



Memorandum

TO: All DSHS HIV Prevention Contractors Implementing "Turning Point"

FROM: HIV/STD Comprehensive Prevention Services Branch

DATE: 09/27/04

SUBJECT: HIV Positive Participants

Recently the Branch received technical assistance on Turning Point from the national contractor. The response brought to light an issue not previously considered:

"Turning Point was specifically designed for use with seronegative persons and persons who are not aware of their HIV status prior to undergoing testing as a part of the program. One important point made by the original program developer is that if someone's HIV test results are positive, then they should NOT continue beyond session three (the post-test counseling), because of the fear-arousal format of the six session enhanced intervention."

Further investigation confirms the use of fear as a motivating tool within the intervention. Participants are moved to want to *avoid* getting HIV. Just as the needle-cleaning demonstration and practice triggers some participants, and, as a result, require individual attention, so too may some participants be triggered by the "AIDS slides" in session four. Designed to emphasize the "painful and disfiguring" effects of AIDS and HIV, a recent HIV-positive participant noted, "that was disturbing", after viewing the slides. Other HIV-positive participants sat silently.

Persons who test positive for HIV prior to beginning the Turning Point program model are considered **ineligible** for this intervention. Secondary HIV prevention is important for persons who are HIV-positive, so they do not spread the virus to others, or become infected with other STD's, or re-infected with HIV. Referral to Prevention Case Management, Substance Abuse counseling and/or other interventions designed for HIV-positive persons with substance use issues are recommended.

If you have any questions concerning this technical assistance bulletin, please contact your Field Operations Consultant, or regional personnel.

