Women Centered Care for HIV Positive Women

Presentation by Valerie Nicholson, Allison Carter and Stephanie Rawson

Positive Gathering Conference
Sunday March 24th 2013
Coast Plaza Hotel, Comox Room
Welcome!

We would like to acknowledge that we have gathered together on the traditional territory of the Cedar Coast Salish people.
Acknowledgements

- Thank you to the CHIWOS co-PIs, provincial co-ordinators, PRAs, and the entire national core research team
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Outline of workshop

- Opening Activity

- What is CHIWOS? – An overview and discussion of our study

- What is WOMEN-CENTRED CARE? – An overview and discussion of our preliminary research findings

- Closing Activity
Opening Activity
What does it mean to **YOU** to be a **WOMAN**?
What is CHIWOS?
WHY are MORE WOMEN living with HIV now?
Access to and engagement in care is also unequal between men & women. **WHY** might this be so?
Women have **UNIQUE** medical and social needs

What issues / needs / concerns are important in the **lives and care** of women living with HIV?
What does all this tell us?

Women are unique and tailored services that respond to women’s needs may be critical to improving their health.
We’re listening
That leads us to... CHIWOS!
What are our study goals?
What are our study goals?

Does **women-centred care** lead to **improved health** outcomes?
How are we going to do this?
How are we going to do this?

PEER-TO-PEER
What is women-centred care?
What does WOMAN-CENTRED CARE mean to YOU?
Do you think there is a need for woman-centred care, and why or why not?
Here’s what we found in our research...
We conducted **focus groups** with women with HIV to explore **women-centred care**.
Providers who care about your **WHOLE** life, not just your viral load or CD4 cell count

“Yeah, I mean he doesn’t just check with your health. He wanted to know if your kids were okay, and how your relationship was going. And everything, sexual health, emotional health, all of it. He was interested in all those aspects that make you a whole person.”

(Victoria Participant)
A space where women can feel **safe** (emotionally and physically)

“…I would like to see a women’s-only clinic where I can go in there, I can be comfortable seeing a woman doctor, woman social worker, someone that has gone through menopause even. Somewhere where I can sit around like here and talk to a group of women that have so many wonderful ideas…Just a safe space where I can actually talk about my period’s really heavy, my boobs have got, just something that some other people can relate to… I want to do girl things. It’s kind of a weird thing to say, but I don’t have a place where I’m comfortable.”

(Vancouver Participant)
Policies that recognize women as **MORE** than volunteers & recipients of services

“That’s a clear indication that [Organization X] doesn’t follow GIPA principles... It’s very disturbing... I’m expected to put in volunteer hours. I see a couple of my neighbours, they drive them like slaves. They work like dogs and don’t get a penny for it. They don’t get recognition. They don’t even get a cake or something on volunteer day. It’s like there’s this glass ceiling.” (Vancouver Participant)

What’s that called?

**Meaningful Involvement of Women living with HIV/AIDS**
Care environments that are non-stigmatizing

We’re still fighting stigma!

“…If you’re Aboriginal and you’re complaining. Say if you had been drinking that night or whatever... As soon as they find out that you’re on methadone or you’re currently using, it’s like you’re down to here and back in the line… They will help you eventually. But you are so tired at one point that you’re either trying to curl up on a chair or you’ve got to leave. And then you haven’t been helped and they’re saying well you know you were next in line. Well that’s bullshit. You know exactly where you stand in line and it’s right at the very bottom of the list…” (Prince George Participant)
From your own perspective, what are the **KEY CHALLENGES** to the implementation of women-centred care practices in your own clinics, ASOs, communities?
And what **ACTIONS** actions can we take towards addressing these challenges in a sustainable way?
Closing Activity
Please share one idea / thought / ‘Aha!’ moment / word you are leaving with today
Final questions/thoughts?

Thank you!

For more information, please contact Allison Carter (604-682-2344 ext 62544 pr allison_carter@sfu.ca) or connect with us online.

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