

# Integrated Plan Evaluation Workgroup Recommendations to the Joint Integrated Plan Review Team

February 13, 2024

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## INTRODUCTION

This report includes recommendations from the Integrated Plan Evaluation Workgroup on final updates to the *Miami-Dade County 2022-2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan*. Care and Treatment goals will be added to the VMSG database after review by the Joint Integrated Plan Review Team.

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- **BSR:** Behavioral Science Research Corporation
  - **CY:** Calendar Year
  - **EHE:** Ending the HIV Epidemic
  - **FDOH:** Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County
  - **HOPWA:** Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program
  - **MCM:** Medical Case Managers or Medical Case Management, depending on the context
  - **MSM:** Men who have Sex with Men
  - **MDC:** Miami-Dade County
  - **OMB:** Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budgets
  - **PESN:** Peer Education and Support Network
  - **PE Miami:** Provide Enterprise® by Groupware Technologies (client database)
  - **Recipient:** Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budgets
  - **RWHAP:** Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
  - **SDOH:** Social Determinants of Health
  - **STI:** Sexually Transmitted Infections
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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Goal:** Improve HIV-Related Health Outcomes of People with HIV: Health Outcomes for Special Populations (SP): ~~People with HIV who are Homeless or Unstably Housed~~ *People with HIV who are Unstably Housed or Who Need Emergency Funding* and *People with HIV who are Experiencing Chronic Homelessness*.

### IPEW Recommendations:

- Divide into two Strategies:

1. *People with HIV who are unstably housed or who need emergency funding; and*
2. *People with HIV who are experiencing chronic homelessness.*

- a. **New Strategy: Improve HIV-related health outcomes of people with HIV who are unstably housed or who need emergency funding.**

#### Suggested Activities:

- Assess client housing needs as part of acuity assessment: Review RWHAP MCM protocols for identifying clients who are unstably housed.
  - Measurements?  Responsible Parties?
- Educate service providers and stakeholders on available assistance for people who are unstably housed or who need emergency funding.
  - Measurements?  Responsible Parties?
- Consider specific interventions that address improving health outcomes for people with HIV who are unstably housed or who need emergency funding.
  - Measurements?  Responsible Parties?

- b. **New Strategy: Improve HIV-related health outcomes of people with HIV who are experiencing chronic homelessness.**

#### Suggested Activities:

- Disseminate inventory of resources for RWP MCM subrecipients to assist people with HIV who are experiencing chronic homelessness (through the [www.aidsnet.org](http://www.aidsnet.org) Provider Resource Hub).
  - Measurements?  Responsible Parties?
- Educate service providers and stakeholders on the special needs of people with HIV who are experiencing chronic homelessness.
  - Measurements?  Responsible Parties?
- Consider specific interventions that address improved health outcomes for the approximately 600 people in RWHAP care who are experiencing chronic homelessness.
  - Measurements?  Responsible Parties?

**2. Goal:** Improve HIV-Related Health Outcomes of People with HIV: Retention in Care (R)

**Objective:** Increase the percentage of people with HIV retained in RWHAP Medical Case Management from 89% in December 2022 to 95% by December 31, 2026.

**Strategy:** Increase Peer (PESN) involvement in client care to improve retention and viral load suppression.

**Activities:**

- Convene listening sessions among peers and peer supervisors in CY 2024 to identify potential areas of increased peer involvement in client care, advanced peer skill development, and advanced peer skill certification.
- Identify advanced peer certification training/resources; conduct training; and certify at least 50% of peers by the end of 2026.
- Based on certification requirements, revise local RWHAP Service Delivery Manual/Service Definition for MCM/Peer Education and Support Network.

**IPEW Recommendations:**

- Advanced training certification should be pursued; BSR will coordinate with the Recipient.
  - Consider using existing training modules or programs, rather than developing.
  - Training should be offered on an ongoing basis.
  - For RWHAP, adjust reimbursement rates for peers to reflect additional compensation for certified peers.
  - For RWHAP, incorporate advanced peer training requirements, including frequency, into the Service Delivery Manual and/or Service Definition and contract language.
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**3. Goal:** Improve HIV-Related Health Outcomes of People with HIV: Retention in Care (R)

**Objective:** Increase the percentage of people with HIV retained in RWHAP Medical Case Management from 89% in December 2022 to 95% by December 31, 2026.

**Strategy:** Ensure a “whole person,” holistic treatment approach that recognizes that care for RWHAP clients must go beyond viral load suppression and retention in care.

**Activity:**

- Review and revise local MCM standards of care to address protocols for addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) (e.g., childcare, housing, food insecurity, domestic violence, discrimination) in treatment plans and external referrals.

**IPEW Recommendations:**

- Conduct reviews with MCMs, MCM Supervisors, and the Recipient to determine areas where access to health services and SDOH services may be addressed in MCM activities.
- Review and update mandatory intake screens in PE Miami to include revised questions on SDOH.

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**4. Goal:** Improve HIV-Related Health Outcomes of People with HIV: Retention in Care (R)

**Objective:** Increase the percentage of people with HIV retained in RWHAP Medical Case Management from 89% in December 2022 to 95% by December 31, 2026.

**Strategy:** Ensure a “whole person,” holistic treatment approach that recognizes that care for RWHAP clients must go beyond viral load suppression and retention in care.

**Activity:** Develop or Identify protocols for how mental health services are destigmatized (“normalized”) and clients are encouraged to make use of them.

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5. **Goal:** Improve HIV-Related Health Outcomes of People with HIV: Health Outcomes for Special Populations:
- Transgender People with HIV; and
  - MSM with HIV and Co-occurring STIs in Ryan White Care.

**Objectives:** Improve health outcomes for [both Special Populations].

**Strategies:** Expand existing programs and collaborations to address specific needs of [both Special Populations].

**Activities:**

- Conduct basic and annual trainings for RWHAP subrecipients' MCM/Peer, front desk and medical staff on issues related to sexual identity, gender identity, and providing service to transgender persons.
- Provide annual LGBTQ cultural competency/cultural humility trainings for RWHAP subrecipients.

**IPEW Recommendations:**

- Redefine the training as a comprehensive LGBTQ+ sensitivity and cultural competency/cultural humility training.
- Cross-reference under both Special Populations, so that completion of one constitutes completion of both.

*Note: Positive health outcomes for MSM with HIV and Co-occurring STIs in Ryan White Care are amongst the highest in the program.*

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6. **Goal:** Reduce HIV-Related Disparities and Health Inequities: Stigma (S)

**Objective:** Reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

**Strategy:** Increase awareness of stigmatizing attitudes throughout the system of care. ~~(FDOH-EHE Goal: Partner with Capacity Building Assistance providers (CBA), and the private sector to train STD/HIV staff on HIV stigma, and discrimination).~~

**Activity:** ~~Develop and/or~~ Identify training curricula for MCM/Peers, front desk personnel and medical providers in RWHAP subrecipients that address stigma, discrimination and unrecognized ethnic, racial, gender, and HIV-status bias.

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7. **Goal:** Achieve Integrated, Coordinated Efforts that Address the HIV Epidemic Among All Partners: Integrated Plan Coordination (IPC)

**Objective:** Develop strong community partnerships to leverage available services and funding for ongoing HIV care and treatment. ~~and to be able to respond quickly to HIV outbreaks.~~

**Activity:** Identify community stakeholders to broaden the base of Integrated Plan implementation and referrals for client needs.

- ***This was a FINDING during the HRSA Site Visit.***