Scaling Up:
Philly, HCV, and IDU

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Welcome to Illadelphia

- 5th largest city & 21st most populous county in US
- 4th highest county in US for income inequality
- Unhealthiest county in PA
- 216,450 Philadelphians lack health insurance
Welcome to Illadelphia

- 45% of tx admissions reported IDU
  - ~1,500 people in 2010

- ~4,000 unique clients annually at Prevention Point SEP
  - ~7,000 clients DAILY at OTPs

- Harm reduction has made an impact
  - Access to syringe exchange most likely lowered rate of HIV infection via IDU from almost 50% in 1980s to 10% in 2011

Drug Use, Hep C, & Philadelphia

- Nationally most new hep C infections are from sharing needles and other works

- Hep C among young people under 30
  - Drug use, tattoos, incarceration among top reported risk factors

- While there is an abundance of recovery resources, limited services exist for people who are active drug users
We Must Improve Public Health’s Response to Drug User Health

• *Start with small, achievable changes*…
  – Distributing harm reduction news and resources
  – Networking with community partners
  – Finding harm reduction champions internally and externally

• *…Scale up to big changes*
  – Start a dialogue with other city programs
  – Using the hep C coalition to champion harm reduction and address drug user health
  – Any program addressing hep C should address drug users and vice versa

HepCAP is COMMUNITY
**Prevention**
- Telemedicine
- Safe injection kits
- Partner with school district
- Mobile apps
- Linkage to care model
- De-stigmatize Awareness Campaign
- Harm Reduction resources
- Targeted educational materials
- Culturally competent resources
- Partner with recovery agencies
- Target youth
- Flexible clinical availability

**CARE & TREATMENT**
- Support system for patients
- Disseminate best practices
- Build clinical capacity
- Patient navigation

**Awareness**
- Resource Guide
- Targeted educational materials
- Have a presence in the community
- Promote testing

**Community Ideas Action**
Drug User Health & HepCAP Priorities

• Provider education
  – Outreach to primary care providers
  – Hepatitis case conferences

• Public awareness
  – Tell the story of hep C in Philly
  – Show diversity of people impacted

• People living with hep C must have a voice
  – Improve participation from people living with hep C and people at risk for hep C

Successes

• Support from local harm reduction champions
  – Clinicians, SEP staff, CBOs, heath department leaders

• Improved collaboration and communication between hep C stakeholders

• Commitments to improve integration of hepatitis activities in high-risk settings
  – Prisons, SEP, MATs
Challenges

• Effectively engaging consumers

• Bridging the gap internally between different city agencies
  — Department of Public Health
  — Department of Behavioral Health/Office of Addiction Services

• Limited financial resources to do all the things we want to do!

Key Lessons Learned in Philly

• Localize, localize, localize
  — “Make it your business to know about drug use in your community”

• Relationship building is an ongoing process
  — Making personal contact with people has been most effective in getting folks involved

• None of us can tackle hep C on our own
  — Collaboration and cooperation are essential
Thank you!

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