

From: Jason Grisell (jgrisell@thfgi.org)

To: Ending the Epidemic (EtE) TaskForce Members

Date: March 11, 2020

Subject: CANCELED - Marion County HIV Ending the Epidemic (EtE) TaskForce Meeting

Good afternoon all,

Due to concerns related to the Covid-19 virus, we are **CANCELING** the in-person Marion County HIV Ending the Epidemic (EtE) TaskForce for tomorrow, **March 12th**. In lieu of the meeting, this email will serve as your update and a request for your assistance on guiding the Focus Group process.

Focus Groups

We need your assistance reviewing the list of potential focus groups to be interviewed starting later this month and into April. Specifically we would like to know: Who might you suggest as a facilitator for the groups already identified? Location suggestions for the identified Focus Groups? Please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EtEfocusgroups> to a survey that will allow you to provide feedback on each individual Focus Group. This survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes depending on how many Focus Groups you respond to and this survey will close at COB: **Monday, March 16, 2020**

Updates

At the request of Dr. Caine, we are scheduling similarly sized cities to present to our TaskForce in the months of April and May about their HIV prevention and intervention success and challenges. Because of these presentations, we are requesting that the meetings be held from 8:30am-10:30am (2 hours). The cities are as follows – location(s) still to be determined.

- April 9th TaskForce meeting - Memphis, TN and Washington, DC
- May14th TaskForce meeting - Mecklenburg, NC and Columbus, OH (virtual presentation)

The Co-Chairs and the Working Group developed the attached Gift Card Statement to detail how Gift Cards will be distributed to Focus Group participants, facilitators, and note takers. If you have any questions about this, please let us know.

Earlier this year, the Marion County Public Health Department responded to a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and were recently notified of their award. Please see this note from Michael Butler.

In August 2019 the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA, released a funding opportunity for the 57 highly impacted counties and states under Ending the HIV Epidemic, a Plan for America. Marion County is one of those jurisdictions. The Marion County Public Health Department, MCPHD, Ryan White Services Program, RWSP, was eligible to apply for up to \$2,000,000 to support Pillar 2 - HIV Care and Treatment, and Pillar 4 - Respond (see attached) activities. Because congressional appropriations were less than hoped for, the RWSP was only awarded \$750,000 for the first year of this 5- year cooperative agreement. The grant started March 1. During this first year, efforts will be on developing the program and getting the initiatives started. The RWSP has hired 2 Community Engagement Liaisons to undertake case finding and client engagement. A third new hire is pending background checks. The RWSP will focus on identifying people who do not know their HIV status, those

not in care, those that are not virally suppressed, and linking them to care. The program will provide intense supports to help people remain in care and work toward achieving viral suppression.

HRSA expects that future year funding will increase significantly over this first year. All of course dependent upon congressional appropriations. The RWSP fully intends to align future funding requests with the plan this Task Force is developing for Marion County.

If you have any questions please contact Michael Butler at 317-221-3554 or MIButler@MarionHealth.org.

If you have any questions about the TaskForce please let us know.

Kind regards,

Jason