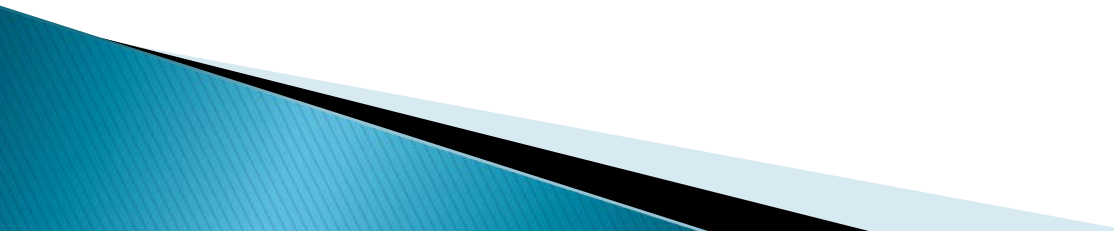


Collaborating with Public Health to Improve Identification and Linkage to care

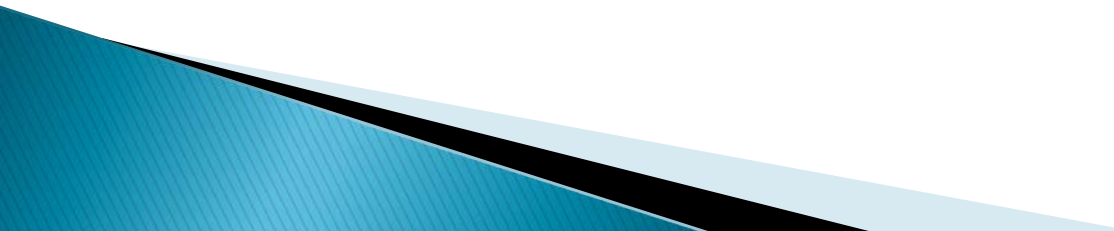
Ann K Avery, MD

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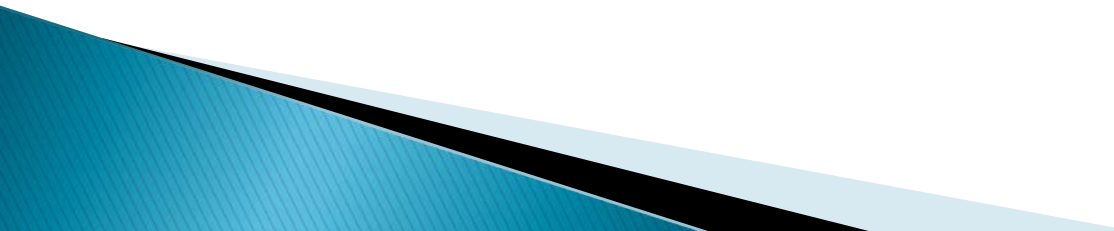
Initial partnerships

- ▶ Existing collaboration with MetroHealth to provide primary care services
 - ▶ Biostatistician shared with CWRU epi/biostats
 - ▶ Medical director role
 - ▶ Professional services in STI clinic
- 

Local Health Department Clinics (before)

- ▶ Stand alone role of HIV counseling and testing
 - ▶ Separate records for HIV testing
 - ▶ Appointments only after confirmatory testing
 - ▶ Plan, Do, Study, Act methodology to increase efficiencies for testing and linkage to care
- 

Local Health Department Clinics (after)

- ▶ HIV testing part of every visit
 - Increased volume of testing by 50% with no change in staff
 - ▶ Integrated records
 - Reproductive health– pt centered approach
 - ▶ Smooth and early referrals (with + rapid)
 - Providers and staff ownership for linkage
- 

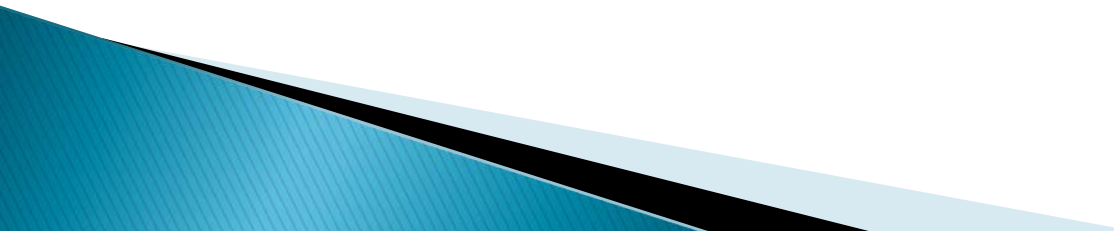
Community Health Centers

- ▶ Challenges implementing HIV testing for pts with STI symptoms b/c usually coming in for episodic care, no coverage
- ▶ General challenges to testing in primary care
- ▶ Partnered with state and local HD to support rapid testing
 - Provided testing supplies
 - Training and resource

Corrections

- HRSA funded SPNS project: Enhancing Linkages to HIV Primary Care and Services in Jail Settings Initiative
 - ▶ Establish rapid testing program in County jail

Corrections (cont'd)

- ▶ Partner with state and local HD for rapid HIV testing allowing funding to increase staff time and overall testing impact
 - ▶ Jail based staff for discharge planning
- 

Retention in Care Initiative

- ▶ Bidirectional data sharing with local HD
 - Identify out of care or never linked to care
 - Improve reporting, accuracy of surveillance database
- ▶ Linkage to care coordinators funded to local health dept
 - Anticipating collaboration to contract these positions to healthcare sites for improved efficiencies with linkage

Conclusion

- ▶ Healthy Relationships lead to additional opportunities
- ▶ Understanding
 - Capacity
 - Limitations
 - Importance