

## **February 2025 Board of Health Update**

### **STI/HIV Prevention Program**

#### **Clinical**

- 61 clinic visits in Galion and 16 in Marion during February 2025.
- 42 active clients in PrEP between Galion and Marion clinic sites.

#### **Region 2 Disease Investigation**

- Abby Volk investigated 17 cases (combined HIV and syphilis) during February 2025
- We provided outreach testing to the following sites in February: Ashland County Jail, Knox Recovery Men's House, Kenyon College.
- We have been able to integrate rapid hepatitis C and rapid syphilis testing into our state required HIV testing for all outreach sites. This has been especially helpful in the jail settings; many individuals there are most interested in learning their hepatitis C status. We are still in the early phases of collecting stats on our findings of this work.

#### **Grant Management**

- We have not received notice of award of the 2025 HIV Prevention grant (submitted at the end of January 2025), this timeline is not out of the ordinary.
- In early February 2025, the Ohio Department of Health discontinued the Aware Home STI/HIV testing service. We have been notified that they are looking to replace the vendor and hopefully have another mail order, free test kit service available to Ohioans in the near future.
- As a result of this program being discontinued, we pulled all advertising related to the Aware campaign in our region. Fortunately, all of our advertisers were flexible and made accommodations to adapt our campaigns.
- The next Region 2 Galion Community Planning Group (HIV Prevention) meeting is Wednesday, March 19 at 2 PM, OSU Mansfield, 129 Reidl Hall. We continue to look at ways to improve services. If anyone would like to be a part of this group, please email me, Sarah Miley, [sarah.miley@galionhealth.org](mailto:sarah.miley@galionhealth.org) or Christina O'Millian at [omillianc@thirdstreetfamily.org](mailto:omillianc@thirdstreetfamily.org).

**Submitted by Sarah Miley APRN-CNP, Project Director**