

# Evaluation of a Medication and Treatment Adherence Curriculum in Recently Released HIV Positive Ex-Offenders from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice System

## Project Summary & Goals

In 2009, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) found that less than 30 percent of Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) HIV positive offenders enrolled in the Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) and filled their HIV anti-retroviral therapy (ART) medications (Baillargeon, J. Giordano, T.P., Rich, J.D., et al., 2009). Recently, DSHS and TDCJ have implemented system-wide interventions to increase the number of ex-offenders enrolling in THMP, local HIV service agencies, and filling medication prescriptions. In addition to these system-wide interventions, TDCJ, DSHS, and AIDS Foundation Houston developed an educational intervention, *Somebody Cares*, to be implemented by TDCJ peer educators with offenders with chronic disease, including HIV, 3 months prior to their release date. The curriculum is being piloted by TDCJ at 5 sites within the system.

The Center for Community Health Development (CCHD) was contracted to evaluate the intervention's effects by conducting a telephone-based survey with participating HIV positive ex-offenders at 45 days, 90 days, and 6 months after their release. The evaluation will examine the effects of the *Somebody Cares* curriculum on behaviors, intentions, attitudes, knowledge and self-efficacy related to medication and treatment adherence and caring for their disease.

## Principal Investigators

Heather R. Clark, MSPH  
Kelly Drake, MPH

## Project Dates

2011-2012

## Communities Involved

Focuses on recently released ex-offenders living with HIV/AIDS from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice living in Texas

## Funder

AIDS Foundation Houston  
Texas Department of State Health Services