



SWAG 1st Quarterly Meeting

February 12, 2025, 10:00 A.M

Virtual: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83202453122?pwd=7l7E5EoaUebbaaF5G6hVFEhFbZz1J0.1>

1. Welcome and Housekeeping
 - a. Welcome attendees to the meeting
 - b. Recording, Muting, Chatbox *(add a note that we are not permitted to add AI notetakers)*
2. Introductions
 - a. In Chatbox- Name, Where you are from (agency, community etc.), Pronouns
 - b. Congratulations to our new members as of February 2025:
 - i. Becky Lutz
 - ii. Kelly Neither
 - iii. Kimberly Taylor
 - iv. Sedona Brodersen
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Sharing success stories from 2024- SWAG participants
5. Integrated Plan and Needs Assessment Update- Slides included, questions etc to hivintegratedplan@azdhs.gov or OHHSTA@azdhs.gov
6. SWAG Webpage Update
7. Current Events Discussion - Ricardo Fernandez
 - a. Past two weeks have had many changes from the Federal Gov't, are impacting our funding, ADHS, and our funded partners. Payment freeze on payments from discretionary grants, executive orders targeting DEI, transgender health, gender programs, minority programs, many orders have been rescinded or are being challenged, however guidance is still nebulous or confusing. This has created uncertainty. We are prioritizing activities to ensure that programs are funded, that programs continue to operate, have some flexibility with funding like rebates which are tied to federal grants but not directly received from federal programs. Are working on our back-end to create as much stability as possible, and address any interruptions. If there are issues or challenges that your organization is facing, please reach out to us. There are some uncertainties remaining- March 14th is the end of the continuing resolution for the budget- there could be a new budget, another continuing resolution, new appropriations and negotiations which may effect our programs. We are hoping for similar funding to what we currently have, but will not know what those are until the budget is final. If there are changes, we will communicate with our partners and the agencies we fund. We will also communicate any changes ADHS needs to make and effects that may have. Currently we are continuing to implement programs, draw down funds etc and are planning for how to minimize impact of any changes that may come in the future.
 - i. Q What changes happened during last administration? The last T admin looked very different. Health officials were asked to identify "wins" for programming which increased funding for HIV services and developed additional programs in CDC, HRSA, NIH. This is a different environment without those priorities existing at the HHS. Activities are under greater scrutiny, we do not expect to see

increases, but hope to have similar to current funding. Previous activities have included Medicaid changes, expanded Medicaid, changes to ADAP priorities etc. If decreases to Medicaid happen, that increases costs to ADAP and may necessitate changes to our ADAP program and how it functions.

- ii. Q Has the administration already defunded PrEP and any trans health care or have those cuts been reversed? Also, the AZ Legislature is looking pass a DEI ban? We cannot comment on legislation. We do have programs which serve transgender clients and clients who would fit under a DEI umbrella, however we do not have specific trans health care or DEI programs- so we would not need to change those programs. There are other programs in the state who have needed to make changes based on their federal funding- for example gender affirming care to minors. Our programs are not directly impacted by the orders, and that some have been rescinded however the WH is stating that they will be enforcing orders so there is a great deal of confusion. These are all about domestic HIV programs. At the International level there are greater impacts- USAID has been effectively shuttered, PEPFAR has been impacted- PrEP and Care programs have been stopped. PrEP for pregnant women may be able to move forward, however medication distribution and care have been restricted
- iii. *Comment from Stacey Jay with Aunt Rita's Foundation: If anyone wants to participate on the next LGBTQ+ Arizona Policy Coalition meeting, please email me directly: staceyjay@auntritas.org We are tracking the AZ bills directly impacting the Queer community closely and meet every 2 weeks via Zoom.*
- iv. While ADHS cannot comment on legislative activities or participate in any advocacy activities- we can provide information or other data requests as we traditionally do.
- v. We have had to prioritize payments to ensure that services continue, which does mean that we have had to cancel or reschedule/restructure some trainings. We are prioritizing trainings that are required by our standards of care. There is some possibility that we will not be able to hold symposium this year, but we will continue to communicate.
- vi. Q Do you think that the Prep funding will eventually effect Hep C treatment/funding as well? We use some HIV funds for Hep C and STI activities. In AZ the primary funding for PrEP is through CDC and HRSA funding, other funding is through 340B models and other funding. There is a court case ongoing about whether insurance companies are required to provide PrEP. Hep C and PrEP funding are generally distinct funding from the federal level. The Hep C funding received is minimal.

8. Program Updates- Update document included

- OHHS Ryan White Part A
- Ending the Epidemics HIV Prevention
- Ryan White Part B HIV Surveillance
- ADAP Hep C
- STI
- Q Is condom distribution happening- [pull response from recording](#)
- [Miss Jai question re: rapid tests for HIV and Syphilis- response from Ricardo](#)

9. Call to Audience/Good of the Group: Challenges, Changes and Celebrations!

- a. Call to Action- any issues that need to be brought to the attention of ADHS?
- b. Announcements, Events, Activities?
- c. Training Requests (SWAG or for Providers)
- d. Any additional topics

10. Next Steps

The Second quarterly meeting for 2025 is tentatively scheduled for May 9, 2025, 10 AM-12PM. Virtual

HIV Awareness Days in February, March and April

- Feb 7, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- Feb 28, HIV is not a Crime Awareness Day
- Mar 10, National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- Mar 20, National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- Apr 10, national Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day

Links from Chat:

- Webinar on Feb 26th at 12pm on HIV Testing with Dr Kevin Carmichael!
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/slU7mSU9RaGNCLpfhRYKaw>
- <https://forms.gle/Us4aRMoURDgoka7V6> to sign up for ADHS trainings
- For DISHAZ email: rocko.cook@azdhs.gov or 480.407.7642 - www.hivaz.org/academic-detailing
- Kate.Thomas@maricopa.gov if you need Care Journals or Positively You! materials
- Hep Free AZ Interest Form: <https://forms.gle/hHowmRFn8CvhCh487>