



## Quarterly Report | October - December 2020

Early Intervention Services

A program of DBHDD / Office of Addictive Diseases



### Glimmers of Light thru the Chaos

Of 49 Imagine Hope partner agencies, not one has remained unscathed by the COVID-19 epidemic. Despite precautions, every clinic has had at least one worker out sick; often, multiple nurses are out. Staffing patterns continue to be severely disrupted and, in some cases, there has been turnover.

While some sites have seen a decline in screening for HIV and HCV, a few are testing more than ever. And statewide, the daily heroism of holding the front line continues.



**Therasha  
Threadcraft  
Aspire**

This quarter at Aspire Behavioral Health in Albany, Georgia, Therasha Threadcraft screened 105 clients for HIV and 112 for HCV. She diagnosed 9 HCV/RNA+ clients, providing all 9 with HCV education and successfully linking 4 to their first medical appointment. She also diagnosed and linked one new HIV-positive client to care and helped 2 self-identified HIV-positive clients resume medical treatment.

***"I had COVID and my husband almost died from the virus. But every morning when I get up, I think about all the things I'm grateful for. And one of those things is my work. This job makes me feel like I'm making a difference in people's lives."***

*- Therasha Threadcraft, Aspire Behavioral Health*



**Shannon Corda  
Alliance Recovery  
Athens**

Since June 2019, Alliance Recovery Center, an MAT in Athens, has been providing HCV treatment in-house. "It's such a big deal," says therapist Shannon Corda. "The medicine is expensive and most of our clients don't have insurance. So to be able to help them get medication is wonderful - and when they complete treatment, when they are cured - that is thrilling."

***"We were able to provide HCV treatment to our 9th client this quarter!"***

*- Shannon Corda, Alliance Recovery/Athens*



**Marcus Lucas**  
**Highland**  
**Rivers**

This quarter, Highland Rivers Health screened 499 clients for HCV and set a new record with 572 HIV screens - up 16% over the same quarter last year. Marcus credits Diane Sutphin, who works on the crisis unit, with the high volume of testing.

***"It wasn't an option to close our doors;  
the patients needed care so we had to figure it out."***

*- Marcus Lucas, Infection Control Nurse, Highland Rivers Health*



**Vivian Hunter**  
**Quentin's Place**

"The COVID epidemic didn't end HIV. People still need to know their status, so I try to test everyone," says Vivian Hunter of Quentin's Place, a residential crisis unit in Dublin. "It matters to me - I have more hope for my clients when they know their status. And when someone tests positive, getting them linked to care can literally make the difference between life and death."

***"I am thinking about each of you. I miss you; be careful; stay strong;  
continue to fight. We're still in this together."***

*- Vivian Hunter, Quentin's Place*



This quarter, Gateway Behavioral Health Services in Brunswick screened 254 clients for HIV and 516 for HCV. "Our whole organization is absolutely rocking to an awesome and exciting beat," says Jim Rowe. "Our numbers are down but in my eyes, in my heart, we are jamming out!"

***"Jocelyn Vaughn and Maggie China are really rocking screening at Glynn and Chatham Behavioral Health Crisis Centers."***

*- Jim Rowe, Gateway Behavioral Health*



DM&ADR, an Athens MAT clinic, diagnosed 11 clients (9.6% of those screened) HCV Ab/RNA-positive this quarter.

They also screened 119 clients for HIV. One HIV+ client whose medication is mailed to their home each month was afraid someone would steal it from the mailbox, so the meds are now shipped to the clinic.

***"We had more new HCV diagnoses this quarter than we've ever had before."***

*- Ali McCorkle, Program Director, DM & ADR*

The data below represents the individual and cumulative efforts of the statewide DBHDD HIV / HCV Early Intervention Services Project.

October - December, 2020

REGION 1	HIV	Site	HIV Testing				New Self-ID'd HIV Clients	
			Tests	Post-Tests	HIV+	Linked to Medical Care	Self-ID+	Re-Linked to Medical Care
		Avita	22	22	0	0	0	0
		Cobb CSB	14	14	0	0	0	0
		Gateway Treatment Center MAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Highland Rivers	572	572	0	0	0	0
		Pittard Clinic MAT	44	44	0	0	0	0
		Woodstock MAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	652	652	0	0	0	0	
	HCV	Site	Ab Screening		RNA Confirmatory			
Total			Ab+	RNA Tests	RNA +	RNA+ Educated	Linked to Medical Care	
Avita		114	15	15	7	2	0	
Brand New Start Cumming / Dallas MAT		0	0	0	0	0	3	
Cobb CSB		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Gateway Treatment Center MAT		29	8	8	6	7	6	
Highland Rivers		499	61	62	33	14	9	
Lanier Treatment Center MAT		8	4	4	4	3	1	
MedMark Chatsworth MAT		24	4	3	0	0	0	
Pittard Clinic MAT		77	7	7	1	1	0	
Ringgold MAT		45	12	11	2	3	4	
Woodstock MAT		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	796	111	110	53	30	23		

REGION 2	HIV	Site	HIV Testing				New Self-ID'd HIV Clients	
			Tests	Post-Tests	HIV+	Linked to Medical Care	Self-ID+	Re-Linked to Medical Care
		Advantage	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Alliance Athens MAT	80	80	0	0	1	1
		CSB of Middle Georgia / Ogeechee	3	3	0	0	0	0
		DM & ADR MAT	119	118	0	0	0	0
		GA Treatment Services MAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Oconee	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Serenity Behavioral Health Services	16	16	0	0	0	0	
	Total	218	217	0	0	1	1	
HCV	Site	Ab Screening		RNA Confirmatory				
		Total	Ab+	RNA Tests	RNA +	RNA+ Educated	Linked to Medical Care	
	Advantage	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Alliance Athens MAT	92	12	12	7	7	0	
	Brand New Start Loganville MAT	6	4	4	4	0	0	
	DM & ADR MAT	114	21	21	11	7	4	
	Total	212	37	37	22	14	4	

REGION 3	HIV	Site	HIV Testing				New Self-ID'd HIV Clients	
			Tests	Post-Tests	HIV+	Linked to Medical Care	Self-ID+	Re-Linked to Medical Care
		Alliance Conyers MAT	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Alliance Decatur MAT	68	68	0	0	0	0
		Ascensa (St. Jude's)	20	20	0	0	1	0
		Clayton Center	0	0	0	0	0	0
		DeKalb CSB	61	61	1	1	2	0
		MARR Inc.	40	40	0	0	0	0
		Newport	17	17	0	0	0	0
		Odyssey	0	0	0	0	0	0
ViewPoint Health	0	0	0	0	0	0		
West Care	49	49	0	0	0	0		
Total	255	255	1	1	3	0		
HCV	Site	Ab Screening		RNA Confirmatory				
		Total	Ab+	RNA Tests	RNA +	RNA+ Educated	Linked to Medical Care	
	Alliance Conyers MAT	16	7	7	6	6	0	
	Alliance Decatur MAT	62	3	16	2	2	0	
	Ascensa Health at St. Jude	24	6	8	3	2	0	
	Clayton	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Lakeland Centres MAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	North Fulton Tx Center MAT	2	1	1	1	1	0	
	Odyssey	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ViewPoint Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	
WestCare	17	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	121	17	32	12	11	0		

REGION 4	HIV	Site	HIV Testing				New Self-ID'd HIV Clients	
			Tests	Post-Tests	HIV+	Linked to Medical Care	Self-ID+	Re-Linked to Medical Care
		Aspire	105	105	1	1	2	2
		Legacy	8	8	0	0	0	0
		New Beginnings	64	64	0	0	0	0
	Total	177	177	1	1	2	2	
	HCV	Site	Ab Screening		RNA Confirmatory			
			Total	Ab+	RNA Tests	RNA +	RNA+ Educated	Linked to Medical Care
		Aspire	112	11	11	9	10	4
		Total	112	11	11	9	10	4

REGION 5	HIV	Site	HIV Testing				New Self-ID'd HIV Clients	
			Tests	Post-Tests	HIV+	Linked to Medical Care	Self-ID+	Re-Linked to Medical Care
		CSB of Middle GA - Quentin's Place	52	52	0	0	0	0
		Gateway	254	254	0	0	5	0
		Pineland	23	23	0	0	0	0
		Recovery Place	127	127	0	0	0	0
		Unison	157	157	0	0	0	0
	Total	613	613	0	0	5	0	
	HCV	Site	Ab Screening		RNA Confirmatory			
			Total	Ab+	RNA Tests	RNA +	RNA+ Educated	Linked to Medical Care
Brunswick Drug Court		17	9	9	8	8	8	
Gateway		516	52	52	33	26	15	
Recovery Place		132	12	12	8	6	1	
Reliance MAT		0	0	0	0	0	2	
Treatment Center of Brunswick MAT		0	0	0	0	1	0	
Unison		132	20	20	17	5	6	
Unison MAT		28	14	14	12	12	11	
Unison Drug Court		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	825	107	107	78	58	43		



REGION 6	HIV	Site	HIV Testing				New Self-ID'd HIV Clients	
			Tests	Post-Tests	HIV+	Linked to Medical Care	Self-ID+	Re-Linked to Medical Care
		McIntosh Trail	36	36	2	2	2	2
		Middle Flint	41	41	0	0	12	8
		New Horizons CSB	17	17	0	0	0	0
		New Horizons NEXUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pathways	36	36	0	0	0	0	
	Total	130	130	2	2	14	10	
	HCV	Site	Ab Screening		RNA Confirmatory			
			Total	Ab+	RNA Tests	RNA +	RNA+ Educated	Linked to Medical Care
McIntosh Trail		30	0	0	0	3	2	
MedMark Columbus MAT		0	0	0	0	0	0	
New Horizons CSB		4	1	1	0	1	0	
New Horizons NEXUS		0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pathways		25	1	1	0	0	0	
Total	59	2	2	0	4	2		

Statewide	HIV	Statewide	HIV Testing				New Self-ID'd HIV Clients	
			Tests	Post-Tests	HIV+	Linked to Medical Care	Self-ID+	Re-Linked to Medical Care
	Total	2045	2044	4	4	25	13	
Statewide	HCV	Statewide	Ab Screening		RNA Confirmatory			
			Total	Ab+	RNA Tests	RNA +	RNA+ Educated	Linked to Medical Care
	Total	2125	285	299	174	127	76	

**HIV Totals, 2,045 HIV Tests, 4 New Confirmed HIV+ Diagnoses**

From October - December 2020, DBHDD's EIS Program screened 2,045 individuals for HIV, including 115 tested during outreach. Of those tested, 99.9% received their results. All four newly diagnosed HIV-positive clients were linked to care. This quarter, nurses and counselors provided on-going support to 130 HIV+ clients, served 25 new clients who were previously diagnosed HIV+ and re-linked 13 who had fallen out of treatment to medical care.

**HCV Totals, 2,125 HCV Tests, 174 New HCV/RNA+ Diagnoses**

From October - December 2020, DBHDD's EIS Program screened 2,125 individuals for HCV. Of those, 285 tested HCV Ab+ and 174 were confirmed RNA+ or chronically infected with HCV. During the same period, 132 HCV+ clients took the first step in the linkage continuum when they received liver health/HCV education and 84 were linked and confirmed to have attended their first medical appointment.



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Imagine Hope manages the Early Intervention Services Program  
on behalf of DBHDD / Office of Addictive Diseases