Peer Education Training Sites (PETS) Multi-Site Study Protocol

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I. STUDY DESIGN

A. Objective

The study protocol described below addresses the study design for the PETS Multi-Site evaluation. The main objective of the study is to examine the impact of peer educator training on enhancing peer knowledge, services and HIV health care and treatment; the impact of training and technical assistance on partner and "look-alike" organizations; and the impact of the peers on the clients with whom they interact.

B. Study Questions

The multi-site evaluation uses both qualitative and quantitative methods to measure the impact of the PETS programs. The main study questions are:

For Peers

1. What is the impact of the trainings on HIV knowledge?
2. What is the impact of the trainings on peer services?
3. What is the impact of the trainings on risk behaviors?
4. Does participation in the trainings impact peers' job opportunities, including employment status, volunteer opportunities, or changes in roles & responsibilities?
5. What is the impact of the trainings on HIV self-care and treatment defined as self-reported health care utilization, medication adherence, CD4 and viral load testing?
6. How do trained peer educators apply their skills and knowledge in their work with clients and in their community? (Qualitative Study)

For Partner Organizations & Look-Alike Organizations

1. What are the number and type (type of service organization, populations served, geographic location) of organizations that are trained by the PETS program?
2. How many trainings for peer educators are implemented in the community?
3. How many peers are trained in core competencies? (by look a like organizations)
4. What are the changes to the organization's capacity from participation in the PETS program?

For Clients of Peers - TBD

1. Does client interaction with peers impact their access to care, health care utilization, HIV knowledge, attitudes/beliefs, unmet needs, and experience of HIV stigma? (Qualitative)

C. Evaluation Plan

Analysis Group	Method	Study Design	Study Sample	Data Elements
Peers	1) Level I Quantitative Survey Self administered	Anonymous- Pre-training	All peers participating in Level 1 and advanced modules Both HIV positive & unknown status	• Demographics • Employment status • Knowledge (brief)
	2) Level II Quantitative survey of advanced trained peers Self-administered or assistance provided	Longitudinal questionnaire Baseline-pre-training Post-training 6 & 12 months follow-up with a 30-day window on either side English/Spanish	HIV+peers who: i. Enter Level 2 by the end of year 3 ii. plan to stay in the area iii. may be employed, unemployed or volunteer 125 peers/site	• Demographics • Peer Employment status • Services provided • Knowledge • Risk behaviors (condom use) • HIV care utilization • CD4, Viral load • Training topics/duration
	3) Focus groups -Conducted by PETS in collaboration with REC	Peer educators	8-10 peers per site Criteria: completed level 2 training	• Examples of applying skills in work with clients and in the community • Value of working as a peer and with clients • Additional skills/training needed to work with clients • Barriers/facilitators in conducting work with clients

Analysis Group	Method	Study Design	Study Sample	Data Elements
ASOs/Clinics/Partner Organizations (Ryan White groups and other groups)	1) Longitudinal Assessment Interview w/Management level staff Conducted by PETS in collaboration with REC/Health Watch	Mixed qualitative& quantitative data Baseline 12 month follow-up	8-12 organizations per site Criteria: i. PETS assist organizations in starting a peer program or ii. PETS provide additional support to the organization in addition to peer training	Baseline • Organization type • Geographic location • Demographic groups served • # clients • HIV services provided • # peers employed • # peers volunteers in program • # clients served by peers • Goals for participation in PETS • Areas for improving capacity for peers • Perceived Cost/benefit of participation Follow-up only • Changes in funding • Changes in HIV services • Changes in # peers • Changes to organization capacity to train & supervise peers • Impact of participation in pets program • Areas of improvement/need
Look-Alikes	Qualitative process evaluation Interviews w/look-alikes & partners Conducted by PETS in collaboration with REC	1) Uniform baseline survey by PETS 2) Pre/post TOT evaluation by PETS 3) Follow-up survey 6 & 12 months by REC/BUSPH	5 per site	• TOT training process • Barriers/facilitators • New topics in training/program implementation • #trainings conducted • # peers trained • Human, material, and financial resources for implementation

Analysis Group	Method	Study Design	Study Sample	Data Elements

Peer/Client Case Studies	Qualitative In-depth interviews Conducted by PETS in collaboration with REC (BUSPH)	Qualitative TBD	HIV-positive peers & their clients who have been working together at least 6 months 12-15 pairs (4-5/site)-TBD	Client • Describe history of living w/HIV (focus on care, disclosure, relationships, other life factors, barriers to care, provider relationships) • Why desire to work with peer? • Examples of the role of peer in your life • What additional areas-would like to work on? Peer • Examples of applying skills in work with clients • Barriers/facilitators in conducting work with client • Perceived role in client's life • Additional skills/training needed

D. Data Collection Timeline

	Training Focus	Evaluation Instruments	Goals
Year 1	Peers (last 6 months): develop curriculum, train peers	Level 1 Peer Level 2 Peer Intake	Document all single session trainings Enroll 125-150 peers in Level 2 study over years 1-3
Year 2	ASOs, Clinics: develop curriculum, Continue training peers	Level 1 Peer Level 2 Peer Intake Level 2 Peer Follow Up Partner OA Baseline	Survey 8-12 ASOs/Clinic in Years 2-5
Year 3	Peers ASOs, Clinics Look-alikes: develop curriculum	Level 1 Peer Level 2 Peer Intake Level 2 Peer Follow Up Partner OA Baseline Partner OA Follow Up Client Qualitative Look-Alike Baseline Look-alike pre-post	Evaluate5 Look-alikes in Years 3-5
Year 4	ASOs, Clinics Look-alikes	Level 1 Peer Level 2 Peer Follow Up Partner OA Baseline Partner OA Follow Up Look-Alike Baseline Look-alike pre-post	Complete Level 2 data collection
Year5	ASOs, Clinics Look-alikes	Level 1 Peer Partner OA Follow Up Look-alike pre-post	Complete Organizational Data Collection