Ending the HIV Epidemic: The Role of Provider Advocacy

Melanie Thompson, MD
Chair, HIVMA
Steering Committee Member, RWMPC

Michelle Ogle, MD
Board Member, HIVMA
Steering Committee Member, RWMPC

Moderator: Andrea Weddle, Executive Director, HIVMA

ACTHIV
April 5, 2018
Who We Are

• HIVMA represents diversity of HIV health care providers and promote quality care by advocating for policies that ensure a comprehensive and humane response to the AIDS pandemic.

• Represent more than 6,000 HIV health care providers and researchers.

• Sponsors the Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition

• Nested within the Infectious Diseases Society of America
Advocating for People with HIV & Providers
2018 Priorities

• Health care access & coverage – Medicaid, Marketplace coverage, fair drug pricing
• Federal funding for CDC, HRSA’s Ryan White, NIH, Global Health
• Evidenced-based prevention – syringe exchange, safe consumption sites, comprehensive sex ed
• Reducing stigma and discrimination
• Addressing social determinants of health
Recent Wins

• Averted Repeal of the Affordable Care Act (2017)

• Congress rejected the President’s 2018 budget
  – Sustained funding for the Ryan White Program
  – Increased NIH funding by $3 billion
  – Increased CDC funding for Viral Hepatitis by $5 million and STD $5 million
  – Increased HOPWA funding by $19 million
  – Maintained funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative
  – Increased funding for the opioid response by $3.3 billion
Call to Action: ID & the Opioid Epidemic

• Heightened prevention
• Enhanced epi and surveillance data
• Build health care provider capacity
• Expand access to HIV, HCV & other ID treatment & to addiction treatment
• Research & support for models to co-treat addiction & infections
Responding to the STD Epidemic

The Evidence That Increased Syphilis Testing Controls Syphilis Is Compelling: What Is Needed to Act?

Jeffrey D. Klausner

Clinical Infectious Diseases, Volume 65, Issue 3, 1 August 2017, Pages 396–397, https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/clx329
Published: 13 April 2017  Article history ▼

• Engaging with CDC
• Promoting STD screening & treatment
• Addressing barriers to treatment
• Increasing provider awareness & education
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition

• Created by HIVMA to give providers a voice in Ryan White program and policy discussions

• Membership free to Ryan White medical providers and program administrators

• Stay up-to-date on Ryan White policy updates and advocacy opportunities

• Join us at our annual luncheon at IDWeek
RWMPC Advocacy

RWMPC builds strong relationships with policy makers:

- Meets with Congressional offices
- Submits Congressional testimony
- Participates in Congressional briefings
- Hosts clinic visits for Congress and Administration
- Meets with key Administration leaders
- Serves as direct line of communication to providers
HOW TO GET INVOLVED
Is Effective Advocacy Possible Now? YES!

• Don’t be distracted by the **noise & chaos**
• Effective education & advocacy principles remain the same – **learn them & stay the course!**

• **Adapting** to the new environment means:
  • Building **new relationships**
  • Using arguments and techniques **persuasive to your audience**
Advocacy Challenges & Opportunities

- Health care and funding issues have been urgent all year

- Party affiliations don’t always equal policy position

- Some issue campaigns take years to accomplish:
  - Think long-term
  - Marshall data
  - Don’t give up!
HIV Medical Providers Are Effective Advocates

• Viewed as **responsible**

• **Knowledgeable** and **expert**

• Affiliated with **important community institutions** – hospitals, universities, health centers

• Can **simplify complex issues** – akin to patient education

• Know a lot of people, so are **influential**
Taking Action

- Call your Congressional Representatives
- Respond to advocacy alerts
- Use social media to engage with policymakers
- Organize meetings with your Congressional members or their staff in their district offices
- Submit op-eds or letters to the editor to your local paper
- Invite Congressional members to visit your clinics

(202) 224-3121
The Power of Clinic Visits

- **Show and tell** powerfully communicates the outcomes and effectiveness of comprehensive HIV treatment.

- **Clinic visits are a good advocacy tool** because they provide that opportunity to show and tell.

- Visits to my Ryan White clinic in rural Henderson, NC demonstrate the clinic’s and patients’ successes and challenges.

- **RWMPC can help you** plan an effective clinic visit!
Hot Topics – Provider Voices Needed

• **State Medicaid Waivers**
  – Weigh in on requests to impose work requirements and other enrollment barriers

• **Opioid Epidemic**
  – Educate policymakers on the effectiveness of syringe exchange

• **340B Program**
  – Share how 340B helps your clinic or hospital support HIV prevention and care

• **HIV Criminalization Laws**
  – Join efforts to reform state laws and policies
HIVMA & RWMPC -- Here to Help

• How to webinars, fact sheets, talking points & more...
  www.hivma.org
  www.hivma/rwpworks
OPEN FORUM
Contact Us, Follow Us and Get Involved

Melanie Thompson, MD  
Chair, HIVMA  
drmt@mindspring.com

Michelle Ogle, MD  
Board Member, HIVMA  
mdenise.ogle@gmail.com

Andrea Weddle  
Executive Director, HIVMA  
aweddle@hivma.org

@hivma  
@drmt

http://cqrcengage.com/idsociety/

Action Center