Technology-Based PrEP Delivery and Retention Services for Priority Populations in Los Angeles County

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CHIPTS Next Generation Conference
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CHIPTS
Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services

Collaborators

- NIMH P30MH058107 and P30MH058107
- CHIPTS Community Advisory Board
- LA County DHSP
- Community consultation participants
- NURX, PlushCare, e2PrEP, Healthvana, and iTAB digital technology services
- Event support team: Uyen Kao, Damilola Jolayemi, and Adenike Omomukuyo

Goal

Assess the acceptability and feasibility of utilizing technology-based PrEP delivery to facilitate greater PrEP uptake, adherence, and persistence among LA County's priority populations

Activities

February 10, 2020 Community Consultation:

- Morning session: introduced participants to various digital technology products available to support PrEP delivery and maintenance

PrEP-Related Digital Technology Products	
NURX	Stand-Alone Telehealth
PlushCare	Stand-Alone Telehealth
e2PrEP	Clinically Integrated Telehealth
Healthvana	Clinically Integrated Telehealth
iTAB	Text Messaging Service

- Afternoon session: conducted breakout groups focused on the acceptability and feasibility of using digital technologies to deliver PrEP services to each respective priority population
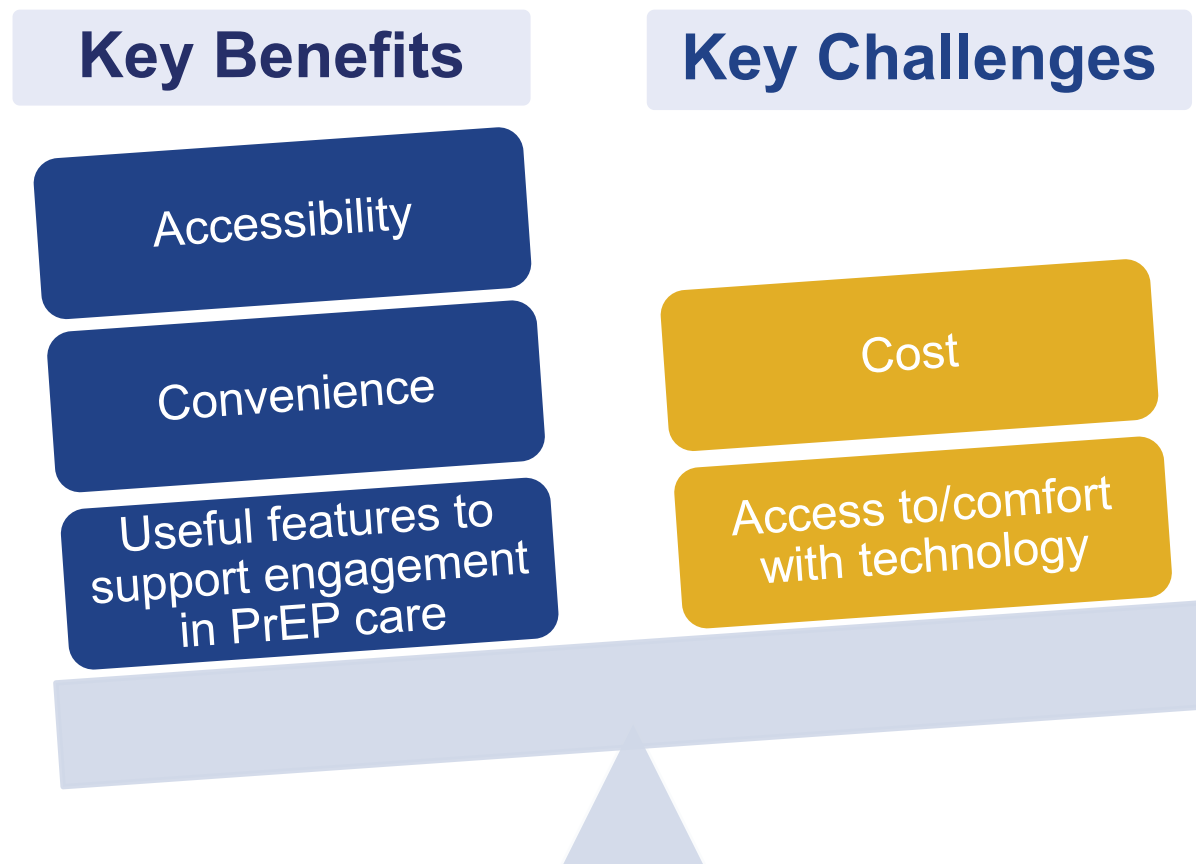
Participants

- 67 stakeholders attended from community-based organizations and clinics, hospitals, academic institutions, prevention networks, and the LA County Commission on HIV

- Participants included senior leadership at agencies, program staff, HIV health educators, outreach and testing specialists, PrEP navigators, and digital technology representatives

Perceived Acceptability Among Priority Populations

- Overall, digital PrEP technology was perceived as an acceptable and beneficial strategy to improve PrEP uptake, adherence, and persistence among LA County's priority populations
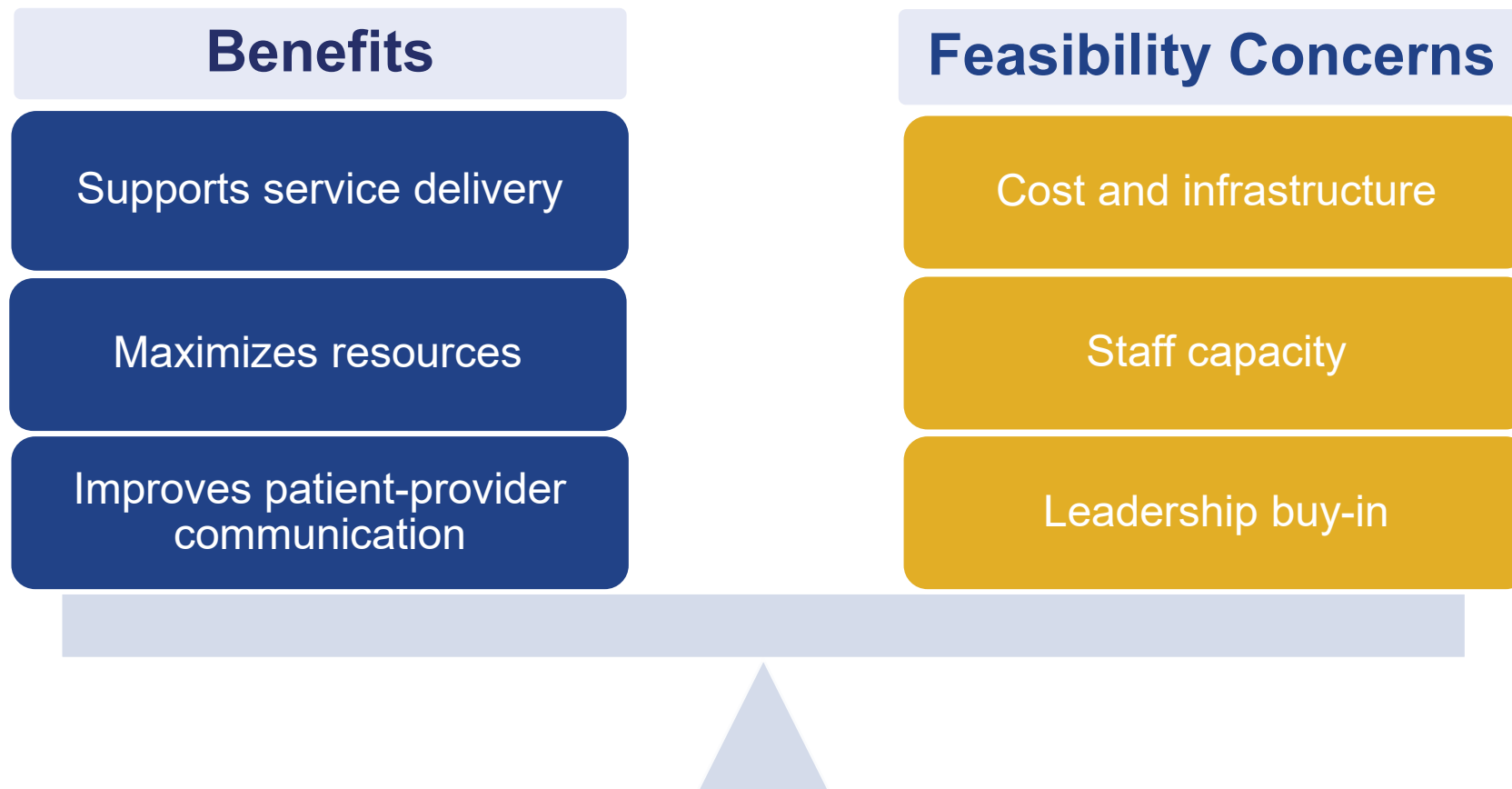
Key Benefits

Key Challenges

Accessibility

Convenience

Useful features to support engagement in PrEP care

Cost

Access to/comfort with technology

Tailoring Recommendations

Recommendation	Benefits for Priority Populations
Expand customization options	Helps meet individual needs and preferences for managing PrEP care
Offer online access to services	Addresses barriers to phone-based services
Provide incentives for adherence	Supports sustained PrEP engagement

Acceptability and Feasibility Among Agencies

- Digital PrEP technology was generally perceived as an acceptable strategy to improve the delivery of PrEP services from an agency perspective, but significant feasibility concerns emerged
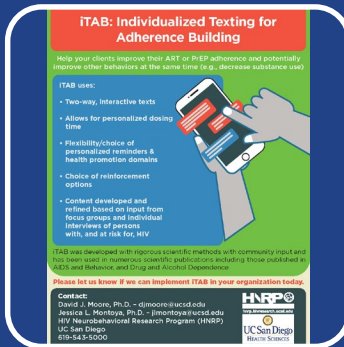
Benefits	Feasibility Concerns
Supports service delivery	Cost and infrastructure
Maximizes resources	Staff capacity
Improves patient-provider communication	Leadership buy-in

Feasibility Facilitators

Feasibility Concern	Feasibility Facilitator
Cost/infrastructure	Financial support from public and private funders to build and maintain necessary infrastructure
Staff capacity	Training for staff and clients
Leadership buy-in	Engage senior leadership in discussions of digital PrEP products and work to shift "tech-shy" culture

Recommendations for Implementation

- ➤ Coordinated implementation of one product by LA County
- ➤ Create new product
- ➤ Develop/disseminate informational resources
- ➤ Conduct implementation research project

Next Steps

Develop/disseminate informational resources on digital PrEP products for community stakeholders

Conduct new EHE implementation research study to assess implementation of PlushCare to optimize PrEP delivery among Black and Latina cisgender women

UCLA TelePrEP Project for Black and Latina Cisgender Women

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Goals

• To assess the acceptability, adoption, appropriateness, and feasibility of using telemedicine (i.e., PlushCare) for PrEP delivery to Black and Latina cisgender women (BLCW) among staff at two community-based agencies serving BLCW

• To assess acceptability, adoption, appropriateness, and feasibility of using telehealth (i.e., PlushCare) for accessing PrEP among BLCW clients at two community-based agencies serving BLCW

Collaborators:

UCLA TelePrEP Project Timeline

Pre-Implementation (Sept 2020-Jan 2021)

Attend Planning Meeting with Study Team → Complete Pre-Implementation Questionnaire → Attend Training re: PrEP & PlushCare → Attend Meeting with PlushCare Staff

Implementation (Feb 2021-July 2021)

Conduct Information Sessions & Study Recruitment → Complete Client Engagement Log After Each Session → Submit Client Engagement Logs to Study Team Monthly

Post-Implementation (July 2021 - Aug 2021)

Participate in Post-Implementation Interview → Attend Close-Out Meeting with Study Team

TelePrEP Information Session Objectives

1. Educate BLCW about PrEP as an HIV prevention strategy and PlushCare as one option for accessing PrEP.

2. Motivate BLCW to consider PrEP as a potential HIV prevention option and PlushCare as a method for accessing PrEP.

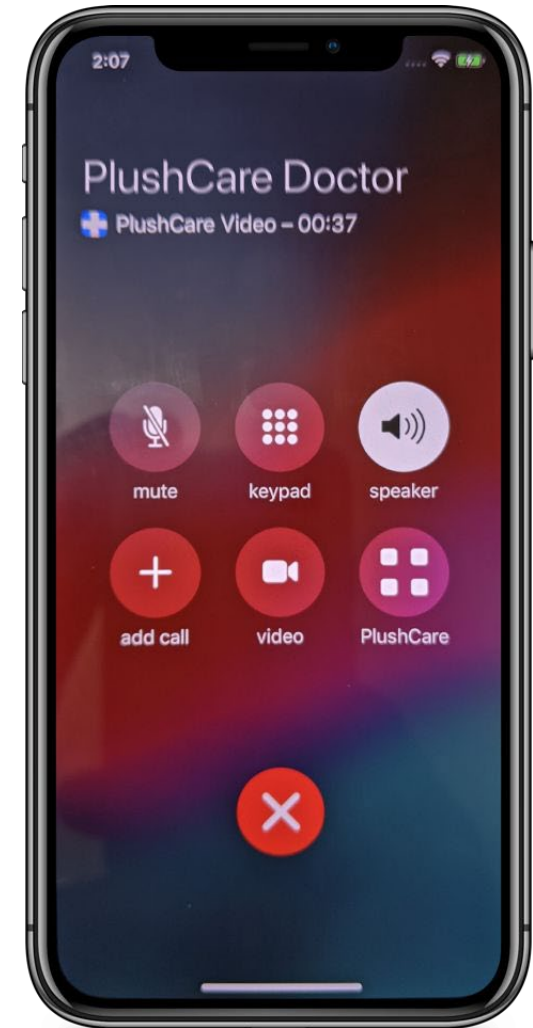3. Navigate BLCW to resources to access PrEP by providing them with the PrEP navigation resources sheet.

TelePrEP Information Session (Cont'd)

- Information sessions will be delivered in a casual conversation staff have with clients on topics of importance to their health. The TelePrEP Information Sessions will:

  - Assess their level of awareness and knowledge about PrEP
  - Provide education and fill-in knowledge gaps about PrEP
  - Discuss the benefits of PrEP
  - Assess their level of awareness and knowledge of PlushCare
  - Provide education and fill-in knowledge gaps about PlushCare
  - Discuss the advantages of using PlushCare to access PrEP
  - Provide PrEP Resources Guide
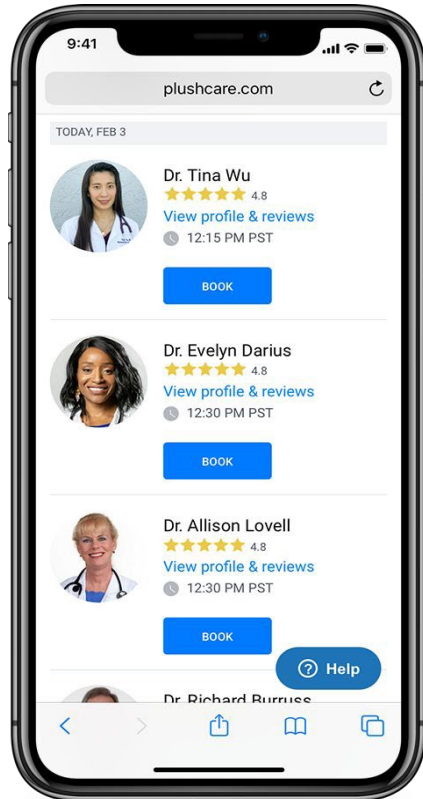 - Assist BLCW in signing up for PlushCare to access PrEP

Using PlushCare to Access PrEP

- PlushCare is contracted by the California Department of Public Health to deliver PrEP to persons who are at risk for contracting HIV.

- PlushCare may benefit women who experience difficulty attending routine medical appointments (e.g., due work schedule, child care) or who prefer remote care.
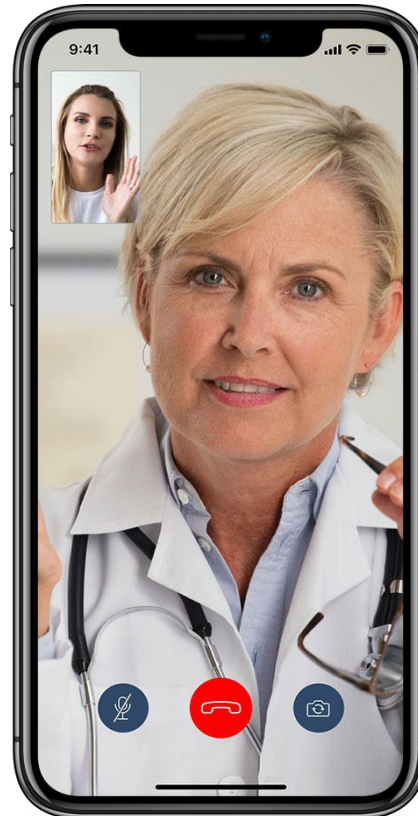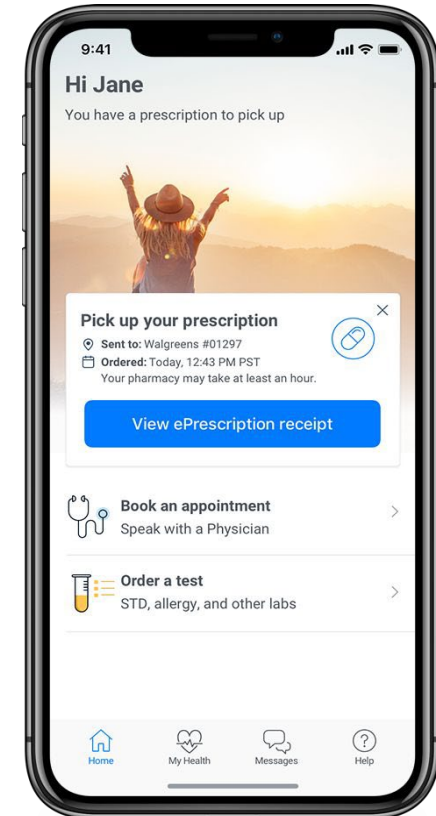
Using PlushCare to Access PrEP (cont'd)

- PlushCare allows clients to:

Choose their primary provider from a pool of available physicians

Schedule virtual consultation visits with a licensed clinician

Have medications delivered or available for pick-up at a nearby pharmacy

Research Activities

- Conduct post-implementation interviews with agency staff (N=10).

- Conduct post-implementation interviews with Black and Latina Cisgender who participated in the information sessions at BWW and ELAWC (N=50).

- The research team will create a project report and disseminate preliminary findings with community stakeholders and federal partners.

Questions