-thirds of people with HIV who aren't receiving HIV medical care. The researchers suggested several strategies: provider notification systems, combined medical and support services, clinic materials promoting engagement in care, and employing clinic staff with expertise working with youth and gay men.

The CDC and the US Department of Health and Human Services are supporting efforts to increase HIV diagnosis, improve access to HIV medical care, reduce viral load, expand the use of HIV surveillance data, conduct research, and improve outcomes.

This information was brought to you by The Journal of the American Medical Association. For more information please visit:
http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2107800

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The holiday season is upon us and with that we have a few days where our offices will be closed for business. Please make note of the following closings from November 2015 through January 2016.
- Wednesday, November 11
- Thursday, November 26
- Friday, November 27
- Friday, December 25
- Friday, January 1
- Monday, January 18

Regional Updates

First human trials underway in Maryland for HIV vaccine
Scientists at the University of Maryland School of Medicine announced that they're ready to begin the first human trials of a new HIV vaccine. This is a milestone in the long road to find an effective HIV vaccine. This is also extremely complicated.

Dr. Robert Gallo, with the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, described the vaccine as "just a protein" but different than anything that has been tried before. It's designed to induce a new kind of antibody to target infection right at the start, since the AIDS virus integrates within one day into human genes, and it becomes part of DNA in 24-36 hours.

Gallo said it has taken nine years to get to this stage. The goal of the first phase is to prove his belief that the vaccine is safe. Phase one has started enrolling volunteers, 60 of which are needed. Twenty people will get this vaccine and Gallo said the first person will be injected by the end of this month. Phase two involves linking up with other people's vaccines, Gallo said, in the hope of finding a "one-two punch" that really does the trick.

Link to news report: http://www.wbaltv.com/health/human-trials-underway-in-maryland-for-

hiv-vaccine/35730444

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<u>Women, HIV & Intimate Partner Violence: New Campaign Puts Spotlight on Little-Known Issue During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month</u>

MENLO PARK, Calif., Oct. 20, 2015 – One in three women in the United States experiences intimate partner violence. For women living with HIV, it is one in two. Having an abusive partner is associated with a higher risk for HIV and, for those living with HIV, worse health outcomes. Coinciding with National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Greater Than AIDS today launched Empowered: Women, HIV and Intimate Partner Violence to bring more attention to the issues and provide resources for women who may be at risk of, or dealing with, abuse and HIV.

The campaign is produced in partnership with the National Domestic Violence Hotline, love is respect, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Positive Women's Network-USA and The Well Project, with additional support from The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation. Anchored by a 20-minute video featuring Tonya Lewis Lee – lawyer, author, producer and longtime advocate for women's health issues – the campaign takes an up-close look at the issue from the perspective of five women living with HIV who have had experience with, and received services related to, intimate partner violence.

During the intimate conversation, Ms. Lee and the women discuss topics such as recognizing the signs of abuse, getting out and getting help, finding love again and moving forward. "What I took from my conversation with these five women is that this is an issue that can and does affect many women, and with care and support it is possible to move forward," added Ms. Lee. "I was deeply inspired by them and I know others will be too."

For women living with HIV, lifetime abuse and the depression and trauma that often accompanies it can make it difficult to keep up with HIV medications and stay connected to care, which can significantly compromise their health. For some, sharing their HIV status can increase abuse or bring on violence.

For more about the campaign go to empowered.greaterthan.org or to watch the videos go to https://youtu.be/8ydM4MvPyrU.

Mandatory Quarterly Meetings

<u>Combined Ryan White WICY Network and MAI Roundtable Meeting</u>
Friday, December 4, 2015
1:30pm – 3:30pm
DHMH – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
500 N Calvert Street, 5th Floor, Baltimore, MD

<u>Eastern Region Case Managers Meeting</u>
Wednesday, January 13, 2016
10:00am – 2:00pm
Talbot County Health Department
100 S Hanson St, Easton, MD 21601

<u>Maryland Regional Group (Quality Management)</u>
Friday, February 5, 2016
9:30 am – 12:30pm
Chase Brexton Health Services
1111 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21201

<u>HIV Planning Group (HPG)</u>
March 17, 2016

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Doubletree by Hilton Annapolis
210 Holiday Court, Annapolis MD 21401

Upcoming Meetings, Events & Trainings

Using the Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) to Find Community Resources: Training for Service Providers and Community Advocates
November 12, 2015
2:00-2:45pm
RSVP by emailing: mdcsl@umd.edu

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Webinar: Trauma-Informed Care: An Approach to Improve Engagement of Women Living with HIV
November 12, 2015
12:00pm - 1:30pm
Registration Page: http://aetc.adobeconnect.com/e6tcodxqfbj/event/registration.html

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Webinar: Primary Care for HIV Patients
November 18, 2015
12:00 p.m.
Registration Page: https://www.pamaaetc.org/events/view/3839

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International Conference on Stigma
Friday, November 20
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Howard University's Blackburn Center
Washington, DC
Registration Page: http://www.whocanyoutell.org/2015-conference/

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6th Annual Testing for Turkeys
Hosted by: RAAYS OF HOPE *(Raising AIDS awareness amongst Adults, Youth, and Seniors)*
Saturday, November 21, 2015
11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
6665 Security Blvd., Woodlawn, MD
FREE HIV Testing for those unaware of their status
ONE free Turkey Gift Card to the first 50 people tested

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3rd International Conference on HIV/AIDS, STDs & STIs
Monday, November 30 - Wednesday, December 2, 2015
Hilton Atlanta Airport
Atlanta, GA
Registration Page: hiv-aids-std.conferenceseries.com/

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Behavioral Health Issues in HIV Management
December 2, 2015
621 W Lombard St, Baltimore, MD 21201
SMC Campus Center, Room 349
9:00am - 3:00pm
Target Audience: Physicians, PAs, NPs, Nurses and Social Workers
Register Page: https://www.pamaaetc.org/events/view/3762
Breakfast, Lunch and CEUs will be provided (No Fee to attend)

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Webinar: Integrating Leading and Collaborative Approaches to Advance the Care of HCV Patient Populations
December 3, 2015
12:00pm to 1:00pm
Registration Page: https://primeinc.org/webinars/1171

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National HIV Prevention Conference
December 6-9, 2015
Atlanta, GA
Registration Page: http://www.cdc.gov/nhpc/index.html

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The 15th Ryan White HIV/AIDS AETC Program: Clinical Care Conference
December 15-17, 2015
New Orleans, LA
Registration Page: http://aidsetc.org/2015-RWCC?utm_source=AETC+NRC+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=45ddf7a0e5-Reg+open+Ryan+White+Clinical+Care+Conference&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d60e941bc3-45ddf7a0e5-150422509

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Webinar Series: Practicing Cultural Responsiveness in Healthcare Delivery Settings
The series will begin by discussing the framework of "cultural responsiveness" as it applies to HIV prevention and care services with Black and Latino gay men/MSM. Cultural responsiveness proposes a tailored, dialogue-based approach that responds to the needs being presented by the individual in front of the provider within a contextual understanding of social, economic, political, and linguistic disparities. In addition, cultural responsiveness highlights that lived cultural experiences are embodied (visceral), dynamic, and nuanced. The series will continue through February, with subsequent webinars as follows:

- **Practicing Cultural Responsiveness in Healthcare Delivery Settings (Part 1)**
  November 12, 2015
  2:00 – 3:00 PM
  Registration Page:
  https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=33jkuln6noc3

- **Anti-Stigma Advocacy in HIV Prevention and Care: Lessons from the Black Lives Matter and Queer Dreamers Movements (Part 2)**
  December 14, 2015
  2:00-3:00 PM
  Registration Page:
  https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=jkrkw4n7jb7f

- **Using the Sexual Health Model (Interconnectedness, Sexual Ownership, Body Awareness) as a Blueprint for Appropriate Care in serving Black and Latino gay men (Part 3)**
  January 12, 2016
  2:00-3:00 PM
  Registration Page:
  https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=iey5hd2b8qts

- **The Power of Language & the Importance of its Appropriate Use (Part 4)**
  February 9, 2016
  2:00-3:00 PM
  Registration Page:
  https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=2k4irk9wb4wc

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National African American MSM Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS and other Health Disparities
January 21-24, 2016
Los Angeles, CA
Registration Page: http://naesm.org/leadership-conference/conference-information/

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2016 Annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI)
February 22-26, 2016
Boston, MA
Registration Page: http://www.croiconference.org/about/contact-us

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AIDS Watch 2016
February 29 - March 1, 2016
Washington, DC
Registration Page: http://www.aidsunited.org/Policy-0024-Advocacy/AIDSWatch.aspx

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2016 American Conference for the Treatment of HIV
April 28-30, 2016
Dallas, TX
Registration Page: http://www.acthiv.org/

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National Conference on Social Work and HIV/AIDS
May 26-29, 2016
Minneapolis, MN
Registration Page: http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/academics/ce/conferences.html

If you have any questions or would like to post something in an upcoming edition please contact
Valerie Berkeley at valerie.berkeley@maryland.gov.

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