Caribbean Women’s Health Association, Inc.

PrEP Education for Women: Successes, Challenges and Opportunities

New York State Department of Health
AIDS Institute

June 8, 2017

Presentation by:

Debra Lesane
Director of Programs, CWHA
Caribbean Women’s Health Association, Inc.

- CWHA History and Background
- CWHA Program Services
- PrEP Education for Women: CWHA Experience
- PrEP Education for Women: Best Practices
- PrEP Education for Women: Issues and Challenges
- PrEP Education for Women: What needs to change?
CWHA History and Background

- CWHA was established more than 30 years ago in response to a lack of prenatal care for newly arrived immigrant women from the Caribbean; and resulting high rates of maternal morbidity (complications during pregnancy) and infant mortality within this population.
Caribbean Women’s Health Association, Inc.

CWHA Program Services

- Maternal and Child Health Support Services
- Immigration Legal Assistance
- HIV Testing, Counseling and Community Prevention Education
Caribbean Women’s Health Association, Inc.

HIV Testing, Counseling and Community Prevention Education

AI funded programs:
- HIV Testing/Counseling
- SISTA Intervention
- VOICES/VOCES Intervention
- Linkage/ Retention in Care
- HIV Prevention Workshops (HCPI)
- Monthly Women’s Support Group
Caribbean Women’s Health Association, Inc.

Other funded HIV programs

- City Council: Faith Based Community Education and Testing Initiative

- NYCDOHMH: Outreach and Education in CBO’s (#PlaySure Prevention Network)
PREP Education for Women: CWHA Experience

- PrEP Education has been incorporated into all HIV Prevention interventions, including HIV Testing/Counseling, VOICES/VOCES, SISTA, Linkage/Retention and Prevention Education Workshops
- In Fiscal Year 2015-2016 we provided HIV Prevention Program services to a total of 457 women
PrEP Education for Women: Best Practices

- Develop resources/maintain relationships with PrEP clinical providers
- Incorporate PrEP Education throughout all HIV programs services; encourage discussions and questions
- Identify intersectional opportunities for PrEP Education-including all CWHA women’s programs and other services
PrEP Education for Women: Issues and Challenges

- Women still don’t acknowledge their HIV risk
- Women think that PrEP is for the MSM community only
- PrEP educational brochures and materials don’t include women, women of color
PrEP Education for Women - What needs to change?

- Make PrEP educational materials that are more women/women of color friendly
- Improve collaboration/discussions between CBO’s and PrEP clinical providers on how to improve PrEP education/outreach for women