



National HIV Prevention Conference

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[TITLE:] INTEGRATING PREVENTION INTO THE CONTINUUM OF HIV/AIDS CARE SERVICES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA: THE EPICC PROGRAM

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ISSUE: Within a geographic region, there are many barriers to the integration of prevention into care programs - policy, politics, funding, turf, distance, language, culture, accessibility, and others - resulting in fragmentation that is often inefficient and possibly ineffective.

KEY POINTS: Participants at this roundtable session will discuss the coordination and integration of prevention and care services related to the concept of Integrated Services Networks (ISN) as proposed at the 2004 Ryan White All-Titles Meeting. Participants will then identify the specific barriers to implementing an integrated approach using Palm Beach County as an example. A solution, the EPICC (Education, Prevention, Intervention, and Continuous Care) Program, developed to adapt the ISN concept to the realities in Palm Beach County, will be briefly presented. Discussion will allow for further exploration of ways to integrate prevention into care services.

IMPLICATIONS: Viewing HIV/AIDS prevention and care services as a continuum and providing formal mechanisms for addressing the continuum for a sub-population or targeted geographic location can result in increased coordination of services and provide for the integration of prevention services across the continuum. Creative collaborations with unexpected partners can increase the number of providers involved in conveying prevention messages in a multiplicity of settings - social, faith-based, athletic, addiction treatment, as well as traditional medical and mental health settings. Epidemiological data - such as demographics of HIV infection, counseling and testing information and Serologic Testing Algorithm for Recent HIV Seroconversion (STAHRS) data - can be useful to both identify high-need geographic areas and/or subpopulations and to evaluate the effectiveness of intervention programs in those targeted areas.



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