

*Improving access to primary care for persons who use drugs and have a sexually transmitted infection in the Delta Region of southern Illinois*

People who use drugs (PWUD) experience multiple barriers to healthcare (HC) access and utilization, including past stigmatizing experiences in the HC environment and uncertainty regarding where they may find respectful and affirming primary care (PC). PWUD also experience increased risk and rates of sexually transmitted infection (STI) such as chlamydia and gonorrhea. As many PWUD do not seek/use routine primary care, screening for these infections often falls to community-based organizations (CBO) who specifically provide services and referrals to PWUD. However, the actual 'link' for a PWUD between the CBO screening and referral to primary care is frequently absent, and referrals resulting in actual primary care visit attendance are low. With this project, we seek to work with a CBO and a HC provider to provide that real link between the CBO and the provider within the context of a STI diagnosis.

*SPECIFIC AIMS:*

Aim 1. Develop and implement a method of peer referral and facilitation.

Aim 2. Assess the acceptability and utility of the peer referral