



## STATE SUMMARY

# ARIZONA

### Continuing HIV/ODU Collaboration: Sustainability Workshop



## PARTNERS

- State agency partners
  - Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
  - Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
- Other Partners (Note: Additional partners, beyond those listed, were engaged intermittently.)
  - Arizona Center for Rural Health
  - Choice Recovery
  - Maricopa County Department of Public Health
  - North Country HealthCare
  - Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center - Arizona
  - Sonoran Prevention Works



## GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

### **Goal 1: Build partnerships and increase collaboration among HIV and SUD/ODU/BH partners across the state.**

- Held regular meetings with the core team at ADHS to discuss project activities and ensure alignment and coordination with related initiatives and state activities.
- Convened regular project stakeholder meetings to share information, discuss project activities, build partnerships, and identify additional opportunities for systems strengthening.

### **Goal 2: Enhance care coordination through the development of policies and procedures for screening and improving referral pathways to needed HIV and/or SUD/ODU/BH services.**

- Experts from Boston Medical Center joined a stakeholder call to discuss integrating HIV and OUD services, with a focus on screening and referral practices.
- Engaged project stakeholders in discussions about screening and referral processes to identify successful practices, tools, and strategies; implementation challenges; and opportunities for scaling up successful models. Information from these discussions helped shape content for the Joint Arizona Ryan White & ADAP Acuity Scale and its Companion Guide, which includes information for each of the Life Areas addressed in the acuity scale, including substance use. The Companion Guide emphasizes that the acuity scale is not a screening tool and cannot diagnose SUD, and includes information and resources about referring clients to local harm reduction services or making referrals for further assessment to determine care and treatment options.
- Supported ADHS efforts to develop the Joint Arizona Ryan White & ADAP Acuity Scale (released May 2022), which included revamping the substance use item in the existing Ryan White Part B

Case Management Acuity Scale. SSC project stakeholders and CoP (see below) members provided input and feedback throughout the process.

**Goal 3: Increase provider and other service delivery staff knowledge and skills to improve HIV and SUD/ODU/BH service integration.**

- Supported ADHS to convene a Community of Practice (CoP) focused on improving quality of care for people with HIV who use drugs. The CoP serves as a peer network across HIV, OUD/SUD, and BH systems of care, offering regular opportunities to strengthen staff confidence in serving people at all stages of drug use and recovery. CoP sessions include educational presentations, peer-to-peer networking, and tailored discussion on locally led quality improvement projects.
- Awarded a mini-grant to Sonoran Prevention Works (SPW) to develop and deliver harm reduction training. SPW developed the curriculum with input from directly impacted individuals, providers, and the SSC stakeholder group. SPW also developed a scorecard for organizations to assess alignment of their policies and programs with harm reduction best practices.
- Facilitated discussions with the stakeholder group about training availability and needs, which will guide and inform future opportunities provided by ADHS and other training providers.



**BARRIERS**

- It is challenging to develop statewide policies and procedures given the diversity in care settings and service ability, particularly in a large and geographically diverse state.
- Despite the legalization of harm reduction in Arizona, challenges to scale-up persist, including the ability of state agencies to actively and openly support it. Partnership with community-based harm reduction organizations is essential.



**LESSONS LEARNED**

- Collaborating with stakeholders across HIV and OUD/SUD/BH is beneficial for expanding perspectives and better understanding what each area of expertise is best suited to provide and where cross-training, collaboration, and integration can be most valuable.
- Collaborating with hepatitis C efforts is important for advancing drug user health, as there may be more focus on and engagement of people with lived experience in those efforts.