

Reaching Hardly Reached Communities Panel: Q&A

1) What strategies can be used to reach those who are actively using drugs, particularly those who may be motivated to remain hidden?

Jason Norelli, GLIDE Foundation: This is where a harm reduction approach is most helpful. Meet people where they are at with a compassionate, non-judgmental approach and if you find yourself talking more than the client is you are doing it wrong. Use the motivational interviewing OARS (Google that) and ask open ended questions while keeping professional boundaries intact.

Be aware of power dynamics and be trauma-informed about structural issues of race, gender, class, and the damages of the drug war. Realize that clients who are hiding the truth are practicing self-care in that context. Try to perceive those things that cannot be seen and move at the speed of trust. By the time you are seeing the client there is a sense of “service fatigue” that must be honored if you are truly hoping to connect on a deeper level.

For active drug users — do your homework about harm reduction agencies in your area and where a person can get clean supplies and narcan to be alive and well enough to perhaps someday make the changes that assist in keeping them healthy.

WORLD staff: Our outreach worker says to find a way to relate to the person in regards to this is where they are currently and use motivational interviewing. Make sure to share that they still matter and not to use a judgmental tone. A phrase that she uses often is: “Who is perfect in an imperfect world...? It's like a layover, it's only temporary!” You also have to be transparent, suggest that they talk to their Higher Power, when they are ready, let them know that you or your connections have potential supports for them as well when they are ready, as well as let them know that this does not have to be the end all to be there, there are ways and options. You are not the expert when it comes to someone else's life; although you can assist, it is better to meet someone where they are and allow someone to guide and lead the way from their own experiences.

2) Are there any community engagement strategies to reach African-Born community members who are living with HIV/AIDS?

WORLD staff: Make sure that there is a non-judgmental space and true follow-through and communication.

This Ryan White Conference presentation may also be useful:

https://targethiv.org/sites/default/files/supporting-files/11067_Gaye_508.pdf

3) To Adriana Kimbriel: Do you have any data or sense of how many American Indian/Native American individuals seek sexual health services at tribal health clinics vs other providers (Planned Parenthood, FQHCs, public health clinics, etc.)? Also, do you have data on the quality of sexual health services at tribal clinics/institutions?

Adriana Kimbriel, CRIHB: Unfortunately, I don't have specific data on-hand. It is common for AI patients to access sexual health services at a non-Tribal provider due to confidentiality concerns

as the Tribal communities can be very small. Often times, patients have family/close friends working at the Tribal clinic. However, the Tribal clinic may be the closest provider depending on the rurality of the community. Larger clinics, Planned Parenthood, FQHCs may be 20, 50 or even 100 miles away.

The sexual health services at the Tribal clinic level varies from one community to another. I don't have data to share on the quality of services in California. The sexual health programs administered through CRIHB are grant based and are conducted through small mini-grant agreements that focus on prevention, education, and resources.

4) For AltaMed Program: What resource or linkage is being given to your undocumented clients to get them on a path to citizenship?

Alonso Bautista, AltaMed Health Services: Our Government Relations department has developed and provides a series of free Citizenship workshops and webinars to assist all AltaMed patients with a better understanding of the immigration process. They are offered throughout the year. We have also held in-services for our HIV services staff to increase awareness around the immigration process including U & T visas and the changes to public charge. Our HIV services department has a list of free legal services that are available to our patients should they need legal counsel regarding immigration concerns. We have also collaborated with the LA County Bar Association-AIDS Legal Services Project, Inner City Law Center and the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice.