

Preface

As the number of people seeking HIV care in the U.S. has grown, the demand has increased not only for medical care but for a wide range of supportive services. This in turn has increased the need for demonstrated and tested service models that can address a comprehensive set of needs. The 500,000 Americans who have died from AIDS are a stark reminder of our responsibility to deliver comprehensive, compassionate, and effective care.

This report details the progress of the cooperative agreements funded by the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program of the Office of Science and Epidemiology (OSE), Bureau of Health Resources Development (BHRD), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on September 30, 1994. The purpose of the SPNS program is to evaluate and disseminate innovative models of HIV care.

The SPNS HIV Innovative Models of Care Program is an effort by 27 cooperative agreements of HRSA to jointly establish goals and objectives, develop common evaluation methods, and produce comparable and measurable outcomes for innovative models of HIV care. At the same time, technical assistance in programmatic, evaluation, and dissemination issues are shared among grantees, technical experts, and HRSA staff. Within such an ambitious collective and collaborative undertaking, there are a number of individuals who have made key contributions at various times.

At its first meeting, the Steering Committee decided to have five project Work Groups. Each Work Group elected its own chair. The Work Group chairs are responsible for determining meeting agenda, facilitating communications within their Work Groups, and helping to guide the overall Steering Committee policies. The individuals who served on the Steering Committee as Work Group chairs included David A. Cherin, M.S.W., Ron Henderson, Karen Meredith, M.P.H., R.N., Geoffrey Smereck, J.D., and Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D. The overall Steering Committee elected Trudy A. Larson, M.D., as its chair during the first year. Dr. Larson has guided the overall policies of the Steering Committee, set agendas for meetings, and helped set the goals for the group. Representatives to the Steering Committee are listed at the front of this volume.

A subcommittee consisting of George J. Huba, Ph.D., Trudy A. Larson, M.D., Katherine Marconi, Ph.D., David A. Cherin, M.S.W., Jay Kaplan, J.D., Robin Y. Swift, M.P.H., and Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D., guided the development of the original draft of this report. Lisa A. Melchior, Ph.D., and Vivian B. Brown, Ph.D., also reviewed and contributed to the initial draft. The subcommittee prepared this report at the request of the full Cooperative Agreement Steering Committee at the September 14-16, 1995 meeting in Arlington, Virginia. Subsequent drafts were produced and approved by the full Steering Committee with Dr. Huba taking the lead role in writing the drafts and incorporating the Steering Committee's ideas into the final draft.

The Steering Committee held four meetings in its first year (January 1995 in the District of Columbia, April 1995 in the District of Columbia, June 1995 in Los Angeles, California, and September 1995 in Arlington, Virginia). Meeting logistics were coordinated by The Measurement Group – PROTOTYPES Evaluation and Dissemination Center and more specifically, under the direction of Vivian B. Brown, Ph.D., and Marge Tischer of PROTOTYPES. A two-day Evaluation Conference was held in conjunction with the September Steering Committee meeting and was coordinated by George J. Huba, Ph.D., Lisa A. Melchior, Ph.D., Lara Luenebrink and Alyssa Leong of The Measurement Group as well as Vivian B. Brown, Ph.D., and Marge Tischer of PROTOTYPES. Special thanks are due to Alyssa Leong of The Measurement Group for help in word processing and to Lara Luenebrink of The Measurement Group for help in researching the history of the cooperative agreements and for overall production oversight on this report.

Marla Gold, M.D., and Matthew McClain developed the concept paper that formed the Request for Applications for the cooperative agreements. HRSA staff who have provided support during the past year include Katherine Marconi, Ph.D., William Grace, Ph.D., George E. Sonsel, L.C.S.W., Russell Brady, Joyce Heinonen, Angela Powell, M.P.H., and Gloria R. Weissman, M.A.