

# HIV/STD/HEPATITIS PREVENTION & CARE UNIT



Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 2 • Issue 1 • Jan 2023



## HIV/STD/Hepatitis Prevention and Care Unit Newsletter

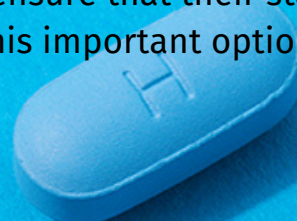
### Prevention Program Efforts

## Overview of Provision of HIV Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) in NC Pharmacies

By Pete Moore

HIV/STD Prevention Program Manager

In March 2022, State Health Director and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Elizabeth Cuervo Tilson, released a standing order allowing PEP delivery in NC pharmacies. This enables clients to receive PEP directly from pharmacies in North Carolina. Important things to remember are that PEP can be used by anyone with a potential HIV exposure who is HIV negative and who is over 18 years old (anyone under 18 may access PEP at pharmacies with a parent or legal guardian's consent). It is important that clients seek PEP within 72 hours of the potential HIV exposure as there is no evidence of the effectiveness of PEP after this time period. Most insurance will pay for PEP and Medicaid also covers this under the Z20.6 ICD-10 code. Clients without insurance and who are not on Medicaid may have to pay for PEP at the pharmacy. We ask that all prevention agencies and providers ensure that their staff is familiar with this standing order so they can counsel clients on this important option in preventing HIV.





## Prevention Program Efforts

### National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)

By Jacquelyn Clymore  
HIV/STI/Hepatitis Director

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) is February 7. In recognition of that important day and to bring attention and support to the community, the Communicable Disease Branch will host a virtual Town Hall that evening. Facilitated by Veleria Levy, Interim Executive Director of the North Carolina AIDS Action Network, with guest speaker Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kody Kinsley, we will highlight some best practices, discuss efforts to reduce stigma around HIV and show how HIV is impacting the Black/African American population in our state. Please save the date, add this GoToMeeting link to your calendar, and view the program flyer on the following page for more details.



We would also like to know what events you and your teams are planning for NBHAAD! Please complete the NBHAAD Event Survey so we can add it to our calendar. You can also scan the QR code with your phone to fill out the form.



Prevention Program Efforts

NORTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL

NATIONAL

BLACK HIV/AIDS

AWARENESS DAY TOWN HALL

**MEETING DETAILS:**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

GoToMeeting Link:

<https://meet.goto.com/339621365>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (872) 240-3311

Access Code: 339-621-365

**FACILITATED BY:**

Veleria Levy, Interim Executive Director, NCAAN

**FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

Kody Kinsley, NC Secretary of Health and Human Services

Dr. Raynard Washington, Mecklenburg County  
Health Director

Dr. Anthony Davis, President, Livingstone College

Esther Ross, Communicable Disease Branch,  
Person with Lived Experience

Dr. Victoria Mobley,  
Communicable Disease Branch

## Care Program Efforts


# The HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Committee (HPCAC)

By Lola Houston-Hager  
CAREWare Supervisor/Ryan White Program Specialist

In 2013 the North Carolina Communicable Disease Branch (CDB), HIV Prevention and Care Programs formed the HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Committee (HPCAC). The goal was to combine the mandated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's community planning process and the Health and Resources Service Administration's advisory process for HIV prevention and care. Historically these were two different community bodies.

The mission of HPCAC is to provide advice, support, and communication regarding HIV/STD prevention and care issues to the HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Unit and the community at large. HPCAC has a total of 37 members with 35 selected during HPCAC quarterly meetings by the body. The Charlotte TGA has 1 appointed permanent position, and 1 member is on

staff from the HIV Prevention and Care Programs. Currently Alicia Diggs is the Community Co-chair and Lola Houston-Hager is the State Co-chair. HPCAC membership terms last for 2 years.



**NC HIV/AIDS Prevention & Care Advisory Committee (HPCAC)**  

**HPCAC mission**

HPAC's mission is to provide advice, support and communication regarding HIV/STD prevention, care and housing issues to the HIV/STD Prevention and Care Unit and the community at large.

HPCAC is made up of 37 members representing each of the Regional Networks of Care and Prevention and five at large members. All members serve two-year terms.

**ENDING the HIV EPIDEMIC in NC**

**WE ARE HPCAC YOU ARE**

# The HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Committee (HPCAC)

It is time to fill a large number of HPCAC's membership during the first meeting in 2023. We need applicants from community members and staff that are from within the Regional Networks of Care and Prevention and the Charlotte TGA, people living with HIV (PLWH), or community HIV activists to commit to 4 virtual meetings a year and the behind the scenes work of HPCAC and its 3 subcommittees (Membership, Conference/Education, and Marketing).

The sub-committees meet 4 times a year separately from the full HPCAC meeting.

Please contact Lola at [Lola.Houston-Hager@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Lola.Houston-Hager@dhhs.nc.gov) or (919) 755-3126 with any questions pertaining to HPCAC or for a membership application.

### HPCAC Vacancies as of February 2023:

- Region 1- Prevention and PLWH (2)
- Region 2- Care, Prevention, PLWH (3)
- Region 3- Care, Prevention, PLWH (3)
- Region 5- Care, Prevention, PLWH (3)
- Region 6- Care and Prevention (2)
- Region 7- Care, Prevention, PLWH (3)
- Region 8- Care, Prevention, PLWH (3)
- Region 9- PLWH (1)
- Region 10- Care, Prevention, PLWH (3)
- TGA- Prevention (1)
- At-Large Members (4)

### 2023 HPCAC Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, February 15, 2023 from 6-8 p.m. (requested via HPCAC assessment)
- Friday, May 19, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 18 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 17, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (2024 Officer Elections)



**ENDING the HIV EPIDEMIC in NC**

**MAKE YOUR MARK!**

Whether you are living with HIV, impacted by HIV, or working in HIV/STD prevention and care, your voice and experience can help make NC a safer, more inclusive, welcoming place for all.

**Community, collaboration & connection**

Public participation at Committee meetings is crucial to serving the community and contributes to effective community planning. Therefore, all Committee meetings are open to the public with time designated at the end of each meeting to allow the general public to address the Committee.

**SHARE YOUR VISION with HPCAC**

**Living with HIV?**

Your experience matters. We need you.

We cannot end HIV unless people most impacted by HIV are driving our improvement efforts.

Engagement is key & collaboration is vital. HPCAC provides a safe space for guiding HIV progress in NC.

The only thing missing is you!

**Interested?**

**Contact**  
**Lola Houston-Hager**  
[lola.houston-hager@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:lola.houston-hager@dhhs.nc.gov)  
919-755-3126



## Data to Action Program Efforts

### What is Data to Action?

By Caressa Harding  
Data to Action Program Manager

We assist the Regional Networks of Care and Prevention (RNCP) in reaching Historically Marginalized Populations (HMP) experiencing barriers to care and achieving viral suppression.



Assist the Regional Networks with developing and implementing strategies to increase linkage to care, reengagement for those out of care, testing, and/or in need of PrEP.

Assist the Regional Networks with plans to use websites and social media to communicate health information for HIV care, testing and prevention of STIs, in order to eliminate HIV and STIs in historically marginalized populations.



Assist RNCP in developing cooperative community partnerships with minority-serving organizations & others to better reach historically marginalized populations who are disproportionately impacted by HIV.

Have a question? Email [caressa.harding@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:caressa.harding@dhhs.nc.gov)

Do you have a service request for the Data to Action team?

Fill out this form and let us know how we can help your regional network!

Visit <https://forms.office.com/g/rMPbUPZIVX> or scan the QR code:



**All efforts lead to Ending the Epidemic in North Carolina!**

## Data to Action Program Efforts

### Ending the Epidemic Plan for North Carolina



By Caressa Harding

Data to Action Program Manager

Data to Action will lead efforts to implement the North Carolina Ending the Epidemic (ETE) Plan. The team will assist and guide the regional networks with using the plan for HIV care, testing, and prevention services for clients/consumers and communities they serve. The plan consists of three pillars: Engage and Embrace, Test and Treat, and Policy and Promotion. Each pillar has strategies, action steps and approaches to address stigma. The electronic version of the plan is available by using the links at the left to access the English or Spanish versions. For more information on how to retain a hard copy of the plan, please email Caressa Harding, [caressa.harding@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:caressa.harding@dhhs.nc.gov)

[NC Plan to End the HIV Epidemic \(English\)](#)

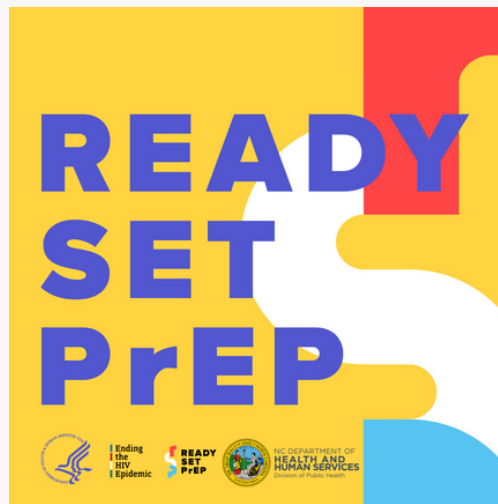
[NC Plan to End the HIV Epidemic \(Spanish\)](#)

## Social Media Toolkits Promoting PrEP

By Luke Keeler

Data to Action Communications and Social Media Coordinator

Looking for content to promote HIV prevention, testing, and treatment on your organization's or personal social media accounts? Visit the [NC Let's Stop HIV Together Campaign website](#) where you can download multiple graphics from the newly added [Ready Set PrEP Toolkit](#) or the [PrEP for Women Toolkit](#) that contain ready-to-go messages for posting on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. Let's Stop HIV Together aims to empower communities, partners, and healthcare providers to reduce HIV stigma and promote prevention, testing, and treatment among all people in North Carolina and the United States.





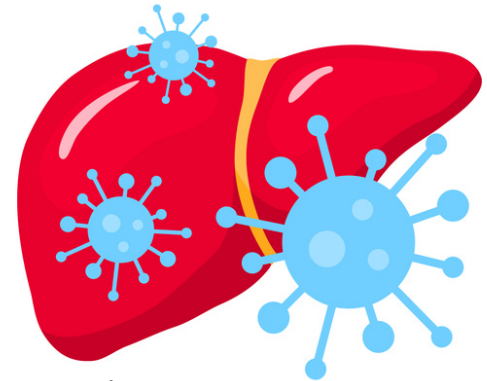
## Viral Hepatitis Program Efforts

### Upcoming Trainings and Program Updates

By Anthony Hannah, CHAMP Coordinator  
By Kayla Ellis, Hepatitis C Bridge Counselor

#### CHAMP Bootcamp:

Friday, January 27, 2023 If anyone is interested in registering, please contact Anthony Hannah ([anthony.hannah@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:anthony.hannah@dhhs.nc.gov)).



#### Phlebotomy Training:

Phlebotomy training will resume starting January 2023 on a quarterly basis. Dates are as follows:

1st Quarter:	January 23rd and 26th	Raleigh
2nd Quarter:	April 17th and 20th	Winston-Salem
3rd Quarter:	July 17th and 20th	Carteret County
4th Quarter	October 16th and 19th	Asheville

\*Those who need a refresher course are welcome to attend the first day of every training\*

If anyone is interested in registering for any of the dates, please contact Kayla Ellis ([kayla.ellis@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:kayla.ellis@dhhs.nc.gov)). In your email, please specify if you are a beginner or if you have experience with phlebotomy.

#### Program Updates

- We are pleased to announce that we are currently working toward implementing the Risk Field Pilot Hepatitis Treatment program. Our Hepatitis Program Medical Director, Dr. Richard Moore, will be facilitating this program where he will be able to test, diagnose, and treat positive Hepatitis C individuals. If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to reach out to him at [richard.a.moore@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:richard.a.moore@dhhs.nc.gov).
- Lastly, we are currently in the process of hiring for two open positions:
  - Program Manager
  - State Hep C Bridge Counselor.
- The positions will be posted soon on the [North Carolina State Jobs Website](#).
- Please feel free to reach out to anyone on our team if you have any questions!



## Upcoming Unit Events/Meetings/Deadlines

### State PrEP Advisory Committee (SPAC) Meetings

January 11 · March 8 · May 10 · July 12 · September 13 · November 8

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (Virtual Meeting)

### HIV Prevention & Care Providers Meetings

February 3 · May 5 · August 4 · November 3

9:30 am – 1:30 pm (Virtual Meeting)

### Cultural Humility Trainings

February 3 · May 5 · August 4 · November 3

12:00-1:30 pm (Virtual Meeting)

### Regional Quality Council (RQC) Meetings

February 10 · April 14 · July 14 · October 13

9:30 am – 11:30 am (Virtual Meeting)

### HIV Prevention and Care Advisory Committee (HPCAC) Meetings

February 15 · May 19 · August 18 · November 17

9:30 am – 12:30 pm (Virtual Meeting)

\*These are member specific meetings and if you would like to attend or want to provide input/feedback, please call 919-546-1708.



## HIV/STD Awareness Days

There are multiple days throughout the year designated to promote awareness about and acknowledge the diverse populations living with HIV and AIDS. Awareness days are powerful focal points to rally around and make a difference. There are several Awareness days that we want to bring attention to and they can be found on the [HIV/STD Awareness Days webpage](#). Review some of the awareness days and share some of the graphics on your social media channels to spread awareness and knowledge about HIV in your community!

**CHAT & CHECK IN THIS VALENTINE'S DAY!**

**NATIONAL CONDOM AWARENESS DAY!**

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Division of Public Health

If you have an article, program or event you would like to share in a future edition of this newsletter, please complete this [form](#). We want to know your thoughts about this newsletter and ways that it can be improved. Please take this short [survey](#) to provide feedback.

