



**EXPONENTS**

Improving health. Igniting hope.

# SUPPORTING TRANS WOMEN'S EFFORTS TO END THE EPIDEMIC

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May 2, 2016

# Training Goal

- To provide workshop participants with Exponents successful model of engaging and retaining transgender women of color in our efforts to end the epidemic here in NYC by 2020.

# Training Objectives

- Disseminate information on NYS' ETE Blueprint and Exponents' corresponding efforts
- Provide an overview of Exponents' highly impactful ARRIVE program
- Discuss proven strategies to engage, train, and retain transgender women of color

# Organizational History

- Exponents was founded in 1990 by Howard Josepher, LCSW and Joseph Turner, Esq. to ensure continuation of ARRIVE, the successful NIDA-funded demonstration HIV prevention education/recovery readiness program that Howard was the principal investigator for and Joe was one of the initial trainers.

# Organizational Mission

- We are a non-profit organization located in the heart of New York City compassionately dedicated to serving those impacted by HIV/AIDS, substance use, incarceration and behavioral health challenges. We deliver these services through a client-centered, strength-based approach which greatly improves health outcomes and promotes overall wellness in our communities.*

# Current Programs

- ARRIVE
- HIV Testing
- Care Coordination
- Project START+
- Second Chance
- Seeking Safety
- *TRANS*formation Support Grp
- Job Readiness/Retention
- Healthcare Enrollment
- APGP
- ARTAS
- Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment
- ASPIRE
- Peer-2-Peer (Recovering Annex) Program
- Living Well
- TASC preparation (*classroom instruction, 1:1 tutoring*)
- TES
- Center for Personal & Professional Development

# Evolution of Exponents' Transgender Women's Program Census

- Exponents has always created/sustained an inclusive environment for all
- Inclusion on Community Advisory Board since 2012
- In 2014, brought on an LGBT Recruitment Specialist
- From 2011 – 2015, Exponents experienced a 100% increase in the number of trans women accessing our HRR program (ARRIVE/APGP/TES)

# ETE Blueprint

- **Announced 3-point plan by Gov. Cuomo in June, 2014**
  - Identify persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and link them to health care
  - Link and retain persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and get them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent transmission; and
  - Facilitate access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV-negative.



# Identify persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and link them to health care

- *In-house Testing (P.O.S.E)*
  - Routine offering at time of engagement
  - Re-engagement efforts
  - Re-testing of recent 'transplants' for documentation/accessing care, treatment and entitlements (*particularly in HRR programs*)
- *Mobile Testing*
  - ORE (Outreach, Recruitment & Engagement)

*HIV Service Navigation (HNS)*

*Care Coordination*

# **Link and retain persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and get them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent transmission**

- ARRIVE/ARRIVE Post-Graduate Program (APGP)
- Strong, long-standing clinical provider partnerships (Mount Sinai Health System, Brightpoint Health, Callen-Lorde CHC)
- Primary Care Status Measure data collection at 90-day intervals
- Peer Accompaniment

# Seeking Safety

is a trauma-informed, present-focused intervention for individuals screened for PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and have histories of substance use. Seeking Safety is a 12-week (weekly 2hr groups) intervention which help survivors of trauma identify the far-reaching impact of trauma and find healthier, safer coping skills.

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## **Facilitate access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV-negative.**

- Once again, strong, proven partnerships to clinical providers
- Regular staff in-service presentations
- Membership in the NYCDoHMH-supported PrEP/nPEP Provider Network
- Ongoing engagement with the Center for Excellence on Transgender Health
- Linking PrEP/nPEP services to other low-threshold engagement activities (e.g. TRANSformation Support Group, Kiki Lounge, etc.)

# Recommendations Exponents is Addressing

- BP18:Health, housing, and human rights for LGBT communities
- BP19:Institute an integrated comprehensive approach to transgender healthcare and human rights
- BP21:Establish mechanisms for an HIV peer workforce

- **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**