

F. HIV Prevention Policy, Advocacy, and Social Justice

This track is designed to address public policy challenges and solutions as they relate to HIV prevention efforts, advocacy to improve HIV prevention, and efforts that promote and further social justice

TITLE: Stepping Up in Faith for HIV and AIDS through building collaborative, inclusive Faith and Secular Community Partnerships

FACILITATORS:

Bailey D, Our Watchful Eye, Inc.

Martin O, New York City Faith in Action for HIV and AIDS Prevention Care and Education Coalition

ISSUE: There is a vital need to establish partnerships with diverse sectors of the Faith Community for the development of sustainable HIV and AIDS prevention and intervention programs. We know when individuals acquire knowledge, capacity and opportunities to implement their education they have a better chance of avoiding acquisition and transmission of HIV infection. In recent years however, the national strategy of HIV prevention education has shifted away from basic education for the entire community. Houses of worship have come to play an increasingly important role in providing Comprehensive HIV 101 education to fill this gap in service. Our model of “Stepping Up In Faith for HIV and AIDS” (SUIF) addresses the major social justice issue of disseminating basic HIV 101 Prevention Education throughout our communities. SUIF creates a space and vehicle through which our faith community partners can build capacity to provide Comprehensive HIV Prevention Education to vulnerable and general populations. Participating within the collaborative model creates access to the expertise of multiple partners who provide a complement to each other around issues of HIV and AIDS. Faith-based organizations have the unique opportunity of reaching the thousands of people looking to them for guidance, and culturally appropriate referrals to local social services. For many in our diverse communities, the extraordinary value and potential to reach community individuals through the faith sector is already being demonstrated in a variety of successful initiatives and collaborations.

KEY POINTS: This Round-table Discussion will highlight and demonstrate an evolving formula of collaboration that has been paving the roads to successful HIV and AIDS efforts. Participants will discuss successful strategies for community model replication. The discussion will include: 1) Creating a Stepping Up in Faith Community Program in your urban and rural settings; 2) Accessing local and national tools and resources needed to implement age appropriate Comprehensive HIV Prevention Education in your house of worship; 3) Key strategies to consider as you bring community partners to the joint planning table; 4) Building a sustainable “Faith in Action for HIV and AIDS Community Partnership.”

IMPLICATIONS: This initiative demonstrates how it is possible to build a more sustainable Comprehensive HIV Prevention health education and service delivery system within houses of worship which are strategically positioned to play a significant role in reducing HIV infection rates. The bridging of Comprehensive HIV Prevention Education for houses of worship with CBO’ and local Health Departments, provides an alternative for faith settings currently not able to provide Comprehensive HIV Prevention on their own.

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