Positive Pathways

A Cooperative Initiative for
NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision (DOCCS)
NYS Department of Health AIDS Institute (DOH)
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
Columbia University
~ 52,000 inmates in NYS Correctional Facilities (CFs)

Estimated 2.5% - 3.5% are HIV+ (1,500 – 2,000)

As many as half (50%) of HIV+ inmates are not known to DOCCS Health Services (H.S.)

Majority of HIV+ inmates unknown to H.S. are personally aware of their HIV status; choose not to disclose
Reasons for Non-disclosure
(identified in focus groups & literature)

- Stigma associated with being HIV+
- Perceptions of poor medical care in CFs
- Denial
- Confidentiality & inadvertent disclosure concerns
- Other reasons (not ready to disclose, waiting until release to seek care, etc.)
HIV in NYS CFs:
The Public Health Challenge (II) cont.

- Poor inmate health inside CFs (inmates progress to AIDS)
- Higher than necessary HIV transmission risk inside CFs
  (high viral load = higher transmission risk)
- Higher transmission risk to NYS communities as inmates are released
Positive Pathways Goals

- Reduce stigma associated with being HIV+ in the correctional setting
- Identify new & existing cases of HIV in DOCCS CFs
- Initiate HIV care & treatment during incarceration
- Ensure linkage to & continuity of HIV care & treatment upon & after release
Positive Pathways

CDC Funded Demonstration Project

Duration: 3 years (2012 – 2014); possibility of extension

Award Total: $931,950/year
Positive Pathways
Intervention Facilities

Wende Hub
Albion

Clinton Hub
Adirondack
Altona
Bare Hill
Chateaugay
Clinton
Franklin

Green Haven Hub
Bedford Hills
Downstate
Fishkill
Green Haven
Sing Sing
Taconic

Oneida Hub
Marcy
Midstate
Mohawk

NYC Hub
Queensboro
Positive Pathways Strategies

- Education of H.S. staff
- Education of Correction Officers (COs)
- Education of inmates
- Inmate disclosure and/or test opportunity
- Supportive services for 6 months post-release
- Evidence-based intervention with inmates

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Training for H.S. Staff

Content (55 min. video & facilitated discussion):

- Role of Health Services staff in Positive Pathways
- Strategies to increase confidentiality and avoid inadvertent HIV disclosure
- Impact of HIV related stigma on offender willingness to test for HIV, link to medical care for HIV and initiate treatment

Format:

- DOCCS Health Services trainers participate in train the trainer workshop
- DOCCS Health Services trainers deliver training curriculum to ≥ 95% of Health Services staff
Activities with H.S. Staff

Train $\geq 95\%$ of H.S. staff

Where we’re at:

- 76\% (n = 331) of H.S. staff have been surveyed & trained
Training for Correction Officers

Content (2 hour training curriculum):

- Emphasize 3 Cs (Care, Custody & Control)

- Address impact of confidentiality, inadvertent disclosure and stigma on 3 Cs, e.g., aforementioned issues can result in altercations between offenders, loss of control, increased risk of occupational exposure to bodily fluids, etc.

- HIV transmission, universal precautions and barriers to offender testing/linking to medical care for HIV

Format:

- DOCCS Security Trainers participate in Training of Trainers workshop

- DOCCS Security Trainers deliver training curriculum to ≥ 80% of Correction Officers
Activities with COs

Train $\geq 80\%$ of COs

Where we’re at:

- 95% (n = 5,647) of COs trained
  10/01/13 - 12/31/13

- 804 COs completed surveys
Pathways Advocates hired by CBOs to provide **one on one** services to inmates while incarcerated & for 6 months post-release

Pathways Advocates trained to connect HIV + inmates to medical care for HIV

The tools:

- Motivational Interviewing
- Anti-retroviral Treatment & Access to Services (ARTAS)
Inmate Education (II); Video

Content (15 min. video):

- Address concerns about testing, quality of medical care, stigma associated with being HIV+, confidentiality & inadvertent disclosure

Format:

- Informal interviews with formerly incarcerated individuals living with HIV
- Narrated by formerly incarcerated individual
- Subtitled in Spanish

Venue:

- Movie night pre-view
- Waiting room for medical services
- 2nd orientation at permanent facility
- Other venues as appropriate (to be determined by CF)
Posters Inside Correctional Facilities
(Also in Spanish)
While you are in:
- Talk one on one with a Pathways Advocate about your status
- Get the medical care you need
- Feel better and plan for your future

On your way out:
- Set up a fast and easy HIV test
- Talk about your status with a Pathways Advocate
- Make a plan for services on the outside

On the outside:
- See a doctor and get medicine
- Find a place to live
- Get mental health and substance use treatment services

Protect yourself and your loved ones
Positive Pathways in the Community

Services available in the community include:

- Scheduling 1st HIV primary care appt & accompaniment to all medical appointments;

- phone call reminder before each appointment to ensure that he/she has transportation;

- re-assessment of needs on an ongoing basis and make referrals;

- accompaniment as necessary to nonmedical appointments, e.g., mental health, substance abuse treatment and social services;

- verification of linkage to services (substance use treatment, mental health, etc.);

- coordination with Community Supervision Officer to ensure arrangement for payment of treatment continuation through ADAP/Medicaid; and,

- follow-up with participants lost to medical care.
March 2013 Advocates begin to meet with inmates (within 90 days of release) who have no hx of HIV testing on record w/ DOCCS to offer HIV test (n = 1,422)

981 (70%) inmates were offered an HIV test with 858 (60%) accepting to test

1 newly identified positive to date

DOCCS HIV testing has increased as a result of Positive Pathways

DOCCS has identified 2 new positives in 2013
June 2013 Advocates begin to meet with H.S. staff to encourage referrals of HIV+ inmates known to H.S. but not on treatment in intervention facilities (n = 40)

3 HIV+ inmates refused the referral from H.S.

21 H.S. referrals have been made to Advocates

13 of these inmates agreed to participate in Positive Pathways

Thus far, 7 inmates initiated treatment for HIV during incarceration

2 others have begun receiving HIV treatment in the community
Indicators of Success (III)
Accessing Informal Networks

Referrals to Pathways Advocates can be made by anyone in the facility, e.g., counselors, clergy, education, volunteer services, self, etc.

To date 3 HIV+ inmates have been referred via informal prison networks

Of these, 1 decided to disclose to H.S. & initiate treatment!
**Informal Network Referrals**

**How it Works....**

An inmate voluntarily discloses his or her HIV status to a correction officer.

The officer can encourage the inmate to speak to DOCCS H.S. The officer is not allowed to disclose the information to other officers/inmates.

What if the inmate is reluctant to speak to DOCCS H.S.?

With permission of the inmate (via the Referral Authorization Agreement) the officer can disclose the information to the Positive Pathways Advocate.
FORM TO REFER INMATE TO POSITIVE PATHWAYS ADVOCATE

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POSITIVE PATHWAYS PROJECT
REFERRAL AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT

TO: Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)

I, (print name) ____________________________, authorize the following Department of Corrections and Community Supervision staff (Fill in DOCCS staff name/service area) ____________________________ to release the information specified below to the Positive Pathways Advocate, (Fill in Positive Pathways Advocate name) ____________________________.

PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST:

I. I am interested in learning more about the Positive Pathways Project and the services available to me; and,

II. I would like to schedule a meeting with the Positive Pathways Advocate.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE:

I. Name: (print name) ____________________________

II. Detainee Identification Number (DIN): ____________________________

III. Dorm Location: ____________________________

I understand that:

- I do not have to sign this form and that my refusal to sign will not affect the service I get or my ability to get treatment or get Positive Pathways Project services in the future;
- I may cancel this authorization at any time, in writing or by telling the Positive Pathways Advocate;
- Signing this form will result in a call out to schedule a meeting with the Positive Pathways Advocate;
- The Information authorized for release will be given to the Positive Pathways Advocate as often as necessary to fulfill the purpose identified in this document; and,
- My signature or mark is confirmation that this form has been fully explained to me and that I understand its contents.

Potential Positive Pathways Project Participant

Signature ____________________________

Date ____________________________

APPROVED

OCT 9 2012

NYSDOC

[Signature]
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