Increasing Access to COVID-19 Vaccines Among Homeless Populations: Successful Partnership Series

Chicago, IL

April 29, 2021
Acknowledgement & Disclaimer

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Today’s Discussion Panelists

• **Luwana Johnson, Bachelors in Behavioral Science:** Director of Shelter Operations at Franciscan Outreach

• **Christine Riley, MDiv:** Director of Homeless Prevention, Policy & Planning for the Department of Family and Support Services in the City of Chicago

• **Thomas Huggett, MD, MPH:** Family Practice Physician at Lawndale Christian Health Center

• **Mary Tornabene, MS APRN, FNP-BC:** Shelter-Based Project Manager at Heartland Alliance Health and Chair of NHCHC Clinicians’ Network Steering Committee

  • Moderator: **Katie League, LCSW-C:** COVID-19 Project Manager, National Health Care for the Homeless Council
Agenda for Today’s Discussion

• Learn about the **collaboration** within the City of Chicago that fostered innovative and timely responses to meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic.

• Understand the collaborative relationship from the perspective of a **shelter provider**.

• Explore the **shielding hotel** intervention implemented early in the pandemic and it’s impact.

• Discuss the **Vaccine Ambassador** in vaccine engagement.

• Learn about an **innovative conversation** to considering homeless service provision in a post-pandemic world.

• Address as many of your **questions/comments** as possible!
Shelter Vaccinations
CHHRGE
Chicago Homelessness and Health Response Group for Equity

- Student leadership, health care and homeless services providers, City of Chicago, IDPH….
  - Immediately came together and provided guidance as a collective
  - Advocated for shelter staff & guests to be prioritized for the vaccine
  - Sent letters to CDPH & IDPH to include outreach workers and drop-in center staff
Franciscan Outreach Shelters

Before the pandemic

House of Mary & Joseph - 271 bed facility
Annex Center - 70 bed facility
Casa Pilsen Project - 40 bed facility
Decompression Phase
Health Education

- Early discussions of vaccine with guests and staff
- Provided informational and posters about vaccine & possible side effects
LCHC’s Virtual Meetings

- LCHC’s “All About the Vaccine” for staff that addressed questions and hesitancy
- Spearheaded small group meetings with guests for a safe space of their questions and concerns
Vaccination at F.O.

✓ Vaccination events across our facilities has increased accessibility

✓ Posting vaccination testimonials from staff and guests around facility
City’s Response (The Beginning)

- Weekly webinars with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and then our Continuum of Care lead agency
- Coordination around Shelter Decompression
  - PPE Donations
- Shelter Referral Changes
- CDPH Covid-19 Health Screeners
- Outreach Coordination
  - Encampments and CTA
Community Mitigation Goal

- Develop a city-wide system to prevent transmission of COVID-19 within congregate settings and provide compassionate care for people experiencing homelessness
- Shelter guidance around social distancing and infection control
- Collaboration with health providers
What’s Happening Now

- CDPH has funded Lead Coordinating Agencies to provide or coordinate health services to each shelter in the City through Shelter Based Service Teams
- DFSS has funded $35 million for the Expedited Housing Initiative to support those who have been impacted by COVID-19 to move the most vulnerable into housing at an expedited pace by removing barriers.
  - Accelerated Moving Events for shelters and the unsheltered
- Two remaining alternate shelter locations totaling 400 beds (200 for women and 200 for men)
  - CPS School
  - Hotel
- Monthly webinars providing updates on our system, vaccinations, statistics and CoC work and announcements
Increasing Access to COVID-19 Vaccines Among Homeless Populations:
Successful Partnerships Series
Presented by the National Health Care for the Homeless Council
April 29, 2021 | 1-2 p.m. Central Time

Lawndale Christian Health Center
Thomas D. Huggett, MD, MPH
Chicago SARS-CoV-2 Test Positivity Rates

Data Source: Chicago Department of Public Health - not for further unauthorized distribution

*5390 PEH 2020 PIT count used to calculate incidence as a 7-day rolling average.
Cases of SARS-CoV-2 among people experiencing homelessness (PEH) and staff in homeless shelters in Chicago

Data Source: Chicago Department of Public Health – NOT AUTHORIZED FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION
Percent Positivity from PPS testing events (April 2020 – March 2021)

Positivity rates* among PEH and staff among Chicago shelters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>% Positive</th>
<th>% Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr-20</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-20</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-20</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul-20</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug-20</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep-20</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-20</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov-20</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec-20</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-21</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-21</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-21</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Chicago Department of Public Health – NOT AUTHORIZED FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

Positivity rates here reflect only post PPS testing (not including those cases identified outside of PPS testing); PPS: point prevalence survey
Staying in Larger Shelters Increases Risk of SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Adjusted Prevalence Ratio(^a) n = 1268 (95% CI) P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual-Level Factors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smoker</td>
<td>0.71 (0.60–0.85) &lt;.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping Arrangements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single room</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared room (2–4 people)</td>
<td>1.35 (0.87–2.11) .19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared room (5–8 people)</td>
<td>1.59 (1.00–2.53) .05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared room (9–20 people)</td>
<td>1.64 (1.00–2.70) .05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared room (&gt;20 people)</td>
<td>1.76 (1.11–2.80) .02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Adjusted for facility level.
Developing relationships with City of Chicago agencies, shelter providers, opioid treatment programs, behavioral health providers, housing providers, & Rush/U of Illinois/Lurie Children’s testing teams, LCHC isolated/shielded 259 high-risk persons experiencing homelessness from 16 shelter sites at Hotel 166 on the Magnificent Mile, April 2-September 3, 2020.

[City of Chicago agencies included: the Mayor’s Office; the Office of Emergency Management; the Departments of Public Health, Family and Support Services (oversees city-funded shelters), and Housing]; Photo credits: Lawndale Christian Health Center
Building Relationships with City Leadership

We're putting the communities most impacted by this pandemic at the forefront of our vaccination efforts. Today, we launched a new vaccination site at Lawndale Christian Health Center as part of our ProtectChicagoPlus initiative. chi.gov/3aLk2K4

Patrick Pysztka
Success at Shielding Hotel

• Daily medical/behavioral/social evaluations including temps and oxygen saturation levels

• 66 (25%) had COVID-19; of these, 9 were transferred 2 blocks to Northwestern Memorial Hospital; 8 in ICU; 6 were intubated; 0 died
Hotel 166 Exits: The Majority Went to Housing

- Housing (132)
- Residential Recovery Program (24)
- Covid +, to isolation facility (39)
- Hospital (20)
- Guest desired to return to shelter (18)
- Self-discharge, destination unknown (26)

Data Source: Lawndale Christian Health Center

Key Partners in working on housing included: All Chicago (Chicago Continuum of Care Collaborative applicant); permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing providers; city of Chicago Department of Housing; Chicago Housing Authority; behavioral health providers for ACT/CST support; A Safe Haven for isolation of SARS-COV-2 POS persons; and others

Joaq Hamlin was offered a room at Hotel One Sixty-Six Magnificent Mile where the Lawndale Christian Health Center oversees a makeshift isolation facility for people who are homeless.

‘Housing is health care’
Hotel has become haven for people living on the street, others at risk

By Alice Yin and Cecilia Reyes
The 66-year-old couldn’t do this just a month ago. He Lawndale Christian Health Center oversees a makeshift

Story and photo credit: Chicago Tribune
How HCH providers might help with the housing process before Accelerated Moving Events (AMEs)

LCO connection to AMEs

- Lead Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) / Shelter Based Service Teams (SBSTs) Heartland Alliance Health and Lawndale Christian Health Center are assessing potential AME participants at AME host sites for mental and physical health needs. 
  - Assessment of: case management needs; problems ascending stairs; problems with emailing or texting; needing primary care follow-up; needing medications; memory/cognitive impairment; mental illness requiring ACT/CST support; substance use disorder support needed

- Able to make a direct connection to Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) / Community Service Treatment (CST) teams to provide extra support through process and after move-in.

- Potential Outcomes:
  - More stable housing placements with ACT/CST supports
  - Transfer of important info to housing team that will aid in supporting participant
  - Support in the rare case that someone cannot live independently
### COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Chicago

25.4% of all Chicago residents have completed COVID-19 vaccine series.

#### Vaccination Summary as of 4/19/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th># Received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine</th>
<th>Percent who have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose</th>
<th># Completed COVID-19 vaccine series</th>
<th>Percent who have completed COVID-19 vaccine series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Chicago Residents</td>
<td>2,693,959</td>
<td>1,089,773</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
<td>683,490</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18+ years</td>
<td>2,138,535</td>
<td>1,084,050</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>682,543</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>362,629</td>
<td>231,449</td>
<td>63.8%</td>
<td>187,932</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over 50% of Chicago adults have received at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Continue to recommend and promote COVID-19 vaccination to all eligible patients. Data found [here.](#)
City of Chicago Vaccine Coverage Data for PEH (including sheltered, unsheltered, staff, and other) from 1-26-2021 to 4-22-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Updated: 4/22/2021</th>
<th>Shelter Population</th>
<th></th>
<th>Unsheltered Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose 1 Moderna</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dose 2 Moderna</td>
<td>1244</td>
<td>1147</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Dose J&amp;J</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Completed Vaccinations</strong></td>
<td>1414</td>
<td>1185</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number Needing Vaccination (Denominator)</td>
<td>2,742</td>
<td>1,869</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uptake %</strong></td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Denominator for Sheltered Residents over the age of 18 is the 2020 PIT Count.
- Denominator for Shelter Staff is self-reported by shelters.
- 5435 total vaccines given in shelters to guests and staff
- 70-75% to BIPOC
- 62-75% to PEH

Data Source: Chicago Department of Public Health – NOT AUTHORIZED FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION
COVID-19 Vaccination in Homeless Shelters and via Mobile Care

Strategies, Successes and Challenges
• Strategies:
  – Infection control Assessments
  – Individual participant visits
  – Testing and Training
  – Interagency collaboration
    • Support from Chicago officials
  – Consistent message/approach
• MULTI LEVEL APPROACH
  – City sponsored webinar for shelter providers
  – Health team meeting with Shelters
    – 2 weeks in advance
  – On-site meetings with staff- began when vaccines EUA
  – Behavioral health workers, Community Health Workers, Prosumers 1-2x
  – RN engagement 1-2x
  – Provider visits
  – Shelter rounds – day of
  – During the month between doses- we went back in again
Successes in Shelters

• Trusted partners
• Make it fun! Celebrate!
  – Buttons, photos, My Why
• Equity across agencies
• 52% uptake
  – Some shelters had more uptake
• More first vaccines on round 2
• Successes in Mobile Vaccination
  – Surprising uptake
  – Keep their cards
• Challenges
  – 2nd doses
Challenges

• Vaccine hesitancy
  – Staff
  – Participants

• End of day doses
Ongoing Vaccination

- Model #1
  - Shelter Care teams normalize vaccine
  - Janssen given at shelter site
  - Moderna scheduled at health centers

- Model #2
  - Twice weekly RN team-lets do vaccination rounds
  - All sites are visited monthly
  - Grouped by city area
Questions for our Panel
Events and Resources

• This webinar is the finale of a 3-part series featuring health centers collaborating with their local jurisdictions. Recordings available:

• Sign-up to receive our bi-weekly Flash Blast

• NHCHC Conference & Policy Symposium, May 10-14
  https://nhchc.org/trainings/conferences/hch2021/
  Deadline for registration: Thursday, May 6th