

## **Implementation Plan 2014**

This plan reflects priority actions and themes drawn from prevention and care plans developed by planning groups and coalitions across the state; it also includes information from work plans developed by DSHS. Our purpose in this statewide plan was not to replicate the level of detail captured in local plans and work plans, but to provide a road map to strengthen collaborative action and harmonize goals and monitoring indicators. Because this implementation plan spans across local plans and work plans covering variable timeframes, the timelines for these actions are broad. While we looked for common themes, some priority actions received greater emphasis in some local plans. Where this is the case, these jurisdictions are highlighted.

### **Domain One: Increasing HIV awareness among members of the general public, community leaders, and policy makers**

#### **Priority: Assure availability of key information for consumers, providers and policy makers.**

Re-energize HIV awareness efforts through implementation of a media plan specifying priority stakeholders and messages.

Who: DSHS, Fort Worth, Houston; Timeline: Plans completed by March 31, 2014. Plans implemented April – December 2014

Increase the number of fact sheets on the DSHS website about the Texas' standing on the steps of the treatment cascade.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: 2012 epidemic profile and cascade fact sheets posted by March 31, 2013

Annually distribute at least 750,000 pieces of educational materials to public and private providers across the state.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Distribution period is the calendar year

Identify policies that act as facilitators or barriers in HIV prevention and treatment, and provide information to decision-makers about the effects of these policies.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: throughout 2013 and 2014

**Priority: Draw attention to the role of social determinants in the spread of HIV.**

Create materials for policy makers on social determinants with simple and concrete examples.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Materials completed and posted by April 30, 2014

Collaborate at least two online or in person trainings on the role of social determinants for HIV prevention and care providers.

Who: DSHS and training partners at PTC and AETC; Timeline: Training completed by December 31, 2014.

Incorporate a focus on social determinants to community mobilization and HIV care systems.

Who: DSHS and local leaders of mobilization efforts and Fort Worth providers; Timeline: Actions taken in 2013 and 2014.

**Priority: Form broad community alliances of traditional and non-traditional stakeholders to support the HIV mission.**

Facilitate delivery of technical assistance and training for local health departments, community based providers, FQHCs and Medicaid providers to prepare for health care system changes and to increase the capacity of non-traditional providers to serve HIV infected persons.

Who: DSHS, Fort Worth and Houston; Timeline: Actions taken in 2013 and 2014.

Invite representatives of traditional and non-traditional stakeholder perspectives to participate in the HIV Planning Syndicate.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Initial meeting in November 2013, ongoing meetings in 2014.

Facilitate expert and peer-based technical assistance on alliance building at the local level.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

**Domain 2: Increasing access to HIV prevention efforts for high risk groups**

**Priority: Focus on those most at risk as determined by epidemiology.**

Develop materials and profiles to inform providers, partners and the public on epidemiologically-based risk populations.

Who: DSHS, Houston Timeline: DSHS Epidemiologic Profile in November 2013, fact sheets and other publications in 2014

Develop and promote gay/MSM sexual health guidelines for communities and providers

Who: DSHS Timeline: Guidelines and promotion plan completed by March 31, 2014.

Promote coordination across funding streams and cross-training for agencies responsible for CRCS, case management and medical activities related to prevention with positives.

Who: DSHS, Dallas, Houston Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Develop guidelines for the use of PrEP and nPEP

Who: DSHS, Houston Timeline: Guidelines distributed by June 30, 2014

Sustain condom distribution strategies for high risk populations; annually distribute at least 6,000,000 condoms.

Who: DSHS, Houston Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Intensify the focus of evidence-based prevention interventions on very high risk HIV-negative persons and on HIV-infected persons and their partners. This includes individual interventions, group interventions, and community-level intervention.

Who: DSHS, Houston, Dallas; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Increase the effectiveness of partner services for persons with HIV infection, including development of revised performance targets and delivery of technical assistance.

Who: DSHS and partners at PTC; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Increase STD screening for those most at risk for HIV, especially extra-genital gonorrhea and chlamydia testing among gay men, through community and provider education and increasing public health laboratory capacity to process extra-genital gonorrhea and chlamydia specimens.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

### **Priority: Conduct interventions with adequate reach**

Develop technical assistance materials, training, and expert panels to assist providers in increasing the reach of interventions.

Who: DSHS, Houston Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Investigate allocation models to guide future HIV prevention investments.

Who: DSHS Timeline: Model completed by December 31, 2014

Create processes to coordinate funding across federal funding agencies (e.g. CDC, SAMHSA, HUD) to maximize reach and impact of interventions.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Report distributed by the Syndicate by June 30, 2014.

### **Priority: Conduct prevention activities relevant to the populations and context in which people live**

Continue investment in behavioral interventions to reach members of vulnerable populations.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Require cultural competence training for frontline HIV prevention and care staff.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Develop materials and TA on sexual harm reduction approaches.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: materials available by June 30, 2014.

### **Priority: Address the environment and system issues that intensify HIV in vulnerable populations**

Create materials for policy makers on social determinants with simple and concrete examples.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Materials completed and posted by April 30, 2014

Actively train providers and partners in the role of social determinants of health.

Who: DSHS, Tarrant; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Incorporate a focus on social determinants to community mobilization campaigns (e.g. Black Women's Initiative, Dallas Black Gay/MSM community mobilization)

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

**Priority: Increase knowledge and sense of urgency to act in high risk populations**

Develop targeted media strategies focused on vulnerable population to increase HIV awareness and testing.

Who: DSHS, Houston, Fort Worth; Timeline: Plans completed by December 31, 2013

Expand *Greater than AIDS* or other *Act Against AIDS* campaigns to cover 5 major urban areas.

Who: DSHS, Fort Worth, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin; Timeline: at least one focused campaign mounted in each area by December 31, 2014.

**Domain 3: Complete diagnosis of all HIV infections**

**Priority: Evaluate effectiveness of HIV testing programs at the population and program level**

Develop a Texas-specific estimate for undiagnosed individuals.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Plans completed by March 31, 2014.

Compare targeted testing, routine screening, and testing done through public health follow up in terms of productivity, allocation per positive, successful linkage.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Report completed by June 30, 2014.

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**Priority: Effectively identify and test individuals in populations at highest risk**

Develop descriptive profiles for vulnerable populations that include social science research.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: Profiles completed by December 31, 2014.

Sustain current efforts to diagnose HIV through targeted testing.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: Ongoing through 2014

Establish testing coordination bodies in all high morbidity jurisdictions.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Coalitions formed by June 2014.

**Priority: Ensure that the social and sexual networks of infected persons are offered testing and counseling**

Expand the number of partners and members of social and sexual networks of HIV-infected persons who receive partner services (e.g. identification, notification, counseling and testing, linkage to care for partners and members of social and sexual networks)

Who: DSHS, Houston, Tarrant; Timeline: Ongoing through 2013 and 2014.

Provide DIS with cultural competency training to increase effective elicitation with gay men/MSM.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Training provided by September 30, 2014.

**Priority: Expand routine testing programs in all health care settings**

Maintain programs for routine, opt-out HIV screening in facilities in the 10 Texas counties with the highest prevalence of HIV.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: ongoing through 2013 and 2014

Document and present outcomes of screening programs to encourage other hospital systems, private medical providers, and FQHCs to begin routine HIV testing in their facilities.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: reports and presentations available by March 31, 2014.

Create policy requiring integration of routine opt-out testing in DSHS operated and funded mental health and substance abuse services setting.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Policy drafted for review by November 30, 2013.

Partner with Medicaid and large health plans to assess rates of HIV, syphilis, and gonorrhea and chlamydia testing against established standards and recommendations.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: initial agreements on measures and reports by June 2014, with reporting by December 31, 2014.

**Priority: Address stigma that prevents testing**

Partner with local health department officials and community leaders to engage medical professionals in dialogue about the importance of HIV testing and sexual health assessment as a part of primary care.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Engagement strategies executed in April and June 2014.

Explore how to address bias, stigma, and discrimination against vulnerable populations through social marketing and other mass education activities and structural interventions.

Who: DSHS and Houston; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014.

Develop and promote sexual health guidelines for gay men/MSM with community members and providers.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Guidelines completed by December 31, 2013, and promotion planned by March 31, 2014.

**Priority: Use new testing technologies to make systems more effective**

Provide TA and guidance on effective use of 4th generation tests and new point of care tests.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Guidance distributed by December 31, 2013

Create program guidance on the use of multiple rapid tests as initial evidence of infection.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Guidance completed by June 2014.

Promote use of supplemental testing algorithms to replace western blot confirmation in public health laboratories

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing through December 31, 2013.

**Priority: Address social norms that inhibit health care seeking behavior**

Expand health literacy programming for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS with attention to the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Who: Houston, San Antonio; Timeline: Ongoing through 2014

Partnering with programs that focus on increasing participation in primary care to learn best practices and successful strategies in promoting participation in care.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing through 2014

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## Domain 4: Timely linkage to HIV-related care and treatment

### Priority: Create and monitor linkage systems that are client centered

Assess current linkage programs/processes by developing a uniform definition of linkage and care enrollment to be used by all programs and in all analyses, evaluating linkage data at local/regional level, and engaging stakeholders to better understand current linkage strategies.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: throughout 2013 and 2014

Modify policies and practices associated with client eligibility screening that act as a barrier to timely linkage to care.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Encourage connections between major diagnosers and DIS and linkage and CRCS programs in each area where such programs are funded.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Report on linkage connections by June 30, 2014.

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Expand Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) activities to include a readiness for HIV care assessment at the time of DIS interview as a means of assisting with linkage to care efforts.

Who: Houston; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014.

Identify and disseminate model protocols for peers and lay navigators to use in assisting linkage to care for both newly-diagnosed persons and persons who have fallen out of care..

Who: Houston, Dallas, San Antonio; Timeline: dissemination by August 31, 2014.

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### Priority: Create approaches to locate and link HIV infected individuals who know their status but are not in care

Establish a uniform definition for “lost to care” clients to allow more standardized assessment of the scope of the issue, inform standards of care, and facilitate evaluation of efforts to return persons to HIV care.

Who: Houston, Austin, Fort Worth, DSHS Timeline: March 31, 2014

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Develop protocols for using surveillance data to identify persons out of care, and local activities to locate and return them to care.

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Who: Houston, Austin, Fort Worth DSHS; Timeline: Protocols developed by September 30, 2013; protocols implemented and evaluated by September 30, 2014.

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Disseminate information on best practices in returning out-of care patients to treatment and care systems.

Who DSHS and HIV Syndicate (planning group); Timeline: Ongoing 2013 and 2014

Collaborate on training to case managers on the role mental health and substance abuse issues play in preventing entry into care, and encourage co-location of behavioral health staff and HIV care staff.

Who: DSHS and AETC; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

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**Priority: Use technology that supports linkage to care**

Evaluate the effectiveness of video conferencing in linking persons newly released from the state prison system to community-based care.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Report completed by January 30, 2014

Increase data sharing and interoperability of data systems to facilitate linkage for individual patients, and provide access to data to monitor and evaluate linkage efforts.

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Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: Data systems design completed by February 28, 2014, implementation by September 30, 2014.

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Explore use of patient reminder technologies (e.g., text messages, emails) to promote linkage to care.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: Ongoing through 2014

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**Priority: Address stigma and other issues that prevent HIV infected individuals from seeking medical care**

Develop information campaigns focused on the need for medical treatment for HIV infected individuals targeting the individual, social support structures and providers.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: materials available for distribution by June 2014.

Explore the chronic disease literature for models and practices that promote care seeking and participation in care.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Report available by November 30, 2014

Expand health literacy programming for people living with or affected by HIV with attention to the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Who: Houston, San Antonio; Timeline: Ongoing in 2014

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**Domain 5: Continuous participation in systems of care and treatment**

**Priority: Increase focus and training on retention in care**

Increase use of retention in care as a quality measure by public and private payers.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Engage Medicaid, FQHCs, and major health plan quality improvement staff by June 30, 2014.

Launch a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program clinical quality management initiative focused on retention in care.

Who: Houston, DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Integrate messaging on the importance of retention in care into evidence-based interventions targeting HIV infected individuals and their partners.

Who: Houston, DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Identify and provide training and support for best practices in retention in care.

Who: Fort Worth, DSHS, Houston; Ongoing in 2013 and 2014

**Priority: Ensure that care systems include access to supportive services**

Continue support for supportive services prioritized in community service delivery plans.

Who: Austin, Dallas, DSHS, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio; Timeline: ongoing through 2013 and 2014

Increase collaboration with community partners, including non-Ryan White funded service providers and providers that that assist with self-sufficiency, (e.g., services to increase financial literacy, job training) or otherwise serve vulnerable populations to broaden community treatment capacity.

Who: DSHS, Houston, Dallas; Timeline: Ongoing in 2014

Sustain formal partnerships with the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program and other housing and homelessness prevention coalitions and groups to address housing instability among PLWHA, train case managers to improve understanding of available housing options, and conduct local assessments of housing resources to identify gaps.

Who: Dallas, Houston, DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2014

Expand transportation services, both urban and rural, through collaboration and alternative funding.

Who: San Antonio and Fort Worth; Timeline: Ongoing in 2014

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**Priority: Ensure that care systems include access to behavioral health services**

Continue to provide funding for services to supplement locally available behavioral health services.

Who: Austin, Dallas, DSHS, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio; Timeline: ongoing in 2013 and 2014

Disseminate best practices in screening and referral to enhance services for persons with behavior health needs, and enhance ability of case managers to match behavioral health services to client needs.

Who: DSHS, San Antonio; Timeline: Materials distributed by December 31, 2014.

Increase the number of Ryan White Program clients that receive annual behavioral health screenings by monitoring program data and providing technical assistance to case management programs that fall below 85% of clients with annual screenings.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Reports distributed by December 31, 2013 and updated semiannually, with ongoing TA.

Increase involvement and cross training with SAMHSA- funded HIV Early Intervention case managers.

Who: Fort Worth and DSHS; Timeline: ongoing in 2014

Expand access to behavioral health services through collaborations and use of telemedicine.

Who: Houston, San Antonio; Timeline: ongoing in 2014.

Increase training and technical assistance to enhance ability of HIV case managers serve clients with behavioral health needs.

Who: Fort Worth, Houston, DSHS; Timeline: ongoing in 2014

Enhance effectiveness of existing substance abuse treatment provider networks by increasing awareness of the role of sexual health and sexual orientation in substance abuse treatment.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing collaboration with Cardea in 2013 and 2014.

**Priority: Create mechanisms to identify and respond to individuals at risk of dropping out of care**

Explore data on HIV care patterns and lessons from chronic disease to develop profiles of clients likely to drop out of care.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Profiles available by June 30, 2014.

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**Priority: Address stigma issues and social norms that prevent HIV infected individuals from maintaining their HIV care**

Explore research and interventions, including social marketing, to address HIV related stigma and bias.

Who: Houston, DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013-2014

Increase client's self-sufficiency though education and development of focused care plans.

Fort Worth, Houston

Examine chronic disease and behavioral health literature to identify best practices for increasing social support.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Report available by December 31, 2014

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## **Domain 6: Increased viral suppression**

### **Priority: Increase understanding of viral suppression as a key health indicator**

Publish annual reports on differences in viral suppression by key demographic and geographic variables.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: Reports available by December 31, 2013.

### **Priority: Expand access to HIV clinical care**

Expand the use of telemedicine to build access primary care, behavior health services, and specialists.

Who: San Antonio, Fort Worth, DSHS; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013-2014.

Enhance access to treatment and care through integration of preventive and treatment services, collaboration between traditional and non-traditional providers of treatment and care, co-location of HIV treatment, supportive, and specialty services to effectively treat co-morbid conditions, and increased involvement of FQHC in HIV testing and care delivery.

Who: Dallas, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Houston; Timeline: Ongoing in 2013 and 2014.

Expand both the demand for and capacity to deliver oral health services through patient education, education of HIV treatment providers to increase appropriate referral, and collaboration with FQHC and other providers.

Who: San Antonio; Timeline: Ongoing in 2014

Open up treatment capacity by increasing number of HIV clients who are insured, the number of providers that maximize third party reimbursement, and the number of providers who have business and fiscal systems that allow them to respond to the changing health care environment .

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: Ongoing through 2013 and 2014

Partner with the AETC to engage institutions and organizations that educate and train health professionals to promote HIV-related training and employment.

Who: Houston, DSHS; Timeline: throughout 2014

### **Priority: Enhance access to medication for HIV and co-occurring and co-morbid conditions**

Simplify application processes and reduce application processing time in the Texas HIV Medication Program.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: simplified application and streamlined process introduced by March 31, 2014.

Work with industry partners to expand provider understanding and use of patient assistance programs to enhance access to medications for uninsured clients.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: ongoing in 2014

Raise provider awareness of treatment recommendations for early initiation of drug therapy to enhance individual health and reduce community viral load.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: ongoing in 2014

**Priority: Create a focus on adherence that includes clients, clinicians and supportive services providers**

Investigate use of pharmacist based adherence counseling such as MTM to enhance adherence of persons in the ADAP.

Who: DSHS; Timeline: throughout 2014

Distribute information to providers on best practices in promoting adherence and to clients on the importance of treatment adherence through partnerships with AETC and PTC, local provider networks, and coalitions of consumers associated with Ryan White Planning Councils.

Who: DSHS, Houston, Fort Worth; Timeline: throughout 2014

Maintain or start programs to enhance health literacy and to enhance client understanding of treatment

Who: DSHS, Houston, Fort Worth, San Antonio; Timeline: throughout 2014

**Priority: Address the stigma that prevents individuals infected with HIV from adhering to treatment**

(DSHS) Explore research and interventions to address HIV related stigma, including evaluation methods, and disseminate findings.

Who: DSHS, Houston; Timeline: throughout 2014