Integration of Health Care and Public Health to Improve HIV Early Detection and Control
Project Summary

The *Integrating to Improve* (i2i) study aims to develop resources to optimize HIV systems of care and improve outcomes. It will examine how public health, primary care, and community organizations in four regional service areas of Florida work as collaborative systems to identify, link to care, and provide continuous care for persons at-risk for HIV. Lack of coordination among *public health and community-based organizations* conducting HIV prevention and screening and *organizations providing primary care* contributes to problems for significant numbers of persons with HIV/AIDS, including:

- Late diagnosis
- Delayed entry into care
- Poor retention in care

Understanding how systems of care for persons with or at risk for HIV are structured and how they function is critical to improving outcomes for persons with HIV. This study will address the following aims:

1. Examine how public health, primary care, and community organizations work together as a system to identify, link to care, and provide continuous care for HIV patients

2. Determine the extent to which characteristics of the organizations and systems are associated with continuous care for persons with HIV

3. Use findings to develop information and resources for HIV systems of care improvement, and engage participating county health departments (CHDs) and their networks in follow-up to provide network-specific findings and recommendations

The project team is composed of investigators from RTI, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Florida, and the Florida Department of Health, in partnership with the Florida Public Health Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) and leadership of four (4) HIV service areas in Florida. Findings will inform resources for HIV systems of care improvement and will be disseminated to each network, to practitioners nationally, and to researchers through in-person meetings, a webinar, a policy brief, and publications and presentations.

Data Sources
To address the study aims, the project team will be using a mixed methods approach to collect primary and secondary data that will include:

1. **Key Informant Interviews**
   The project team will be conducting interviews with program managers from each area's lead agency, health department staff affiliated with the lead agency or CHD, and the HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator (HAPC) for each Ryan White Part B Area in each of the four regions. The project team will conduct these interviews via phone between August and October 2015.

2. **Web-Based PARTNER Survey**
   The project team will be using a web-based survey program, PARTNER, which collects data on organizational characteristics as well as data about the relations between those organizations. The organizations to be invited to participate will include service providers in each of the four areas. The project team will field the survey between November 2015 and February 2016.

3. **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Services Reports**
   The project team will gather additional organizational information on organizations funded by Ryan White from the *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Services Report (RSR)*, which is completed on an annual basis by Ryan White providers. The project team will work with our Co-Investigator Dr. Wilson (Evaluation Consultant to FDOH) to submit a report request to FDOH (which maintains the

Ryan White CAREWare data system), as well as work with lead agencies and community partners to help fulfill report requests.

4. **Area-Level Surveillance Data**
The project team will include available area-level surveillance data into our analyses, as available from the FDOH.

Role of Community Partners

Community partners will play a critical role in development and implementation of the project. This will include:

- Meeting with the project team in the early phases of the project to aid in refinement of the research questions and study methods.
- Providing a list of all known partners in the system of care that meet the study definition
- Participating in a web-based survey
- Supporting implementation of the web-based survey by prompting participation of service providers
- Fulfilling a report request related to study outcomes at the provider level, using Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services Report data, for your sub-grantees
- Attending several meetings throughout the project
- Identifying opportunities for dissemination of the project results

The project team will provide each community partner financial compensation to support participation in the project, as well practical results and resources for HIV systems of care improvement.

Project Timeline
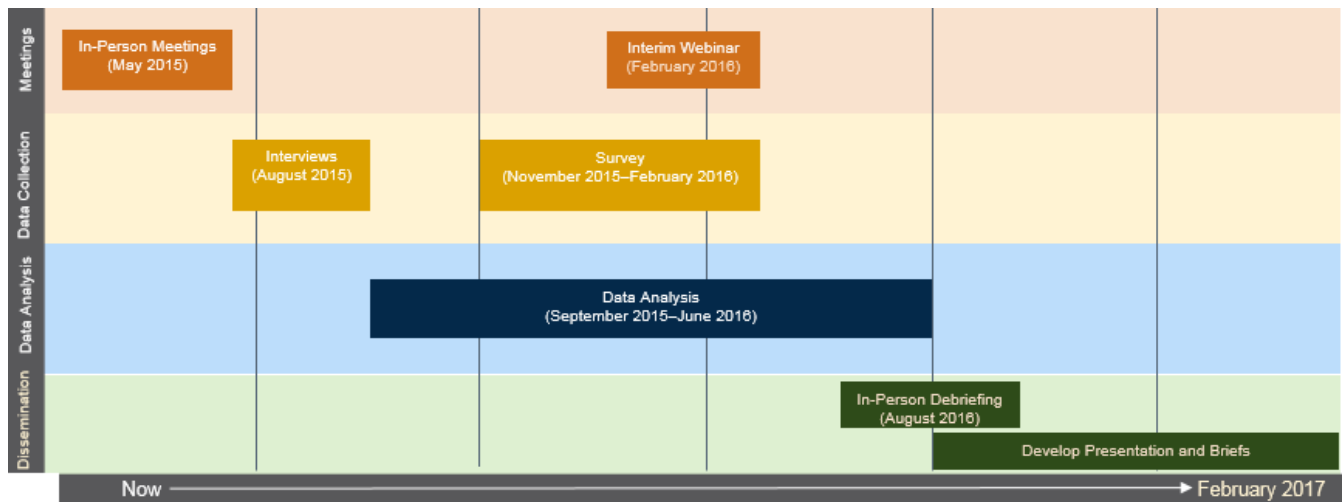
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