



Quality and Performance Measures (QPM) Team

Meeting Notes / August 21, 2019

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Meeting Notes

Participants: Clifford Batson, Allison Champlin, David Colbert, Angelique Croasdale-Mills, Daniel Davidson, Xavier Day, Ducle Dones Mendez, Brittany Gardner, Shanay Hall, Daniel Hulton, Clunie Jean-Baptiste, Coley Jones, Marcelin Joseph, Dionne Kotey, Maria Lorenzo, Sarah Macone, Erin Malgioglio, Angel Medina, Zenovia Melendez, Mukhtar Mohamed, Kelly Moore, Consuelo Muñoz, Mitchell Namias, Steve Novis, Kathyleen Pitner, Jackie Robertson, Joselyn Rodriguez, William Rosa, Delita Rose-Daniels, Sue Speers, Abigail Torres, Idiana Velez, Danielle Warren-Dias

Facilitator: Nilda Fernandez

DPH Liaison: Susan Major

Recorder: Dave Bechtel

Meeting Accomplishments

The team accomplished the following tasks:

- **2019 Accomplishments.** The team identified a number of highlights from this past year, including: (a) the PrEP presentation and setting a PrEP indicator; (b) the Syringe Services Program (SSP) data presentation; (c) the STD data presentation and ongoing discussions; and (d) revising the indicators.
- **2020 Plans.** The team suggested addressing the following topics in 2020:
 - **Data Presentations:** (a) Partner Services (postponed from the August 2019 meeting); (b) STD deep dive; (c) PrEP; (d) Hepatitis C; (e) youth and homelessness; (f) new diagnoses by transmission category and connections across categories; and (g) Syringe Services Program (if new data is available in 2020).
 - **Indicators:** (a) develop an indicator for stigma (in partnership with Getting To Zero Committee); (b) include trend data in the Indicators Handout; and (c) develop mechanisms to improve how we communicate indicator data and QPM discussions to the CHPC and the broader community (e.g., quarterly updates).
 - **Quality:** (a) encourage quality improvement projects for indicators where Connecticut is making less progress; and (b) identify innovative approaches to “Get To Zero” – drawing on data and team discussions.
- **Quality Summit.** Dave Bechtel shared a brief update on planning for the September 18th summit. The Best Practice Carousel presenters have been finalized, and the event “sold out” in only 2 weeks.

Identified Tasks

1. CHPC staff will work to DPH to organize data presentations for 2020.



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Welcome

DAC co-chair Nilda Fernandez welcomed everyone to the Quality and Performance Measures (QPM) Team meeting at 10:40 am. QPM reviews and discusses data, develops indicators to track progress in HIV prevention and care, and seeks to improve the quality of HIV prevention and care. QPM meetings are participatory, open to the public, and use a consensus model for making decisions.

July Meeting Summary

Ms. Fernandez asked participants to review the July 2019 QPM team meeting summary. In July, the team revised our progress indicators.

In reviewing the meeting summary, participants discussed the following indicators and data issues:

- **Syringe Services Program (SSP) Indicator.** Angelique Croasdale-Mills asked if the team could add an indicator for Naloxone distribution? Sue Major stated that the Naloxone pilot is based on funding availability, so DPH does not always know if they can purchase Naloxone.
- **STD (sexually transmitted disease) data.** Idiana Velez agreed with the July meeting discussion that the different STD tests can detect more STDs. All of her positive tests were from either oral or rectal tests. Ms. Velez noted that there is not a place to include the type of test when entering data in the EvalWeb data system. Ms. Major stated that DPH uses the STD database (rather than EvalWeb) to examine STD data; Connecticut cannot change the national EvalWeb system. Mukhtar Mohamed reported that the STD database does include the type of test, although staff do not always enter this data in the system.

Ms. Fernandez stated that QPM plans to do a “deep dive” on STDs next year. Danielle Warren-Dias agreed on the importance of looking at STD data, including data on co-infections by age group. CCMC / UConn is seeing youth co-infected with HIV, gonorrhea and chlamydia. Jackie Robertson stated that the Waterbury Health Department no longer has funding for an STD program, and can only perform urine screening. The department refers people to Planned Parenthood, but STD tests can cost up to \$225 if the person does not have insurance.

- **PrEP Indicator.** Ms. Warren-Dias asked about performance measures being used for the PrEP program. Are there quarterly measures? This can be part of a follow-up presentation on PrEP data.
- **Indicator Handout.** Ms. Croasdale-Mills suggested including more recent data on the handout. Dave Bechtel noted that Sue Speers will be presenting the latest data to the full CHPC this afternoon. Next year, the team can decide how to incorporate more data into the handout (e.g., trend charts).

The team approved the meeting summary without changes.

Reflection on 2019

Ms. Fernandez stated that as QPM chair, she was going to share highlights for our 2019 QPM meetings as part of the afternoon presentation. Ms. Fernandez asked participants to introduce themselves and share one highlight from the year. Participants shared the following highlights:



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- **PrEP presentation and indicator.** Many participants cited the PrEP presentations and discussions as a highlight. It was helpful having PrEP data, learning about the new PrEP program, and setting a PrEP indicator. There is still a huge need to expand PrEP and to gather more data on medical adherence.
- **Syringe Services Program (SSP) presentation.** The SSP data presentation was very informative. Participants appreciated learning about the geographic gaps in the program, and about the Naloxone pilot which can help in engaging these populations (given the significant increase in overdoses).
- **STD presentation.** The data on STDs was eye-opening. This is a critical area for the team to address.
- **Revision of indicators.** Several participants cited July's discussion of the indicators and the team's revisions to the indicators. This included starting to add HIV prevention measures to the list of indicators.
- **Connecting data and front-line experience.** Ms. Warren-Dias cited the importance of connecting epidemiologists and front-line staff, so front-line staff can learn about the latest data, and epidemiologists can learn the story behind the data – and emerging trends – from front-line staff.
- **Getting to Zero focus group themes.** Learning the story behind the data.

Planning for 2020

Ms. Fernandez asked the team to consider what topics to address in 2020. At past meetings, participants recommended the following:

- Take a “deep dive” on **STD data** before deciding on an STD indicator. Participants agreed that this was important (see discussion above).
- Review additional **PrEP data** from multiple sources (Medicaid, DPH, national). Dionne Kotey suggested examining PrEP among women as part of this presentation. David Colbert suggested looking at Medicaid data on PrEP for minority men and MSM of color. Ms. Warren-Dias agreed and cited a New York provider that engaged African-Americans a “PrEP patients” before they may start taking Truvada. It can be a journey. Ms. Warren-Dias suggested looking at how many PrEP participants are sero-converting, and understanding why this is happening. In New York, they found that African-American men self-determining when to start Truvada was a better approach. Ms. Croasdale-Mills suggested looking at STD data for the new PrEP program. Kathyleen Pitner suggested looking at adherence for different types of PrEP approaches (e.g., start on Truvada right away or wait until STD tests are back), and over time (e.g., are there seasonal effects).
- Review new **Syringe Services Program (SSP)** data. This may be available in 2020.
- Consider other measures for **Partner Services**. Ms. Fernandez noted that this presentation was scheduled for today but needed to be postponed until 2020.



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Participants suggested the following topics:

- **Hepatitis C data / indicator.** Ms. Croasdale-Mills suggested reviewing Hep C data. Ms. Major suggested reaching out to Deb Gosselin for a Hep C presentation in 2020 to help QPM set an indicator.
- **Stigma indicator.** Ms. Warren-Dias suggested examining potential indicators for stigma. This is a very difficult thing to measure, but could be connected with the Getting To Zero effort and [U=U anti-stigma campaign](#).
- **Communicating indicator data.** Ms. Croasdale-Mills suggested developing a mechanism to communicate the indicator data to the rest of the state. Staff in the field (beyond Ryan White) need to know where the challenges are and develop quality improvement projects to address these challenges. Delita Rose-Daniels stated that it was important to share the details from QPM discussions with the broader CHPC and stakeholders. QPM updates to the CHPC do not include much information. Ms. Fernandez suggested presenting more often to the CHPC, perhaps quarterly to keep the CHPC and other providers well-informed.
- **Youth and homelessness.** Ms. Fernandez suggested looking at data on youth homelessness. This is critical factor in viral suppression.
- **New diagnoses by transmission category.** Ms. Warren-Dias suggested continuing to look at the potential connections between high-risk heterosexual transmission and PWID (persons who inject drugs) transmission. Her agency sees young women involved in human trafficking, which can be connected with drug use. This could be part of a deeper dive on opioid users.
- **Identifying innovative approaches.** Ms. Warren-Dias noted that the original PrEP study involved MSM who used injection drugs. Connecticut needs to consider innovative approaches to get to zero. These innovative approaches can also bring new dollars to the state, through grants for special projects. Ms. Fernandez and Ms. Croasdale-Mills agreed. We should not wait for the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) to recommend a new approach.
- **Expectations for PrEP navigation services standards.** As noted above, Ms. Warren-Dias inquired about the STD screenings as part of the PrEP standards of care, and suggested including this in a PrEP presentation.

Quality Summit Update

Dave Bechtel provided an update on planning for the Quality Summit, to be held on September 18, 2019 at the Chrysalis Center. The Best Practice Carousel is set, with six presenters. There was also a great demand for the Summit; the registration was sold out (at 100 tickets) after only 2 weeks. Mr. Bechtel suggested that people who wanted to attend contact him to be added to the waitlist or to volunteer to serve as one of the facilitators for the morning discussion.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

##End QPM Notes##