

Peer Navigator Services

- Part of interdisciplinary health and allied teams within Vancouver, BC.

Glen Bradford, Manager



Positive Living Society of BC is a member based organization dedicated to empowering people living with HIV/AIDS through mutual support and collective action.

People living with HIV (PLWH) have always been
apart of advancing access to and increasing
the quality of our health care services.

- Over 30 years of lived experiences and community agency building.
- Volunteering
 - Peer Counseling
 - Advocacy
 - Retreats
 - Treatment Information/side effects counselling
 - Peer Support Groups
 - Newly Diagnosed HIV+ Workshop Series (recent)

Goals of Peer Navigation Services

Peer Navigator Services



- Shorten the time between diagnosis and uptake of care, treatment and support.
 - Reduce HIV transmissions.
 - Prevent disease progression.
 - Provide emotional support .
 - Provide health education.
- Help HIV+ people navigate the health and allied care systems.

Social Supports

Housing

Case
Manager

Advocate

Food
Bank

**I have HIV.
Where
do I start?**

Allied Health

Social
Worker

Nutritionist

Psychologist

Psychiatrist

HIV
Physicians

General
Physician

Pharmacists

Emotional
Supports

Discussion
Groups

Identity
Formation

Medical

Treatment
Information

Disclosure

Transmission
Prevention

Blood
Work

Disease
Prevention

Education

Building Self

TasP does not exist in a vacuum: Barriers to Care, Treatment and Support



- Struggles with a shifting new health identity (stigma),
- Old ARV myths still exist,
- Temporary lack of general self-management skills,
- “Community programs are for the helpless and I am not helpless”,
- No knowledge of what services are available to them,
- Lack of stable lifestyle,
- Some first experiences with receiving an HIV diagnosis can be negative,
- Lack of awareness and continuity between some clinics and community.

(Lack of adherence: If barriers not addressed, TasP can fail.)

As part of interdisciplinary teams in health care, Peer Navigators help people overcome barriers

- reassure clients they are not alone,
- accompany peers to medical appointments,
- liaise between providers and clients,
- translate medical information for their clients,
- provide education and informal counselling,
- serve as a “navigator” to help clients locate needed services,
- facilitate treatment readiness in treatment naive HIV+ people,
- take referrals and participate in case conferences with SW/Case Managers or Physicians upon request.

To be eligible for Peer Navigation support clients must be HIV+ and either:

- newly diagnosed with HIV
- needing reengaging in their care and treatment
- at risk for falling out of care
- needing short-term help navigating the health care system.

Diverse Demographics

- Gay men/MSM/Trans
- Straight Women and Men
- Caucasian, Indigenous, Spanish, Asian, South Asian, Middle Eastern
- Age: 18-94 (mostly 25-55)
- Good self-management skills – highly chaotic
- Fully employed - income security program
- Full citizenship – refugee
- A range of addiction and mental health challenges

5 yrs ago we started as a two year proof of concept project.

We are now an established program within Vancouver, with plans to train Peers across the Province of BC.

- 1 Peer Manager
- 2 Full Time Peers
- 8 part time Peers (5-15 hrs/wk each)



We have male, female, straight and gay identified Peers, speak 6 languages, and includes Indigenous, Arabic, Latin American and Asian representation.

Peers are paid an hourly wage not an honorarium. (Step-up into the work force.)

Depending on the needs of a health care setting, peers work in a number of settings as part of an interdisciplinary team:



Co-facilitate a discussion group with a clinic Social Worker



Work with outreach/case management teams in community



Engage newly diagnosed patients in an acute care setting



Establish a peer office within a clinic



Evaluation

Qualitative and quantitative data were collected to ensure that the Peer Navigation Services project was addressing the needs of the communities that it serves as well as helping to achieve the goals of the Vancouver STOP Project. For more information go here:

<http://www.catie.ca/en/pc/program/peer-navigators?tab=evaluation>

Client feedback of 92/120 people evaluated

# clients that report their peer navigator has helped them a lot or somewhat	89 or 96%
# of clients felt their “PN” helped them with HIV knowledge a lot or somewhat	91 or 99%

Peer Navigation is a value-added addition to Interdisciplinary teams

- Cost Effective
- Efficient and relatable way for knowledge transfer to occur
- Synergy between Case Managers and Peer Navigators

— Mobile – Extends the reach of clinical care and case management

Today we are seeing Peer Navigation Programs developing across North America



Change for Women Program - San Diego, California



2200 Ringling Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34237
P (941) 861-2988
F (941) 861-2722



<http://www.boomhealth.org/>



Learning, Engaging and Advocating with Peers (LEAP)

<http://www.hiv Sarasota.org/services/peers.html>

PEER TO PEER PROGRAM
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region

Peer to Peer Support Group
The Peer to Peer Group is a drop-in discussion group for all people living with HIV. You will be able to connect with people who are going through the same things you are.

When: 1:00-4:00 on the Last Monday of every month
Where: 2110 Hamilton St Main Floor Board Room

- Free refreshments
- Free snacks
- Transportation available if needed
- Childcare available if needed

PEER TO PEER PROGRAM
Call: 866-330-1123
Office: 306-766-0817
E-mail: acsc@hospitalsjrh.ca

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THE REALITY OF HIV BETTER THAN SOMEONE WHO LIVES WITH IT EVERY DAY.



Positive Pathways -
<http://www.washingtonaidspartnership.org/initiatives/access-to-care/>



<http://alachua.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/aids/peer-navigation.html>

Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
Saskatchewan