



Anne Arundel County Commission on HIV/AIDS

**Annual Report for Period
January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017**

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I. Anne Arundel County Commission on HIV/AIDS Overview

Mission

- A. Review available services and activities for persons with HIV/AIDS, gather data regarding their needs, and review reports and publications of governmental agencies that provide services and support to persons with HIV/AIDS.
- B. Review County, State, and Federal legislation that may impact public health initiatives and services for persons with HIV/AIDS and make recommendations to the County Executive, County Council, and the County Delegation to the State Legislature regarding legislation.
- C. Recommend ways of maximizing the use of facilities and services available to prevent HIV/AIDS and provide resources for persons with HIV/AIDS.
- D. Provide direct communication among individuals, private and public organizations, and the general public regarding programs and services for persons with HIV/AIDS.
- E. Assist interagency planning groups and special task forces to identify and assess needs of persons with HIV/AIDS and the needs of communities for the prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- F. Identify barriers to service delivery and advocate for services to persons with HIV/AIDS.
- G. Promote the coordination of services among all public and private agencies, departments, and organizations which provide services and programs to persons with disabilities.
- H. Identify and recommend to the County Executive sources of state and federal financial assistance available for the purpose of expanding or improving services and programs for persons with HIV/AIDS and for community outreach efforts on the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Goal

To promote and enhance the quality of life for persons living with HIV/AIDS through the coordination and development of government policies, programs, services, and allocation of resources for education and prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and community support for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

II. Meeting Information

The members of the Anne Arundel County Commission on HIV/AIDS continue to demonstrate their commitment to the mandate given to them by the County Executive. From January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017, the Commission met four times including the observance of World AIDS Day on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at the Chesapeake Arts Center in Brooklyn Park, Maryland. Agendas were established for each meeting; during proceedings, rules and regulations governing the Commission's procedures and activities were observed. To comply with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, all meeting dates, agenda items and meeting minutes have been posted on the Commission's website, <http://www.aacounty.org/boards-and-commissions/HIV-AIDS-commission/>. The Commission continues to evaluate available County resources as part of their ongoing duties.

III. Accomplishments

As with the nation and the state, HIV and AIDS disproportionately affect certain communities within Anne Arundel County. Approximately three quarters of living HIV cases in Anne Arundel County are male. Non-Hispanic Blacks constitute 53% of living adult/adolescent cases, followed by Non-Hispanic Whites (35%) and Hispanics (6%). Among the adult/adolescent living cases with a known

exposure category, men having sex with men (MSM) was the most common exposure (42.4%), followed by heterosexual (28.5%) and injection drug use (23.8%). Half (~52%) of the living adult/adolescent HIV cases reside in five of Anne Arundel County's roughly forty zip codes: Annapolis – 21401, Eastport – 21403, Glen Burnie West – 21061 ,Glen Burnie East – 21060, and Severn - 21114. This translates to one HIV case per 186 residents of Annapolis, 219 residents of Eastport, 215 residents of Glen Burnie West, 264 residents of Glen Burnie East, and 545 residents of Severn.

Based on this epidemiological data, the Commission achieved a number of accomplishments and assisted organizations in strengthening their collaboration and formal coordination of County HIV/AIDS services. This directly relates to the Commission's powers, as provided in County Bill No. 96-08, to respond to this devastating pandemic through the provision of ample resources in the areas of prevention, treatment and community support for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Of note:

- 1) The Commission, in partnership with the HIV/STI Prevention and Care Program, continued to build on its strategy of improving communication, coordination, outreach, education and testing to high risk populations and zip codes by adding three new HIV testing sites based on epidemiological data. Monthly testing began at the following drug addiction treatment centers: Gaudenzia, EJAL Health Services and BNJ Health Services.
- 2) Working with African American barbershops and beauty salons in Anne Arundel County, the Commission assisted the HIV/STI Prevention and Care Program with their outreach efforts to test 17 individuals on National HIV Testing Day 2017. Offering HIV testing at these locations made it possible to reach at-risk populations who reside within high prevalence zip codes and provide them with HIV/STI education and resources.
- 3) The Commission voted in favor of supporting a syringe services program within the County. Bishop Coates sent a letter of support to the County Executive, on behalf of the Commission, requesting the County explore the possibility of implementing such a program.
- 4) The Commission, in partnership with the HIV/STI Prevention and Care Program, obtained approval from the Board of Education for an HIV presentation outline to be placed in to the middle school health curriculum for grades six and eight.
- 5) The World AIDS Day Committee, consisting of several Commission members along with other HIV/AIDS supporters, held their annual "World AIDS Day" event on December 2, 2017 with 54 attendees. The program, "Know the Risks, Know the Resources," targeted residents of the 21225 zip code and focused on HIV/AIDS education and resources. Anne Arundel County Department of Health staff provided free HIV testing to five individuals during the event.

IV. Priorities for 2018

- 1) Provide input and support for harm reduction programs, including hepatitis C testing and syringe services in Anne Arundel County. Explore the use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) among high risk populations in the County and raise awareness/promote the use of PrEP among said populations.
- 2) Improve communication, outreach, education and testing to high risk populations and zip codes.
- 3) Increase coordination among Anne Arundel County stakeholders, agencies, departments and partners who work with people living with HIV/AIDS and other at-risk populations.

- 4) Identify effective strategies to facilitate partnerships between the Commission and the faith community in support of HIV education and prevention.
- 5) Increase awareness on topics that affect the health and well-being of HIV-positive individuals and all residents of Anne Arundel County.
- 6) Reduce stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in Anne Arundel County.