Common Threads

Creating Opportunities to Repair, Restore & Reclaim the Lives of Women Impact by HIV
Challenge

• The intersectionality of physical, psychological, social and economic conditions and the multi-dimensional (i.e. stigma or trauma) nature of challenges often pre-determines a woman’s
  – vulnerability for HIV infection or re-infection;
  – risk for transmitting HIV
  – ability to care for herself; and
  – resiliency to successfully live with HIV.

• How do we address this challenge?
Common Threads  
*Repair, Restore & Reclaim*

- Common Threads is a peer-led HIV training that addresses social determinants of health as an integrated prevention, trauma-informed and vocational development training.
- The training is designed to increase self-esteem, sociability, economic well-being, and HIV-self management while at the same time reducing the silence and isolation associated with HIV/AIDS.
Common Threads
Repair, Restore & Reclaim

• One purpose of this three phase, five day training is to assist women living with HIV to understand how certain aspects of their life experiences may have one, increased their vulnerability to HIV infection, other related sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including Hepatitis C; two, increased their risk for transmitting HIV; and three, how their resiliency has enabled their recovery and self-care.
Common Threads
*Repair, Restore & Reclaim*

- The goals of Common Threads are to one, decrease stigma associated with HIV; two, increase HIV testing and linkage to health care by improving the delivery of messages essential to life and health; and three, increase the economic status of women living with HIV via work-related opportunities (i.e. economic collectives) and civic engagement (i.e. community service).
**Common Threads**

*Program Activities*

1. Program Promotion

2. ASO/CBO

3. Participant Recruitment

4. Common Threads Training

5. Local Collectives

6. Common Threads Alumni

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

**COMMON THREADS**

- **Logic Model**
- **Monitoring Plan**
- **Evaluation Plan**
- **Quality Assurance Plan**

- **Nat’l Speakers Bureau**
- **Nat’l Booster Sessions**

- **The Me Circle Collectives**

- **Alumni Referral (Word-of-Mouth)**
- **Presentations at Trainings, Conferences & Meetings**
- **Peer Review Articles**

- **Draft and Sign LOA**
- **Provision of Financial Support**
- **Assistance w/ Participant Recruitment**
- **Assistance w/ Participant Transportation**
- **Post-training Support for Participants**

- **Determination of Eligibility**
- **Participant Briefing**

- **Five (5) Day Small Group Skills Building Training**
  - Storytelling
  - Microenterprise
  - Civic Engagement
Phase One of Common Threads

• STORYTELLING

Develops and enhances the capacity of participants to share their stories with family members, partners, friends, and community about specific life history and experiences stemming from select social determinants of health and which may have increased their susceptibility to HIV and/or enhanced their ability (resiliency) to bounce back and overcome the vulnerabilities and risks which may have led to an HIV positive diagnosis.
Storytelling

• KEY ELEMENTS

1. An overview of the AIDS epidemic and how it impacts women.
2. An overview of public health initiatives of national significance.
3. An overview of Common Threads.
4. An exploration of the concept of HIV vulnerability and risk.
5. Role model four (4) storytelling techniques, e.g. family tree.
6. Develop and practice presentations.
7. Receive presentation coaching and feedback.
8. Provide post-training support.
An exploration of the concept of HIV vulnerability.

Human Needs
Maslow’s Hierarchy of Human Needs

- Self-Actualization
- Spiritual Needs
- Esteem Needs
- Love and Belonging Needs
- Safety Needs
- Physiological Needs

HIV Vulnerability

- Genetics
- Race
- Gender
- Sexual Identity & Orientation
- Personal Timeline
- Family History
- Trauma
- Human Needs
HIV Vulnerability & Risk Assessment Tool

Vulnerability
- Genetics: Predisposition
  - Race
  - Gender
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Human Needs
  - Family History
  - Personal Timeline
  - Relationships
  - Mental Health
  - Substance Use
  - Violence
  - Community
  - Trauma
  - Stigma

Risk
- Transmission
  - Unaware/aware of own HIV status
  - Unprotected sex
  - Needle sharing
- Acquisition
  - Unaware/aware of partner’s HIV status
  - Unprotected sex
  - Needle sharing

Diagnosis
- HIV Negative
- HIV Positive

Recovery
- Disclosure
- Linkage to Care
- Treatment
- Supportive Services
- Other Services
- Assets
- Aspirations

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HIV Treatment Continuum

(aka Treatment Cascade, HIV Care Continuum, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosed</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Linked to Care</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retain in Care</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>Prescribed ART</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virally Suppressed</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Identify**
  - Diagnose
- **LTC**
  - Re-entry
  - Encounter
- **Retain**
  - Specialty
- **ART**
- **VLS**
Sample Client HIV Service Profile

Female

Disease Prevention, Containment & Reduction: HIV

Vulnerability & Risk: HIV-Related

Find

• Partner Notification
• Outreach
• In-reach
• Service integration
• Social Media & Marketing

Testing/Screening

• Hospital ER
• Doctor’s Office
• ASO/CBO
• Correction Facilities
• Family Planning Centers
• Substance Abuse Treatment Centers
• Pharmacies
• Non-tradition
• Home

Link to Services

• Referral
• Self
• Family
• Linkage to Care Network
• Verification: Appointment & Service
• Peer and Peer Models, e.g., Peer Navigators
• Interventions, e.g., ARTAS
• Vocational Rehabilitation

Provide Services

• Medical Care
• Dental Care
• Anti-Viral Treatment
• Medical CM
• Housing
• Substance Abuse Treatment
• Mental Health
• Sexual/Reproductive Health
• Interventions
• Supportive Services

Service Retention

• Provider Efforts
• Adherence Program
• Peer Navigators
• Housing
• Food
• Substance Abuse Treatment
• Mental Health
• Interventions
• Supportive Services

Service Re-Entry

• Provider Efforts
• Lost to Follow-up Care
• Peer Navigators
• Substance Abuse Treatment
• Mental Health
• Treatment Adherence
• Interventions
• Supportive Services

Informed and engaged patient

Linked, retained and (mostly) adherence to care & treatment

Reduced HIV-related health disparities

(c) NWAC 2011 - 2014
Family Tree:

- Maternal Grandparents
  - Willie
  - Maggie Mae
  - Carrie Felder

- Paternal Grandparents
  - Willie
  - Hattie Bell

- Parents
  - Robert
  - Margaret

- Siblings
  - Eric
  - Jason

- Health Issues
  - Physical
  - Mental

- Alcohol and Drugs
- Molestation

- Abuse: Verbal, Physical, Emotional

- Home: Happiness Now
Results

• People living with HIV/AIDS can process complex personal issues in a small group setting with the support of peer trainers who are willing to role model storytelling techniques and a licensed mental health professional.

• Once these personal issues are explored, over 90% of the participants indicated a readiness to publicly disclose their HIV serostatus and share with others what may have made them vulnerable to and/or at-risk for HIV.
Phase Two of Common Threads

- MICRO-ENTERPRISE

Prepares participants for The Microenterprise Circle (aka The ME Circle). The ME Circle is an economic intervention designed to reduce the impact of poverty by increasing the financial independence and self-sufficiency of women living with HIV by providing them with the opportunity to develop a trade.
The ME Circle

• The ME Circle is a personal and group sustainability vehicle designed to ensure that women living with HIV/AIDS are able to garner the financial resources they need to improve their quality of life.

• Local economic collectives support their ongoing efforts with monies collected from the microenterprise circles or the ME Circles.
Economic Collectives

• Supports participant engagement in organized community and conference events incorporating space for vendors and exhibitors. Such events (e.g., Market Place, etc.) create opportunities for Common Threads ME Circle graduates, women living with HIV, along with affected family members, to sell their products in a marketplace environment.
Common Threads
"Am I a Reflection of You?"

Women of South Carolina
Jewelry Samples

Red Ribbons
Results

• Outcomes as result of the SC ME Circle
  – Peace of mind
  – Sisterhood
  – Networking
  – Development of new skills
    • Motto: Sharing our talents and saving lives!
  – Money in the Bank
    • Supports conference attendance
    • Community speaking engagements
    • Group meetings
    • Re-investment in supplies to keep the group going
Phase Three of Common Threads

• Greater Involvement of People with AIDS (GIPA)

Suggested GIPA Mechanisms

– Community service, e.g. PLHIV networks
– Representation on decision making bodies
– PLHIV consultations
– PLHIV employment
Thank You

• National Working Positive Coalition
  – Board Member since 2012

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