

## **LEVERAGING PUBLIC-PRIVATE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**

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### **Background:**

Prevention Point Philadelphia (PPP) and Sun Ray Pharmacy (Sun Ray) operate in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, PA (USA), a community disproportionately affected by conditions of substance use, poverty and homelessness, and poor health outcomes. PPP, a multi-service harm reduction organization serves 35,000 individuals annually with harm reduction services and co-located low-threshold clinical services. Sun Ray is an independent pharmacy providing retail and specialty pharmacy services

### **Description of model of care/intervention:**

Through communication and collaboration, PPP and Sun Ray: 1) Educate pharmacy staff to recognize behaviors and needs of people who use drugs (PWUD) and adapt in-store setting and processes to support positive interactions. 2) Provide quick delivery to facilitate access to medications while patients are still present in PPP's clinic. 3) Utilize the federal 340-B program funds to support access to reduced-price medications and fund the delivery of our safety-net care.

### **Effectiveness:**

Sun Ray reduced wait times and improved interactions with PWUD. Between 2019 to 2021, PPP increased patients in 340-B covered services (HIV: 2 to 45, PreP: 40 to 70, asthma: 2 to 30, and Medication-Assisted Treatment: 100 to 450) and Sun Ray supplemented PPP's naloxone distribution to more than 1,000 participants. Data sharing and open communication facilitate Medicaid and Medicare approvals, patient engagement and retention, and improved medication adherence. While PPP had relied heavily on volunteer and contract medical providers, the 340-B funds supported direct hiring of providers, expansion of services, and development of a system to bill insurers for care services.

### **Conclusion and next steps:**

In two years, the partnership resulted in improved delivery of life-saving care for hundreds of harm reduction participants who typically have difficulty obtaining care. As the partnership grows, additional health conditions are covered and PPP's billing of insurers for care expands, which will further increase support and enhance care delivery.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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