



NCS D STD Engage 2023

May 15 – 19, 2023 / New Orleans, LA

Coming Back Stronger

Preliminary List of Conference Sessions

**subject to change and dependent upon speaker confirmation*

- **Integrating PrEP Services in STI Clinic Settings: Keys to Success and Lessons Learned**
 - Dr. Diane Ballard, Division of STD Prevention, CDC
 - Additional Speakers TBD

STI specialty clinics play a vital role in the Ending the HIV Epidemic, providing a critical avenue to reach populations at risk for HIV delivering high-quality, affirming, and culturally and linguistically relevant sexual health services for the racial, ethnic, sexual and gender minority populations that they serve. This panel will highlight EHE-funded STI clinics who will share their unique approaches to PrEP implementation, lessons learned, and keys to success.

- **Syndemic Approaches in Action**
 - Rachel Deitch, NCS D
 - Dr. Rebecca Amantia, Tennessee Department of Health
 - Kat Kelley, NACCHO

From service-level integration to national strategic plans, the term “syndemic” has become everyone’s favorite buzzword. In this session, participants will hear from programs who have successfully addressed STIs as part of a syndemic approach. Presenters will share best practices and lessons learned as they work to address the syndemic of STIs, HIV, viral hepatitis, and substance use disorders.

- **Waking Up from Trauma Fatigue**
 - Elizabeth Rumbel, Denver Prevention Training Center
 - Annie Rodruck, Iowa Health & Human Services

Recent public health emergencies and increases in STIs have caused unprecedented rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), burnout, and stress for public health workers especially disease intervention specialists (DIS). This session will share best practices for addressing burnout,

improving personal wellness, and building resilient teams to ensure the nation's most valuable workforce can continue providing compassionate services.

- **It's a Rebuilding Year: Overcoming Pandemic Challenges and Integrating Programs**

- Sheehy Hannah, DC Department of Health

Due to pandemic disruptions, DC's youth STI screening rates have plummeted while local STI rates soared. Public health officials have been on a mission: bring STI screening back to schools! Learn how thousands of students received information about GetCheckedDC, condoms, lubricant, and general sexual health information. This presentation will compare screening models, discuss lessons learned from the 2022-23 school year, and provide a glimpse into the program's future.

- **Raising Healthy Native Youth**

- Michelle Singer, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB)

Sexual health messaging can be challenging in Indian Country, where sexual and reproductive decisions are shaped by unique social and cultural norms. Creating effective and inclusive health education for Native youth requires programming on multiple levels. In this interactive workshop, participants will learn about the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board's multipronged approach to Native adolescent sexual health.

- **Innovations in Adolescent Sexual Health**

- Katrina James, Fact Forward
- Brittany Wearing, Fact Forward

Learning collaboratives, patient navigators, online assessments, oh my! Join this workshop to learn innovative strategies for integrating sexual and reproductive health conversations into primary care settings. Workshop presenters will also highlight novel approaches to increasing access to sexual health services, education, and resources meeting college students where they are.

- **STI and HIV Prevention**

- Em Pike, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
- Dr. Cornelius Jamison, University of Michigan
- Dr. Michelle Collins-Ogle, Children's Hospital at Montefiore; Einstein College of Medicine

Adolescents and young adults are more susceptible than adults to acquiring STIs and have the highest burden of STIs with transgender persons disproportionately impacted. Join this session to identify clinical and knowledge gaps and learn how to improve sexual health services and programming.

- **School-Based Policy Work**

- Christy Altidor, NCSD
- Kaylor Garcia, Child Trends
- Mary Beth Szydowski, Advocates for Youth
- Audrie King, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

This presentation will explore the history of sexual health education in the U.S., provide a current overview of sexual health education nationwide, and describe ongoing policy and programmatic efforts to ensure young people have access to comprehensive sex education. Presenters will also share best practices for partnering with community members to shape public health policies and programs.

- **College Campus Wellness**
 - Dr. Jaquetta Reeves, University of Texas Arlington
 - JeNeen Anderson, Power to Decide
 - Dr. Brandon Moton, Florida A&M University
 - Dr. Jazmyne Bryant, Florida A&M University
 - Christy Altidor, NCSD

With almost half of new STI infections occurring in young adults, and even higher prevalence of infections impacting Black and Brown college students, HBCUs are well-positioned to provide inclusive and equitable sexual health and reproductive services. Hear how Black leaders from national organizations support student-led sexual health campaigns, leadership development and support services at HBCUs.

- **Cultural Proficiency, Unconscious Bias, and Sexual Health. Should we be worried?**
 - Javier E. Rivera, Boston Medical Center

It is predicted that by 2045, the white population in the United States of America will decline below 50%, becoming the minority race in the U.S...however less than 4% of doctors identify as Hispanic and less than 3% identify as Black or African American. Join this session to learn how cultural competency, awareness and sensitivity can influence patient care and the importance of employing a diverse workforce.

- **Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence**
 - Ashley Slye, National Network to End Domestic Violence
 - Tammy Scarlett, International Association of Forensic Nurses
 - Mandisa Moore-O'Neal, The Center for HIV Law & Policy

Join this session to gain knowledge and skills regarding the intersection of sexual health care and intimate partner violence. Participants will learn standards of care for patients who have experienced a sexual assault, review resources, and walk away with ideas to strengthen collaborations and programs to improve services.

This session will also review the landscape of laws that criminalize communicable disease exposure and nondisclosure against the backdrop of our current political climate. The panel of experts will uplift personal experience, legal analysis, and abolitionist guiding principles to unpack intersecting forms of state violence and propose radical responses to them.

- **Outreach is the Priority: Going Where Communities Go**
 - Bodashus Dawsons, Marion County Department of Health

- Thomas Bertrand, Rhode Island Department of Health
- Kacie Taylor, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Aaron Frechette, Rhode Island Department of Health

Are you reaching the people? Join this session to learn how STI programs are creating safe spaces, reducing stigma, and utilizing innovative communication and outreach strategies. You'll walk out of this session with effective strategies and tools for working closely with sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who use substances, and those experiencing incarceration.

- **Youth Risk Behavior Survey Advocacy to Achieve Equitable Health Outcomes**

- Amber Barcel, Advocates for Youth

Join Advocates for Youth, The Trevor Project, and the All Students Count Coalition to learn about the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the current legislative landscape and its impacts on our understanding and improvement of health outcomes for young people, and how participants can advocate for the survey's continued implementation.

- **Have Your Voice Heard: Development of a National Strategic Response to HSV in the U.S.**

- Nathan Fecik, U.S. DHHS Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy

This HHS hosted listening session is an opportunity for conference attendees to have their voice heard! Your public input is crucial in the development of an HSV addendum to the STI National Strategic Plan which serves as a roadmap for stakeholders at all levels and sectors. The HSV addendum will build upon the STI National Strategic Plan by identifying gaps and proposing policy, programmatic, and research opportunities to address HSV in the United States.

- **Congenital Syphilis**

- Julia Greenspan, ASTHO
- Rebekah Horowitz, NACCHO

Congenital syphilis is a growing issue that cannot be solved without policy changes and innovative interventions. This session will provide policy options and promising practices from across the country that can be implemented at both the state and local levels.

- **To Big P or Little P, that is the Question: Policy Academy Roundtable Discussion**

- Christopher Zivalich, NCSD
- Rachel Deitch, NCSD
- Diana Rono, NCSD
- Heather Boss, Kaitlin Cafferky and Jackie Lawler, Orange County Department of Health, New York
- Kari Haecker, Washington State Department of Health
- Teresa Hampton, Moncks Corner Health Department, South Carolina
- Leslie Fowler, Wyoming Department of Health
- Andy Nutting, Southwest District Health, Idaho
- Roselyn Perez, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

- Cheryl Radeloff, Southern Nevada Health District

NCSD's Policy Academy has been equipping STI program staff with the skills and knowledge they need to enact meaningful change within their jurisdictions for over a decade. Join this session to learn about federal advocacy, safe and effective state-level policy interventions, and how NCSD can serve as a resource. You'll also hear from recent Policy Academy graduates regarding their own journey navigating policy.

- **DIS Program Management & Workforce Development**

- Mark Hemmert, Michigan Department of Health
- Dr. Diana Sanchez, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
- Rebecca Shaw, San Francisco Department of Public Health

DIS are a cornerstone of infectious disease response efforts, called upon to serve in every pandemic. But times are changing and creative ways to cross-train DIS are needed. In this session you'll learn how DIS programs are rebuilding trust with the public utilizing technology and providing inclusive access to public health services.

- **Expanding DIS Capacity through Training**

- Victor M Ramirez, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Cecilia Freer, Florida Department of Health

Training for DIS is inconsistent across jurisdictions leaving some DIS feeling like training falls short and doesn't cover all of the barriers faced by people with STIs and HIV. Join this session to learn about training modules, bolstering outbreak response capacity, and providing clinical services in the sector.

- **U=Underutilized: Incorporating U=U into Partner Services**

- Bryan-Tyler, Orr, Tarrant County Public Health, U=U Plus

U=U education is aligned with improved outcomes among those living with and vulnerable to HIV yet STD directors, DIS, and other public health professionals have reported needing further education, training, resources, and support to integrate U=U into their activities. Join this workshop where you'll receive training and materials that will help you incorporate U=U messaging into your programs.

- **Clinical Innovations**

- Dr. Adi Chandrasekhar, Fenway Health and Primary Health
- Anthony Merriweather, Alabama Department of Health
- Rebekah Horowitz and Angie Nagy, NACCHO

This session is all about innovative STI delivery models and leveraging non-traditional settings and systems for STI services. You'll learn about tools and strategies to drive down infection rates and break down barriers to care by providing services beyond the clinic, destigmatizing STI diagnoses, and leveraging the latest technologies.

- **Testing Outside the Clinic Walls**

- Jennifer Schmidt, North Dakota Department of Health & Human Services
- Alison Goldstein, Oregon Health Authority
- Annie Nagy, Allegheny County Health Department

STI testing has come back stronger with the help of at-home testing options! Join STI programs as they discuss implementing at-home STI testing programs. They'll cover innovative collaborations, program integration, blending grant funding, leveraging private-public partnerships, and how these programs have impacted screening rates and benefited their communities.

- **Identities, Inclusions, and Intersections: Queer Sexual Health**

- Elsa Cornejo-Vucovich, Arizona Department of Health Services
- Zami Tinashe, Spiritus Wellness

The issue of inclusivity is the foreground of recent public health and social justice movements and has been a focus of HIV and STI prevention and care. This session will provide actionable information that will help STI programs improve the quality of services they provide to LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals along with a discussion to identify barriers and facilitators to care.

- **Testing and Assessing: Improving Clinical Operations**

- Brittany Badman, Marion County Public Health Department
- Dr. Philip Chan, Brown University

Not everyone walks into an STI clinic. This means that routine STI screening in primary care and community clinic settings is critical in addressing the STI epidemic. In this session, presenters will discuss strategies to overcome barriers in safety-net settings and improve clinical services and promote STI/HIV testing and care.

- **CheckYourself At-Home Testing**

- Jessica Zamora, NCSD
- Caitlin Shea, NCSD

Join NCSD as we discuss our CheckYourself at-home testing initiative and how it can help you meet the needs of your communities. We'll walk you through the test kit, our lab partner, online portal, and workflows. We'll also discuss programmatic successes from jurisdictions who have implemented CheckYourself with plenty of time for discussion and questions.

- **Let's Talk About Sex, Baby**

- Molly Carmody, National Coalition for Sexual Health
- Susan Gilbert, National Coalition for Sexual Health

Being able to communicate openly with sexual partners is key to good sexual health, but these conversations are often awkward and avoided. To inform effective sexual health programming and messaging, this session will share results from focus groups and a national survey that explored barriers to open communication, the perceived benefits of open communication, and

the skills and information young adults are seeking to improve communications and relationships.

- **A Tale of Two EPTs**

- Michael McNair, New York State Department of Health & Epidemiology
- Candy Hadsall, Minnesota Department of Health
- Kala Heekin, Essential Access Health

Expedited Partner Therapy has been available in most states for years, but many clinics and pharmacies continue to experience implementation barriers. Presenters will share tools and strategies to address these barriers and participants will leave this session with templates, messaging, FAQs, and other resources to increase EPT utilization in your jurisdiction.

- **Two Outbreaks in Two Years: Responding to Mpox and COVID-19**

- Dr. Bruce Furness, CDC/DC Health
- Crystal Almond, North Carolina Division of Public Health
- Frank Strona, CDC
- Rachel Kuchar, CDC
- Elizabeth Finley, NCSD

You can't respond to an outbreak without cross-departmental collaboration and engaging nontraditional partners. Join this session to learn how programs work together with their communities during response efforts to improve referral programs and develop tools that can be utilized on an ongoing basis.

- **Outbreak Preparedness**

- Kaitlin Cafferky, Orange County Department of Health
- Jacquelyn Boone, San Francisco Department of Public Health
- Bianca Huff, West Virginia DHHR

Take a peek into the outbreak response toolbox. In this session, presenters will highlight various control methods including whole genome sequencing, atypical clinical presentation and recognition, simulated outbreak scenarios, partnering with community-based organizations, and taking medical care to the people.

- **An Urgent Crisis: Congenital Syphilis Prevention Best Practices**

- Monica FilsAime, Florida Department of Health, Miami-Dade County
- Cord Stone, New York State Department of Health
- Dr. Agnes Oberkor, Alabama Department of Public Health

Despite our best efforts, congenital syphilis is on the rise and STI programs are scrambling to understand and address the missed opportunities for the prevention of congenital syphilis. In this session, presenters will highlight new models for syphilis prevention and participants will take away lessons learned, best practices, and process practical questions while strategizing how to apply these approaches in their jurisdictions.

- **DIS Certification & Training**
 - Shantal Johnson, National Board of Public Health Examiners
 - Chloe Moore, Arizona Department of Health Services
 - Melinda Salmon, CDC
 - Danielle Brownrigg, Arizona Department of Health Services

The time is now to professionalize Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) through certification! Come learn about DIS Certification supported by the CDC and provided by the National Board of Public Health Examiners. This session will also highlight training strategies utilized in Arizona to develop a flexible DIS workforce that is highly skilled, trained to work remotely with state-wide partners, and sensitive to local communities.

- **Sex and Tech: Internet Partner Services**
 - Zandt Bryan, Washington State Department of Health
 - Annie Rodruck, Iowa Health & Human Services
 - Sonya Khan, NCSD

Implementing effective internet partner services remains elusive to many STI programs. Presenters will provide an overview of their efforts and increase participant cultural competency in how clients select, evaluate, and meet their partners so DIS can locate them later. Looking ahead, our best tools for STI prevention and expanding sexual health wellness depends on how we communicate our public health messaging and how we leverage tech, apps, and influencers.

- **Disease Intervention - Discover and Dash**
 - Kathleen Pfohl, NCSD
 - Frances Rucker-Bannister, CDC
 - Romni Neiman, CDC

Professional development of the Disease Intervention workforce is a national priority. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to glean insight regarding national trainings and other resources to aid development of STLT DI workforce.

Post-Conference Sessions

- **PCHD Listening Session**

Description TBD

- **340B for STI Programs**
 - Stephanie Arnold Pang, NCSD
 - Erin Fratto, NCSD
 - TBD, NASTAD
 - TBD, STD Director
 - TBD, STD Director

Join NCSD, other national partners and STI program directors from across the country to discuss the current landscape of 340B, learn about 340B practices specific STD programs, 340B partnerships management, and considerations for health department administrators who oversee their 340B programs. We'll share resources, highlight best practices and considerations, and provide you with written guidance and templates that are sure to build your 340B confidence.

- **Positively Stigma Free: Sex, Pleasure, and Kink**
 - Miss Jai, Toadhenge Consulting LLC
 - Zami Tinashe Hyemingway, Spiritus Wellness
 - Dave Watt, Team Friendly
 - Dr. Nicole Avant, Avant Consulting Group

As public health professionals working to prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections and fight stigma, it is important to understand the full range of sexual engagement, experiences, and systems to have conversations about sexual health within a variety of contexts. This dynamic panel of national experts will provide interactive sex-positive workshop-style presentations on risk-aware consensual kink, fighting stigma in fun and friendly ways, the power of fat liberation, and how to fight oppressive systems with radical love, acceptance and pleasure. This session will provide you with status-neutral strategies, marketing tools, and a whole bunch of great ideas.