



Connecticut One of Only Five States in Ryan White Cross-Part Collaborative

Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center Participates in HIV Quality Management Plan

The Connecticut Cross-Part Collaborative, which includes members of the Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center, signed into action an HIV Quality Management Plan to expand and improve statewide HIV care. The signing was the result of an 18-month project sponsored by the Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA's) HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) and the National Quality Center (NQC).

Connecticut is one of only five states assembled to design quality improvement projects and participate in the Collaborative, which is directly linked to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

According to HRSA's website, "The Ryan White Program works with cities, states, and local community-based organizations to provide HIV-related services to more than half a million people each year. The program is for those who do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources for coping with HIV disease. Ryan White fills gaps in care not covered by these other sources."

The Ryan White HIV Program is divided into specific Parts which determine where funding for HIV care is allotted:

- **Part A** provides emergency assistance to Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMA) and Transitional Grant Areas (TGA) that are most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- **Part B** provides grants to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 5 U.S. Pacific Territories or Associated Jurisdictions.
- **Part C** provides comprehensive primary healthcare in an outpatient setting for people living with HIV. Grants are provided directly to service providers (such as ambulatory medical clinics) to support outpatient HIV early intervention services and ambulatory care.
- **Part D** provides family-centered care involving outpatient or ambulatory care for women, infants, children, and youth with HIV/AIDS.
- **Part F** provides funds for a variety of programs including the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS), AIDS Education and Training Centers, Dental Reimbursement and the Minority AIDS Initiative.

The Collaborative was launched in October 2008 and included cross-Part representatives from each of the states. The objective of the Collaborative was to share information and strengthen partnerships in an effort to improve HIV care faster than if the Parts worked separately.

The signing ceremony took place at the Connecticut State Capitol building and was attended by the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health, the director of the National Quality Center, members of the Connecticut Cross-Part Collaborative and other state and local officials, as well as consumer representatives.

The Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center (which falls under Ryan White Part C) has been a member of the Connecticut Cross-Part Collaborative since its inception. Medical Case Managers are assigned to clients who have been diagnosed with HIV. These Medical Case Managers are the entry point for helping clients receive Ryan White A and Ryan White C primary medical care and for assisting them with other necessities such as AIDS drug assistance, housing and behavioral health services.

A client with HIV/AIDS can receive a number of services all at one location because of the various wraparound services offered at the Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center. In addition, the center's dental clinic falls under the Ryan White Program, making it the only funded site in the state offering dental care for HIV clients.

The Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center was recently selected as part of a handful of locations to start new CDC routine testing as part of regular medical care. Since October of 2009, the Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center walk-in clinic has been offering HIV testing as part of its routine testing. Clients are asked if they'd like to be tested for HIV when they meet with a physician and if so, results are received in 15 minutes or less.

If needed, clients whose test results are negative may

be assigned Risk Counselors. The counselors will teach them behavior modification and help them reduce their risks of contracting the disease.

With approximately 2,000 people diagnosed with HIV living in the New Haven area, the Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center is in a prime location to serve the at-risk population, which is largely minority. According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, of the reported HIV/AIDS diagnoses in New Haven in 2009, 58.3% were African-American, 20.8% were Caucasian and 18.8% were Hispanic.

The Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center is continuously making strides to help those with or at risk for HIV.

The Cornell Scott–Hill Health Center is located on 428 Columbus Avenue in New Haven.

