

**Binghamton Tri-County HIV Care Network**  
Serving Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties

**2007 Regional Service Delivery Plan**

**Executive Summary**

**Introduction and Background of Priority Setting Process**

The Binghamton Tri-County HIV Care Network began the process of updating its regional service priorities in January 2006. As an outcome of many meetings, focus groups, surveys and other discussions, the Steering Committee and other invited guests reviewed all the information received and voted on the top priorities and special populations to be considered when addressing priorities.

Six service needs were identified as being the most urgent to focus on to improve the quality of life and coordination of care for persons infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Those service needs are:

1. Transportation
2. Opportunities for Socialization
3. Provider Education including need for HIV Specialty Care and Increasing Communication Among Providers
4. Health Education including Harm Reduction Information to be provided to Persons Living with HIV/AIDS and the Community
5. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
6. Dental Care

Special populations are groups of people who have common, unique characteristics and circumstances. HIV/AIDS providers may not meet their special needs adequately and efficiently. Thus, collaborative interventions may be needed among local HIV/AIDS service providers to meet the needs of special populations. After a review of the information received from various sources as noted above and a review of HIV/AIDS data and other relevant statistics, the following six populations were identified by the committee as special populations for the region:

1. Young people
2. Women
3. Residents of rural areas
4. Mentally ill, substance abusers including injecting drug users
5. Releasees/parolees from criminal justice systems
6. People from the L, G, B, T (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) communities.

The Action Plan that was developed notes the recommended activities chosen by the Committee for each priority. The activities are noted below for each priority.

**Priority One: Transportation**

1. Meet with representatives of county transportation providers to discuss issues and explore potential means to expand transportation services
2. Collaborate with other agencies that provide transportation services, such as area agencies on aging and volunteer organizations, to expand transportation options
3. Educate legislators regarding need for transportation to medical and non-medical appointments and seek support for legislation and funding to expand transportation services
4. Collaborate with other HIV Care Networks, AIDS Institute, New York AIDS Coalition, and state and federal legislators to discuss common transportation issues and seek solutions

**Priority Two: Opportunities for Socialization**

1. Promote outreach efforts to persons living with HIV/AIDS, especially in rural areas, to inform of Network and other resource programs
2. Promote knowledge of social opportunities and support groups in the Network's newsletter and request Network members to assist in disseminating information, including information about both activities specifically for persons living with HIV/AIDS and activities not specifically limited to persons living with HIV/AIDS
3. Decrease barriers to participation in social events, such as lack of transportation
4. Explore with providers the possibility of offering support groups to provide persons living with HIV/AIDS an outlet to discuss common concerns and potential solutions, to inform about available resources and to decrease feelings of isolation. Support groups to be accessible to both urban and rural residents.

**Priority Three: Provider Education including need for HIV Specialty Care & Increasing Communication among Providers**

1. Inform and update providers about educational opportunities including:
  - a. Regional opportunities, including Regional Training Center program offerings
  - b. Continuing Education Initiative (CEI) services and programs
  - c. Other conferences and programs that may be of interest
  - d. Network to send information regarding latest research, etc via newsletter and email
  - e. Discuss with CEI if a provider newsletter is available or could be developed that would include information on latest developments, educational offerings, and billing tips (such as currently is offered by Medicaid)
2. Provide resource information to providers, including local HIV resources and HIV specialty care

3. Encourage and promote the importance of talking to clients regarding risk behaviors and provide resources as needed to assist providers when talking with clients about risk factors
4. Collaborate with AIDS Institute, county health departments and medical training institutions to inform medical students and physicians about the need for HIV specialists
5. Increase communication among providers by:
  - a) providing information regarding Article 27-F to facilitate release and sharing of information among providers
  - b) Promote awareness of case management providers and resources
  - c) Encourage participation of providers in the Network's Case Management Committee
  - d) Encourage case management providers to participate in case conferencing
  - e) Discuss issues and needs of special populations at risk for HIV infection or, if infected, persons who may have unique health care needs, such as young people, women, mentally ill and/or substance abusers, members of the L, G, B, T community, and formerly incarcerated persons.

**Priority Four: Health Education including Harm Reduction Information  
(to Persons living with HIV/AIDS & the general community)**

1. Collaborate with human service providers to offer educational programs to increase knowledge of HIV/AIDS and means to prevent infection. Include reaching out to populations at risk, such as young people; women; members of the L, G, B, T community; and mentally ill and/or substance abusers. Utilize multiple approaches to educate, such as:
  - a) encourage public health personnel and other educators to discuss HIV/AIDS issues with providers at meetings and during other opportunities
  - b) provide information via newsletter and other mailings
  - c) Network members to visit primary care offices to provide information, ask regarding barriers to care and emerging needs
  - d) Seek assistance from Project WAVE to maximize media promotion of awareness of events and education information
2. Support efforts of Southern Tier AIDS Program and other providers to reach out to persons living with HIV/AIDS to:
  - a) provide harm reduction information;
  - b) promote optimal health, including medication adherence and compliance with health care appointments;
  - c) inform regarding services available

3. Collaborate with human service providers to offer educational information to health educators and school nurse/educators to:
  - a) ensure educators have latest available information
  - b) provide information about effective training techniques and interventions to maximize their educational efforts.

**Priority Five: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

1. Advocate for timely access to mental health services for all persons living with HIV/AIDS and their significant others.
2. Advocate for timely access to substance abuse services for all persons living with HIV/AIDS and their significant others.

**Priority Six: Dental Services**

- 1) Educate persons living with HIV/AIDS regarding:
  - a) need for routine dental care to promote optimal health and prevent health problems related to poor dental health
  - b) need to maintain a collaborative relationship with dental provider, including need to keep dental appointments
- 2) Collaborate with county health departments, county departments of social services and other agencies working towards increasing the supply of dental providers and decreasing barriers to dental care.