STD/HIV Partner Services in New Jersey

GRETA ANSCHUETZ, MPH
DIRECTOR, STD AND STD-HIV PARTNER SERVICES
DIVISION OF HIV, STD AND TB SERVICES
What We’ll Discuss….

- What are Partner Services (PS)?
  - Goals of Partner Services
  - Partner Services in New Jersey
- How cases get to us
- Priority cases
- Field investigation flow
- DHSTS Partner Services regions
- Who to contact for what
What are Partner Services?

- An array of services offered to those infected with HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and/or chlamydia and their partners.

- Most critical feature is partner notification:
  - Interview infected individuals
  - Identify those at risk (partners/communities)
  - Bring at-risk individuals to treatment
Partner Services also includes....

- Prevention counseling
- Testing for HIV and other STDs
- Hepatitis screening/vaccination
- Linkage to medical care
- Linkage or referral to other services (e.g., prenatal care, social support, mental health services, etc.)
## Goals for Partner Services

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<th>Now (short term)</th>
<th>Later (Intermediate)</th>
<th>Forever (Long term)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>- Improved patient health</td>
<td>- Decreased morbidity</td>
<td>- Lower overall incidence</td>
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<td>- Reduced infectiousness</td>
<td>- Lower transmission</td>
<td>- Improved public health</td>
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<td>- Healthy behavior change (patients and partners)</td>
<td>- Continued healthy behaviors (patients and partners)</td>
<td>- Less $ spent</td>
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Partner Services in New Jersey: A VERY Brief History....

STD and TB integrated into the Division of HIV, STD and TB services (DHSTS)
• Previously STD and TB were under Communicable Disease Service (CDS)

2011

2017

New STD-HIV Partner Services Unit created
• Operates under STD services
• Field staff responsible for field follow-up of all priority STD and HIV cases
STD Partner Services

- Labs are triaged following set protocols to determine who needs to be followed for partners
- After a discussion with the provider regarding symptom history, treatment, additional testing, PS may be started
  - Some local health jurisdictions have their own Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) who do their own PS
- Goals
  - Find untreated person with infection
  - Find people exposed and treat them before they become infected
HIV Partner Services (PS)

- Who does PS Interview for HIV Cases?
  - Does the site have a patient navigator?
    - They do the PS Interview!
  - No patient navigator?
    - PS Interview completed by DHSTS staff

- After PS Interview is completed, who follows with the named partners?
  - Do you have a community health worker (CHW)?
    - They follow up with the named partners
  - No CHW?
    - Call DHSTS, refer the named partners and DHSTS staff will follow up with them

Need help finding patient/partners? Call DHSTS Partner Services
Priority Cases for PS Follow-Up

**STD**
1. Infectious syphilis
2. Co-infected with HIV
3. Gonorrhea or chlamydia <14 or pregnant
4. Possible resistant gonorrhea

**HIV**
1. All new diagnoses
2. Care status in eHARS that appears:
   a. > 120 days out of care, high VL
   b. >120 days out of care, lower VL

Pregnant patients and children are always top priority
All Patients and partners are offered HIV testing, and/or linked to testing or treatment.
HIV Surveillance is Responsible For...

- HIV reporting
- All HIV data
- Classifying cases
- ....AFTER this, appropriate cases get sent to PS
Reasons to Contact DHSTS Partner Services....

Agencies **with** a Community Health Worker (CHW):
- If you need more information on:
  - Patients
  - Partners named by patients

Agencies **without** a CHW:
- Report partners for follow-up
- Report add’l partners named after case referred to PS

DHSTS Partner Services
(973) 648-7474
Contact DHSTS HIV Surveillance....

All new HIV cases (positive results)

DHSTS HIV Surveillance

Main Office: (609) 984-5980
Northern Office: (973) 648-7500
Contact Summary:

Partner Services information requests and referrals:

• (973) 648-7474

Reporting new HIV cases/ positive results:

• (609) 984-5940 (Main Office)
• (973) 648-7500 (Northern Office)

General inquires or concerns about Partner Services:

• Debbie Gleissner, Field Operations Manager
  • Deborah.Gleissner@doh.nj.gov
  • (609) 826-5958
Questions??

Thank you!!