



Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition

HIV and STIs Work Group

Meets once each month at 1701 McCormick Drive, Largo, Maryland.

Co-Chairs are Dedra Spears-Johnson, Executive Director, Heart to Hand, Inc. and Joseph Richardson, Jr., PhD, Associate Professor of African American Studies, University of Maryland.

Background

Prince George's Healthcare Action Coalition (PGHAC) serves as a community health network and forum for collaboration to advance the state of health care in Prince George's County. This community powered coalition represents over 70 community organizations, health care providers and stakeholders in community health. The **HIV and STIs Work Group** consists of about 35 members and represents roughly 12 various community-based, health-oriented organizations in Prince George's County.

The Coalition was formed under the leadership of Prince George's County Health Department (PGCHD), with County Health Officer Pamela Creekmur serving as Chairwoman, in order to move the county towards reaching its goals as outlined in the [Prince George's County Health Improvement Plan, 2011-2014](#).

Strategies, Goals and Accomplishments

The HIV and STIs Work Group operates under Priority 4 of the Local Health Action Plan for 2011-2014 in Prince George's County, to "prevent and control infectious disease in Prince George's county, particularly among African Americans and other minorities." As such, the Work Group has selected the following County Outcome Objective to work towards achieving each year:

- (1) Reduce new HIV infections among adults and adolescents.

In 2014, the work group accomplished significant progress on its goals in the following areas:

- Met with Prince George's County hospitals to identify barriers to implementing routinized testing and conducted strategic planning to achieve consistent legislation on HIV testing and consent across all county hospitals
- Increasing provider awareness of CDC and DHMH recommendations regarding routine HIV testing/Hosted physicians CME dinner
- Increasing routine testing in public and private sectors

In 2015, the work group's goals are:

- Have the two top hospitals integrated into a routine testing program (Top two are Prince George's Hospital Center and Fort Washington Washington Hospital).
- Compile list of test sites and distribute to recommended sites (i.e. clinics, hospitals).
- Increase Hepatitis C efforts within county.