

**HIV Care Services Fundamentals
Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)
April 25, 2019**

Facilitators: Desty Muturi, DSHS, Trainer, Care Services Group

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Presenter: Pamela Nims, Minority AIDS Initiative Coordinator, DSHS

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Presentation Overview

- Desty introduced meeting and Anthony introduced Pamela Nims from the Minority Care Initiative to discuss how Ryan White funds can and cannot be used for PLWH who are involved in the criminal justice system.
- Pamela introduced the presentation of “Case Management of Incarcerated and Recently Released Clients”
- Pamela informed the group that Ryan White funded agencies can provide core medical and support services to an incarcerated client on a transitional basis (up to 180 days) as long as the services are in areas that are not expected to be covered by the incarceration facility (there can be no duplication of services).
 - For example, incarceration facilities are responsible for providing all medical care including medication and medical supplies, but Ryan White providers can provide supportive transition services: EIS services, Medical and non-medical case management, medical nutritional therapy, and treatment adherence counseling while a client is incarcerated
 - Recently released clients may need help finding transition services including government identification cards, housing, employment, transportation, etc.
- The best way to serve a client who has recently been released from incarceration is to recognize that they have unique needs and that they need compassion and patience; they often get lost making transition from incarceration to medical care, so be flexible as medical care may not be their top priority

Questions/thoughts from participants:

- Anthony asked Pam to discuss the difference between those being released from TDCJ (Texas Department of Criminal Justice) vs city/county jail.
 - City jail and county jail: short-term incarceration for those individuals serving short sentences or waiting to go to court

- Individuals convicted of felonies enter TDCJ: state jail up to 2 years and TDCJ prisons are for individuals with felony sentences longer than 2 years
 - For more information on the differences between state jails and TDCJ prisons:
 - http://kdhnews.com/copperas_cove_herald/opinion/crime_trends/texas-state-jails-typically-house-lower-level-classifications-of-criminals/article_d3e3acaa-db83-11e5-b61d-a76d8e71015c.html
- Desty asked if you have to be a MAI provider to provide services to those individuals recently released from incarceration?
 - You do not need to be labelled “MAI” to provide services to justice-system involved individuals and they are covered under Ryan White Part B
- *Question from participant: “If an individual is in county waiting to be extradited to state, can Ryan White assist while the transition is done? & the supporting assistance is that only for recently released?”*
 - Ryan White can’t provide prescriptions if an individual is incarcerated – that is the responsibility of the incarcerating body.
 - TDCJ has precise system in place for individuals to get medical care
 - County jails work independently with each county and they all do medical care differently
 - However, you can provide transitional services so long as it doesn’t go over 180 days for incarcerated individuals
- *Q: “How are Immigration/Detention centers considered in terms of Jail/Prison? Are these centers allowed to receive Ryan White services for people with HIV?”*
 - Immigration facilities are run by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and are federal-run facilities and different from state prison and county jail
 - Most of the immigration population is held in federal facilities and Ryan White services can be provided to that population as long as it isn’t prescriptions, and only temporarily
- *Q: “Are Ryan White funds permitted for CBCF (Community Based Correctional Facilities) inmates?”*
 - This is county-specific and would follow the same guidelines as any other full-time incarceration
- *Q: “What about mandated treatment programs?”*
 - Immediate Sanction Facilities (ISF) (TDCJ uses for individuals with parole violations) and Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility (SAFP) are both considered incarceration – if you physically cannot leave facility, then that is considered incarceration and subject to the Ryan White regulations regarding incarceration
- *Q: “Can services be provided while waiting on extradition to another jail and in the process of being release as well? Basically, both scenarios have only 180 days you can assist with as long as it is not Medications or Medical, correct? That is my understanding of the 180 days you have to assist.”*
 - HRSA puts limitations in place and specify that we can only provide these services on transitional basis and not to go over 180 days.

- Q: *“If you know someone is about to get out, how can you plan linkage for these clients? What do some care plan items look like?”*
 - Desty: care plans look different for every client – care plans should be updated at a minimum of every 30 days; they don’t need to be extensive; simply getting linkage to case manager can be in the care plan goals
- Q: *“Can you talk about release time of inmates and what that process is like?”*
 - Each county will vary as some counties don’t allow bail; it will also depend where you’re arrested and what you’re arrested for
 - A lot of people in jail are just waiting to be released or get a conviction, and you may not know when they’re going to be released; however, that is public information – if you know your client did get arrested, you can always see if someone is in jail and keep them on your radar.
- Thought: *One participant mentioned that they have TDCJ contact them before someone is released; another participant says that Vinelink (<https://www.vinelink.com>) allows you to register for a notification of any inmate prior to their release date.*
 - TDCJ is much more stringent about release dates; whereas someone can be in county jail for indefinite periods of time depending on what they’re waiting on
- Desty: *“Can anyone talk about housing?”*
 - Thought: *One participant mentioned that TDCJ has a list of approved housing options for recently released individuals (can be found here: <https://guides.sll.texas.gov/reentry-resources/housing>)*
- Q: *“Have you have run into issues where some TDCJ facilities do not even know the guidelines for providing medical care for their inmates including inmates with HIV? For example, we had an experience where sheriff’s office didn’t know they were supposed to provide this medical care; [we] had to go in and cite the regulation and inform them that they were required by state law to provide this care; is this isolated or are other people experiencing the same problems? How does TDCJ work and align not only with county jail and sheriff’s when inmates are being extradited to make sure that the client doesn’t fall out of care? Particularly with relation to privately-owned facilities? How do we make sure that client stays within care and receives adequate treatment?”*
 - Some smaller county jails do not always recognize legal obligations; however, Pam can provide legislation if needed (email or call her at contact info provided above)
 - When an individual goes into county jail, legally within 14 days, they must receive a medical assessment (but the law doesn’t specify what a medical assessment is or that an individual should have HIV test)
 - It is different county to county; however, if the inmate goes into TDCJ facility, they will have a medical record that goes with them into TDCJ from county jail and they screen for HIV when they come in and when they leave
 - Inmates can always request an HIV test
 - Private prisons are still under TDCJ jurisdiction and still have to abide by same regulations
 - If a county jail hasn’t yet picked up a prescription for an inmate, family can provide it and deliver it to the jail so that they don’t miss doses

- *Thought: “There are many clients who fail to mention when they enter county jail that they are positive due to not wanting guards and others to know their status.”*
 - Inmates can always refuse treatment, and there is a lot of stigma within the incarcerated community around HIV
- *Q: In regards to their status in ARIES if one of our clients is incarcerated do we have to disenroll them or just place them as Inactive?*
 - Desty & Anthony will look into this information
- *Thought: Bexar County is starting a program where the county jail nurse is sending referrals (if she knows of someone being released) and will send a referral to one of the ASO's to get in contact with the client and provide linkage to care and case management*

If you have additional questions about discussion from this call please contact:
Pamela Nims at pamela.nims@dshs.texas.gov or 512-560-1190.

Next Call: Tuesday May 28, 2019, 1:00pm–2:00pm; presenters will be Jennifer Greenberg from the University of Texas at Austin and Lonnetta Wilson from Tarrant County talking about *Achieving Together*, Texas' End the Epidemic plan

****Also, please take this FUNdamentals survey as soon as you are able:**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G7D9ZMR>