**October 2023 Board of Health Update**

**STI/HIV Prevention**

**Clinical**

* We continue to see positive attendance at Galion and Marion test sites.
* To date, we have provided 417 STI tests through HealthTrack (testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas, HSV 2). October was our highest month with 67 tests. We do not have data yet for blood testing (HIV/Syphilis/Hepatitis, etc.)
* We have 46 active clients in PrEP through our GCHD and Marion clinics and 216 active PrEP clients through Q Care Plus, our collaboration with Avita Pharmacy. This service allows us to provide PrEP and Doxy-PEP telehealth support to any Ohio resident.

**Region 2 HIV and Syphilis tracking**

***Crawford, Marion, Richland, Ashland, Knox, Erie, Wyandot, Seneca, & Huron Counties***

* Syphilis cases are steady. Cases are concentrated in Marion, Erie and Richland counties.
* ODH wants us to continue to focus on testing women of childbearing age for syphilis. Cases of congenital syphilis continue to increase in Ohio. We have had 1 ‘probable’ case in our region this year—the infant was not infected but the mother’s treatment was not completed per CDC guidelines, making this a case. This is a very precisely regulated and critiqued process by the Ohio Department of Health and CDC.
* HIV/syphilis testing events held in October (4 total dates): Ashland County Jail, Erie County Jail

**Grant Management/Budget**

* The 2024 STI grant was submitted on September 11th. We do not have an NOA as of this date.
* However, we have been made aware of additional funding in the amount of $120,000 that will be added to the 2024 STI grant. (Once our NOA is released, we will revise our budget to include this amount). This will increase the total award to $391,363. This funding has been directed to be used for the hiring of a full-time Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS). I was made aware of this on Nov. 1, 2023. This position will serve to expand our current DIS workforce, provide the beginning transition as our current DIS nears retirement, and allow for more comprehensive coverage of the grant requirements.
* The HIV grant solicitation has not been released for 2024. This is set to begin June 1, 2024. This is all the information that we have to date.
* ODH DIS and Supervisory meetings were held in October. These were held in-person for the first time in over 3 years. All program DIS’ and supervisors meet in Columbus over 2 days.
* Condoms, Insertive/Female condoms will be provided through our grant programming to help supply the Harm Reduction Vending machines in Galion and Bucyrus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Miley APRN-CNP