

# 27 HIV Innovative Models of Care Cooperative Agreements Funded in 1994

## Progress During the First Year: A Summary Report

### A Report by the Cooperative Agreement Steering Committee

#### Executive Summary

On September 30, 1994, the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded an HIV Innovative Model of Care Initiative consisting of 27 cooperative agreements, HRSA, and an Evaluation and Dissemination Center. The individual projects were funded for periods ranging from two to five years.

For the purposes of managing the cooperative agreements, sharing project expertise, and permitting cross-cutting evaluations, projects initially were assigned to one of five clusters. Projects were clustered based on similarities in methods, outcomes, and/or processes. These five Work Groups of the cooperative agreements are as follows.

- **Capitated Care.** Five of the SPNS projects share, as a central theme, the study of the health care provided to individuals with HIV disease under models where the health care is capitated, or paid on a “flat fee” basis per patient per month.
- **Community-Based Organization Models.** Six of the SPNS projects share, as a central theme, the goal of providing high-quality care for individuals with HIV who belong to groups that are traditionally underserved because of linguistic, cultural, racial, and economic barriers that prevent their full integration into the traditional hospital-based service system.
- **Comprehensive Healthcare.** Three projects are developing specialized medical care models within the context of a continuum of services in a medical clinic.
- **Infrastructure-Advocacy.** Seven projects in the Infrastructure-Advocacy group aim to increase the capacity of local health and social support service systems to provide appropriate, quality services for individuals with HIV. The projects in this group are using service system development methods through training and technical assistance to change the service provider infrastructure, as well as the community context in which services are delivered.

- **Training.** While training is integral to almost all SPNS projects, six have identified training among their most key elements.

Individual project achievements are described in Chapter 2. During the first year, the Steering Committee met four times in two and one-half day meetings. Additionally, the members of the Steering Committee met in various combinations in more than 100 conference calls. Among the major achievements of the Steering Committee during the first year were the following:

- **Development of Common Objectives.** During the course of the four first-year Steering Committee meetings, individual Work Groups met at least six hours at each meeting. During the course of these meetings, discussions revolved around a number of themes. While the themes differed slightly among the Work Groups, a number of common objectives were developed in each group.
- **Sharing Project Expertise, Methods, and Resources.** A significant part of the work of the Steering Committee was to ensure that there were mechanisms for sharing project expertise, methods, and resources. The Steering Committee employed a number of techniques for improving communication, engaging in project cross-training, sharing costs of developing common evaluation methods, and exchanging information needed by several projects.
- **Development of Common Evaluation Methods and Protocols.** The Steering Committee adopted a modular evaluation design wherein standardized short forms of 1-2 pages are developed for a number of different functional evaluation questions. By using common modules across projects, as much comparable data as possible may be obtained. Evaluation modules are described in Appendix II.
- **Development of a Governance Structure For Making Major Committee Decisions.** Significant work was undertaken during the first project year to develop organizational and governance structures for the cooperative agreement projects. The resulting organizational structure is described in Chapter 1 and in Figure 1-1.
- **Evaluation Conference to Share Expertise and Perspectives.** An Evaluation Conference covering one-and-a-half days was held at the September meeting of the Cooperative Agreement Steering Committee in Arlington, Virginia. The Evaluation Conference was designed to aid projects in designing and conducting their evaluations. The Program for the Evaluation Conference and a summary of the conference is included as Appendix IV to this report.

Individual project goals and objectives for the second year are given in Chapter 3. During the first year, the Steering Committee identified three large-scale objectives for the second year of its collective efforts. These objectives for the second year are:

- to evaluate a set of common objectives among relatively comparable projects and to collect a common data set in order to evaluate those common objectives;
- to share expertise among projects; and
- to report and disseminate the successes and experiences of the projects.

Specific exemplars of these second-year plans are given in Chapter 3.