

San Francisco DPH HIV Health Services

**2023 SAN FRANCISCO HIV  
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
NEEDS ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

# Overview:

SF DPH HIV Health Services (HHS) has commissioned a small-scale, 6-month HIV Mental Health Services Needs Assessment to:

- Map in detail the specific HIV-dedicated and other accessible mental health services that are provided in the SF
- Identify service gaps and opportunities to improve service coordination and/or enrichment
- Identify potential new models of HIV mental health service delivery that could be augmented and/or adopted locally

# Rationale:

Mental health service expenditures currently make up more than 10% of all Ryan White Parts A & B and SF General Fund (GF) expenditures in San Francisco, with potentially more mental health resources becoming available through Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) and/or SF GF.

Local General Fund (GF) funding for HIV mental Health Services for Long Term Survivors has increased significantly over the past three years

SF HIV Community providers have expressed concerns about service gaps

# Questions that the Needs Assessment will Address:

- What publicly funded HIV mental health services are currently being provided to people living with HIV in San Francisco, in what form, to whom, and by whom?
- To what extent do existing HIV mental health services meet the needs of the full spectrum of persons living with HIV in San Francisco?
- What sectors of the San Francisco HIV population are able to obtain adequate mental health services, and which sectors have unmet or under-met mental health service needs?
- What specific barriers exist that may keep persons with HIV from learning about or accessing mental health services in San Francisco?
- What are some possible ways the current HIV mental health system might be improved or enhanced?
- What relevant new or existing modes or models of HIV mental health treatment exist that could potentially be applied to the San Francisco HIV service system?

# Data Outcomes of the Needs Assessment:

The needs assessment process will take place between approximately February 1 and July 31, 2023, and will involve a range of data and information-gathering approaches including:

- A Community Resource Mapping process that identifies existing public HIV mental health funding sources and expenditures in the City, including where these services are provided, to whom, and in what form
- A compilation of data regarding the characteristics of clients who utilize mental health services and the types of services they utilize, including an informal gap analysis based on comparisons between the existing HIV mental health population and HIV case data
- A focused set of key informant and group interviews involving HIV mental health providers, consumers, Planning Council members, local HIV service agencies, and community planners designed to assess strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within the system
- A survey of the current literature to identify new potential models of HIV mental health service provision and to identify approaches that have been shown to have success in enhancing HIV service engagement and retention and viral load suppression and might or might not have relevance for San Francisco.

# Scope of Assessment and Desired Outcomes:

In order to obtain as robust and wide-ranging a set of responses as possible, this assessment will focus on the HIV mental health delivery as a whole, rather than on individual organizations, service lines/modalities, or funding levels.

The needs assessment report will summarize the results of the information-gathering review process to provide SF DPH HIV Health Services and its Community Partners with a landscape assessment of the current state of HIV Mental Health Services in SF, including what is working well and where gaps may exist, as well as options as to how the system might be customized or enhanced.

.

## Decisions Needed from Planning Council:

- How input will be provided by Planning Council members (e.g., through Committees, one-on-one meetings, etc.)
- What the needs assessment's consumer input process will be

# Possible Consumer Input Approaches:

- A series of focus groups involving members of identified key HIV mental health target populations such as long-term survivors, African Americans, Spanish-speaking Latinx, transgender persons, homeless persons, etc.
- One-on-one interviews with key consumer informants identified by agencies and Planning Council members



**If you have questions about the  
planning process please feel free to  
contact the project consultant:**

**Robert Whirry**

**Phone: 415-515-5567**

**E-Mail: [robertwhirry@gmail.com](mailto:robertwhirry@gmail.com)**