Abstract

Enhancing Linkages to and Retention in HIV Primary Care for Transgender Women of Color: *The Alexis Project*

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Transwomen of color experience a number of psychosocial challenges including discrimination, prejudice, stigmatization, and social/economic marginalization, which stand as obstacle to HIV care and other needed services. *The Alexis Project* will incorporate three proven models, Social Network Recruitment (network), Peer Health Navigation (individual) and Conditional Cash Transfer (structural), into one multi-leveled project to optimize HIV health outcomes for transwomen of color. Through Social Network Recruitment, local transwomen will recruit transwomen of color from their social, sexual and drug-using networks into the project for either testing (HIV unknown status) or (for those who are aware of their HIV infection but not in care) to the combined Peer Health Navigation and Conditional Cash Transfer intervention. The project goals are 1) to conduct formative evaluation to develop the design, measures, and procedures for *The Alexis Project*, 2) to identify, recruit and test transwomen of color in Los Angeles County through the Social Network Testing Program, 3) to directly link HIV-infected transwomen of color identified through the Social Network Testing Program to a Peer Health Navigator, 4) to identify transwomen of color who are already aware of their HIV infection but have never been engaged in care or have refused a referral to care or have dropped out of care and to directly link to a Peer Health Navigator, 5) to link HIV-infected transwomen of color to quality HIV care, 6) to work with HIV-infected transwomen of color to address the barriers in their life that limits or impedes their access to HIV care and, 7) to retain HIV-infected transgender women of color in HIV care to reach and sustain HIV milestones. Peer Health Navigators will work with participants to identify HIV care services and other needed services, develop a specific client-centered treatment plans, remove barriers to those services and access those services. Conditional Cash Transfer will provide increasing valuable incentives for attending HIV medical visits and reaching and sustaining HIV milestones. *The Alexis Project* will employ a multi-tiered, comprehensive approach, which includes network, individual and structural components to identify, recruit, test, link, treat and retain transwomen of color into quality HIV care.