

HIV Early Intervention Services

The HIV Early Intervention Services (EIS) program is made possible by Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funds set aside for the delivery of HIV Early Intervention and Prevention Services.

HIV EIS is a program of the Georgia Department of Human Resources
Office of Addictive Diseases

What is HIV EIS?

Although you supervise an HIV Early Intervention Services (EIS) counselor, you may not be familiar with the HIV EIS program. HIV EIS counselors are based in publicly funded substance abuse (SA) treatment sites and in opioid treatment centers throughout the state of Georgia. In publicly funded SA facilities, the position of HIV EIS counselor is funded by a set-aside in the SAPT Block Grant; it is generally a full-time position and may be shared by more than one staff person. Counselors are responsible for leading HIV educational groups for consumers, providing HIV training for staff members, and offering the following free services to consumers:

- HIV prevention counseling
- HIV pre-test counseling, HIV testing, and HIV post-test counseling
- Referral of all HIV-positive consumers for medical/social services, whether newly or previously diagnosed.

In order to work more effectively, counselors are asked to build support for their program within their own facility, form a collaborative relationship with Public Health, and establish ties with the community at large. Recognizing the need to mobilize *everyone* in order to end the discrimination and secrecy that feeds this epidemic, counselors also routinely:

- participate in health fairs
- speak at schools
- present at churches
- give interviews to the press
- collaborate with other agencies around HIV/AIDS events like National HIV Testing Day.

Before testing can begin

We encourage new HIV EIS counselors to contact their local and/or District Public Health Office and to visit in person to introduce themselves. Collaboration with Public Health is a critical aspect of HIV EIS. In particular, when a consumer tests positive for HIV, it is crucial that counselors be familiar with the procedure for referring consumers for medical care.

Required training

Prior to conducting HIV counseling or testing, each new counselor is required to attend a CDC-approved HIV prevention counseling course. Each year, Imagine Hope, Inc. provides one or more deliveries of this workshop specifically for HIV EIS counselors. Counselors are notified by email as soon as these workshops are scheduled. The course is also available through the Public Health Department. For more details, visit our website, www.hiveis.com, go to the For New Counselors page, and click on ABCs of Your New Job.

Reporting requirements

HIV EIS counselors are required to submit an HIV Testing Report for every HIV test administered. They also submit a quarterly Field Report to us, describing their activities during the quarter. Drawing from those Field Reports, a 10-page *Quarterly Report* on HIV EIS activities statewide is produced. In each *Quarterly*, a handful of exemplary HIV EIS sites is featured. Copies of the *Report* are mailed to the

Office of Addictive Disease, to all Regional Coordinators, and to HIV EIS counselors. E-mail versions are sent to CSB Directors as well. If you would like to receive the *Quarterly Report* by email, please send your email address to Winona Holloway at winonaholloway@hughes.net.

Available to you – newsletter and website

As an HIV EIS supervisor, you are entitled to receive e-mail copies of our quarterly newsletter, *HIV Risk Reduction*. Simply notify us of your email address and we will put you on our mailing list.

Current and back issues are available on our website, www.hiveis.com, on a variety of topics including:

- HIV and Black men who have sex with men
- HIV in rural Georgia
- The truth about HIV/AIDS and the corrections system.

The HIV EIS website is designed to help counselors stay abreast of the latest trends in the interrelated and constantly changing fields of HIV and substance abuse treatment and prevention. It offers links to informative sites, copies of necessary forms, and a section developed specifically for new counselors.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,

Marie Sutton, Program Manager

HIV Early Intervention Services

Phone: (404) 874-4040

E-mail: msutton@mindspring.com