

# Creating a Continuum of Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS in Central Texas

## Project Summary & Goals

People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in rural communities are served by resources provided through the Ryan White Act, Title II. In Central Texas, these moneys are administered through the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) and overseen by the Central Texas HIV Planning Council. In 2003, BVCOG contracted the Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) to develop a continuum of care plan for the region.

Goals for the continuum of care were:

- The continuum of care will adhere to the standards of HRSA and HIPAA;
- The definition of the ideal continuum of care for the Central Texas Planning Area will reflect the consensus and collaborative effort of the Central Texas HIV/AIDS Planning Council; and
- The ideal continuum of care will include substantive input from PLWHA and providers.

## Principal Investigator

Monica L. Wendel, Dr.P.H., M.A.

## Project Dates

2003

## Communities Involved

Central Texas HIV Planning Council Region  
Brazos Valley Health Service Delivery Area  
Waco Health Service Delivery Area  
Austin Health Service Delivery Area  
Temple-Killeen Health Service Delivery Area  
Concho Plateau Health Service Delivery Area

## Funder

Texas Department of State Health Services

## Outcomes

- The final continuum of care encouraged a service coordination model. Key features of the model included:
  - *Core and Additional Services*
    - The model divides services into three broad categories:
      - 1) health related services;
      - 2) psychosocial services; and
      - 3) support services.
    - Each broad category includes key services recommended by HRSA. Each key service can be broken down into more specific services.
  - *Measurable Outcomes*
    - Establishment of provider networks
    - Existence of formal agreements between providers
    - Referral patterns by case managers
    - Service utilization by PLWHA

- *Rationale for Ideal Array of Services*
  - These services are offered in an interconnected system so that each service provider is aware of other services and can refer a consumer to the primary service coordination organization, confident that the consumer will be able to get the services he or she needs—within the same category or a different category.
  - The services compose a circle around the consumer and encompass the case manager so that both the consumer and case manager work together to assure complete access and utilization of all needed services.