

# CORE

Center for Outreach Research and Evaluation **News**

## Spotlight on Access Community Health Network (ACCESS)

### History and Mission

ACCESS is a section 330 funded Federally Qualified Health Center that operates 26 clinic sites in Chicago and neighboring Cook County. ACCESS serves all patients without regard to their health status or ability to pay. In fact, over half of their patients receive Medicaid benefits and over 20 percent of their patient visits are from the uninsured.

“ACCESS serves all patients without regard to their health status or ability to pay... over 20% of their patient visits are from the uninsured”

### The Community Health Outreach Program

ACCESS contributes its innovative *Community Health Outreach Program* to this SPNS evaluation

project. The program began in 1998 to address the lack of primary health care services for clients of the Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA), a program that provides needle exchange and harm reduction education to injection

drug users. The founder of CRA, Dan Bigg, asked ACCESS to partner with him and take on the role of providing health care to CRA clients. Together, they developed a

co-location model which partners CRA with a nearby ACCESS clinic site and also provides *on-site* basic health services at the CRA needle exchange van. The on-site care is pro-

vided by a two person outreach team made up of a mid-level health provider (a nurse practitioner or

*Continued on page 4* ►

## Grantee PI's

**ACCESS:** Elizabeth Calhoun

**AIDS Services Center:**

Barbara Hanna

**BABAA:** E. Tyrone Howze

**Care Resources:** Jaime Acosta

**Charles Drew:** Wilbert Jordan

**Fenway:** Judy Bradford

**Harm Reduction Services:**

Peter Simpson

**Montefiore:**

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**Multnomah:** Mike Stark

**Project Bridge:** Leah Holmes

**UCLA:** William Cunningham

**UMiami:** Sally Dodds

**UTexas:** Yolanda Cantu

**UWashington:** Victoria Harris

**Wayne State/ Horizons:**

Sylvie Naar-King

**Well-Being Institute:**

Geoffrey Smereck

**Whitman-Walker:**

Michael Relf

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### Upcoming Conferences

September 19-22, 2002  
Sixth Annual United States Conference on AIDS (USCA)  
Anaheim, CA  
<http://www.nmac.org/usca/default.htm>

October 21-22, 2002  
SIDA Esperanza VIDA  
Miami, FL  
<http://careresource.org>

December 1-4, 2002  
The Fourth National Harm Reduction Conference  
Seattle, WA  
[www.harmreduction.org](http://www.harmreduction.org)

December 5-8, 2002  
An International Conference on Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy: *Elements of Success*  
Dallas, TX  
[www.ubevents.org/elements](http://www.ubevents.org/elements)

December 8-11, 2002  
2002 North American AIDS Treatment Action Forum (NATAF)  
New Orleans, LA  
<http://www.nmac.org/nataf/2002>



## Spotlight on Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS (BABAA)

**BABAA** was founded by the late Virgil Grandberry in March of 1990 out of the identified need for HIV prevention education targeting minority populations in the St. Louis, MO

lar regard to support services and resource development for individuals who are HIV challenged.”

As one of the 17 sites funded in this SPNS initiative, BABAA brings to the

and remove them.

4. Improve their clients' quality of life.
5. Find out what prevents clients from being adherent to their HIV medications.
6. Track specific data such as CD4 and viral load counts and missed/kept medical appointments.
7. Increase knowledge about HIV disease and available treatments.
8. Provide support for continued adherence in medical care and treatment through support groups and educational forums.

Thus far, BABAA has successfully enrolled clients into the study from several outreach programs, including its Transitional Case Management Program, Incarcerated Women's Program, SAMHSA Outreach Program, the Regina Burns Program and the Harambee Empowerment Youth Center Program.

One of the unique ways BABAA has promoted the Case Finding Study is through sponsoring a Patient Town Hall Meeting. Funded through a \$2,500 award from Bristol Myers Squibb, BABAA hosted a

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“To advocate, educate, and act as a resource for the St. Louis Metropolitan African American community, with particular regard to support services and resource development for individuals who are HIV challenged”

--BABAA's Mission

area. Since then, the agency has expanded and currently serves the community from three sites: the Harambee Empowerment Center for Youth, BABAA East St. Louis, and the Central Office in St. Louis City. With a full-time staff of forty and numerous HIV prevention and care services, BABAA is one of the largest minority AIDS service agencies in the country. BABAA's mission is “to advocate, educate, and act as a resource for the St. Louis Metropolitan African American community, with particu-

table its *Case Finding Study*. This study evaluates an existing outreach program in which Transitional Case Managers/Case Finders perform outreach to help clients access HIV case management, primary care, and other needed services. The main goals of the study are to:

1. Get clients engaged and/or keep them retained in medical care and case management.
2. Find out what prevents them from accessing HIV medical care and treatment.
3. Identify those barriers

### HRSA News

#### Project Officers & Grantees

**Katy Handley:**  
BABAA,  
Care Resources

**Moses Pounds:**  
CORE/BU,  
UCLA

**Robyn Schulhof:**  
AIDS Services Center,  
Fenway,  
Montefiore,  
Project Bridge

**Melinda Tinsley:**  
ACCESS,  
Charles Drew,  
Harm Reduction  
Services,  
Multnomah,  
UMiami,  
UTexas,  
UWashington,  
Wayne/Horizons,  
Well-Being,  
Whitman-Walker

#### Grantee News

Please welcome our newest staff members!

**AIDS Services Center:**  
Sumer Gaymon  
Assistant Project  
Coordinator

**BABAA:**  
Kathy Pierce  
Evaluator

**Care Resources:**  
Natalie Wahlay  
Evaluator

**Whitman-Walker:**  
Deborah Dekker  
Sr. Program Evaluator

**UWashington:**  
Joe Robinson  
Research Assistant

## Data and Evaluation: Defining Outreach

As it becomes evident that early access to HIV medical care can prolong life, the role of HIV outreach takes on a new significance.

Although HIV outreach has historically focused on education and risk reduction, it is now viewed as an important bridge to improve health care access for underserved populations living with HIV.

For example, some outreach programs develop linkages with primary care providers, accompany clients to appointments, and outreach to individuals who are sporadic users of care or lost to follow-up. Concurrently, some HIV clinics are adopting new strategies to follow-up with people who miss appointments, using

clinic staff or outreach workers to re-engage people who are lost to care. These outreach efforts require people and organizations to assume new roles.

As we embark on a multi-site evaluation of seventeen different HIV outreach programs designed to engage and/or retain underserved people in health care, our first question is “**What is outreach?**” Is it:

- \*When a peer outreach worker accompanies a client to a medical appointment?
- \*When clinic staff call or conduct home visits to find a client who missed an appointment?
- \*When a client brings his friends in for counseling and testing?
- \*When a physician visits

clients in a single room occupancy hotel to establish a relationship and encourage them to come to a clinic for care?

In recognition of the diverse roles and functions for outreach, the multi-site evaluation will need to take a broad view of outreach and identify its different dimensions. These include:

- \***Who** conducts outreach
- \***Where** the outreach is conducted
- \*The **Length** of the encounter
- \*The **Frequency** of the encounters
- \*The **Content** of the outreach encounter and
- \***How** outreach is connected to other functions along the continuum of care. ■

The Center for Outreach Research and Evaluation (CORE) is an evaluation and program support center whose purpose is to coordinate the evaluation of outreach strategies to bring underserved individuals with HIV into care. It is housed at the Health and Disability Working (HDWG), a program of the Boston University School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts.

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## What's Going On...

**Melissa Watt** of ACCESS recently participated in the Midwest AIDS Ride. Melissa, along with other ACCESS team members, supported the 200 riders over their grueling 6 day, 500 mile journey from St. Paul, MN to Chicago, IL...

**Harm Reduction Services** presented the poster: *Two Strategies for Evaluating Projects That Use*

*Outreach Workers to Locate and Link Persons with HIV to Appropriate Treatment Services* at the Ryan White Care Act All Titles Meeting (8/2002)...

**Leah Holmes** of Project Bridge has been busy! She presented the poster: *Harm Reduction Focused Case Management for HIV-positive Ex-Offenders* at the XIV International AIDS

Conference in Barcelona (7/2002). Leah was also a panelist for the *Transitional Pre-discharge Programs for Incarcerated Populations: Policy & Implementation Panel* at the Ryan White Care Act All Titles Meeting. Last but not least, she received the Russell E. Brady Award for Innovative Services Delivery. Congratulations, Leah! ■

## Spotlight on ACCESS

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physician assistant) and a case manager. Some of the services the team provides are: preventive health care, HIV testing and counseling, STD screening, wound care, referrals to other social services, and health education. They also assist clients to access primary care at the nearby ACCESS clinic site.

Soon, other human service agencies asked ACCESS to replicate this co-location model in order to give their at-risk, isolated clients more accessible medical services. Today, in addition to CRA, project partners include a wide-range of human service agencies including:

- \* **Open Hand Chicago** – food provider to PLWHIV/AIDS
- \* **Test Positive Aware Network** – peer-led support program for PLWHIV/AIDS
- \* **Genesis House** – respite

and rehabilitation program for female sex workers

- \* **SAFER Foundation** – transitional program for men leaving long-term incarceration

- \* **Family Guidance Centers** – outpatient methadone drug treatment
- \* **Haymarket Center** – inpatient and outpatient drug treatment.

Because of these partnerships, ACCESS is able to bring health care to some very hard-to-reach populations.

In addition to focusing on their client populations, ACCESS also conducts readiness reviews/needs assessments of their partner agencies. Through this agency-to-agency outreach, ACCESS has strengthened its many partnerships and the project runs more smoothly.

The Community Health Outreach Program is spearheaded by Steven Glass. He is joined by Melissa Watt, the SPNS Project Coordina-

tor and Beth Calhoun, the Principle Investigator/Evaluator. Along with the other project staff, they make ACCESS a leader in building innovative responses to Chicago's health care problems through medical interventions, education programs, social services, and linkages to substance abuse and mental health treatment. ■

## Spotlight on BABAA

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town hall meeting open to all in which they provided education to clients about the newest HIV treatment methods, tips on how to communicate with health care providers, and encouraged clients to enroll in the Case Finding study.

Led by Project Director, E. Tyrone Howze, other Case Finding team members include Katherine Pierce, Evaluator; Brandi Arrington, Research Assistant; Tremayne Coleman, Interviewer/Data Analyst; and Karla Scott, Researcher. Each is working hard to ensure that “Until There’s A Cure...There’s BABAA.” ■

### Useful References and Resources

Useful sites for information on conferences, funding opportunities and more!

<http://www.nmac.org>  
The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) is dedicated to developing leadership within communities of color to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS. NMAC provides in-depth training and conferences opportunities to AIDS service organizations across the country. Training and conference opportunities include programs such as the Community Planning Leadership Summit, The United States Conference on AIDS, the North American AIDS Treatment Advocates Forum and Regional training conferences.

<http://www.cdcnpin.org>  
The CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) provides information about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and tuberculosis (TB) to people and organizations working in prevention, health care, research, and support services. All of NPIN's services are designed to facilitate the sharing of information about education, prevention, published materials, and research findings and news about HIV/AIDS-, STD-, and TB-related trends.

“ACCESS [is] a leader in building innovative responses to Chicago's health care problems through medical interventions, education programs, social services and linkages to substance abuse and mental health treatment”