

POINT SOURCE YOUTH PRESENTS:

HIV & COVID-19: A YOUTH-LED DISCUSSION FOR PROVIDERS

- Ronald Johnson, *Co-Founder, and Board President of Point Source Youth*
- Antoinette Jones, *Peer Navigator, SisterLove*
- Mahlon Randolph, *Public Health Educator/Community Organizer*
- Adonis Timone, *Independent Artist*

COVID-19 has created a new normal that all of us are adjusting to. Youth who are living with HIV and youth who may be precariously housed have additional worries that need to be addressed with access to resources, community, and education. During this youth-led panel, providers were given incredible insight on access to care, policy and advocacy efforts, and how to best reach and support young people living with HIV.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Youth are still experiencing homelessness and need access to resources. Many youth can not access many vital activities if the provider is closed, so it is important to follow CDC guidelines to provide services safely for youth and for staff.



Q + A

What can service providers do to listen, empower, and provide better care to young folks living with HIV during COVID?

As a provider, having a relationship with your patient is important. Understanding them and not making it seem like a job is key. If someone comes in frantic, make sure you can calm them down, or during intake have a casual conversation to make sure that person feels humanized in that session. Adherence is so important, making sure they're staying on meds and encouraging them to know everyone is going through something.

How can we do a better job around education to ensure folks know more before contracting HIV?

We can all become champions for sex education for all. We need to learn about sex education before having sex. We need to learn about sex, period. The aversion to HIV is based on stigma and misinformation. We've instilled stigma in our culture and community and it keeps us from having those conversations around HIV.

IN-DEPTH

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, essential support services, and medications for low-income people living with HIV who are uninsured and underserved. Ryan White serves a diverse population of people living with HIV from all races, ages, and geographies. More than half of people living with HIV receive services through the Ryan White program. We know that access to all medical care and treatment provides better health outcomes for PLWHA. We also know that 5.9% of Ryan White recipients ages 13-24 are unstably housed, but 76.3% of youth enrolled in Ryan White are virally suppressed.

Ryan White provides funding for medical and supportive services, funds to improve quality of service, comprehensive primary health care, sexual healthcare, outpatient and supportive services, as well as clinical training for staff.

You can learn more about Ryan White program and search for a provider in your community online here: [About the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#)

RESOURCES

- [Advocates for Youth](#)
- [What Works: Sexual Health Education | Adolescent and School Health](#)
- [COVID-19 and the State of the STD Field Resources | Let's Stop HIV Together](#)



MENTAL HEALTH IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ASPECT. IT'S VERY HARD FOR PEOPLE DEALING WITH ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, ABUSIVE SITUATIONS OR HOMELESSNESS. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING BEHIND THE DOOR WHEN TALKING TO A PATIENT. UNDERSTAND THAT PERSON IS A HUMAN AND MORE THAN JUST YOUR JOB. - ADONIS TIMONE



ACTIONS TO TAKE NOW

1. Advocate for people at the intersections of HIV and homelessness. Housing is healthcare. Healthcare is housing. Both are a human right.
2. Understand the need for comprehensive sex education. Statistics show that comprehensive sex education in schools leads to better health outcomes for your community and makes young people feel seen in their individual identities.
3. Be sure to check in on clients instead of waiting on them to come to you - especially those who have previously fallen out of care.



THINK ABOUT WHERE YOUTH ARE AT MENTALLY, AND WHERE THEY ARE IN THEIR LIVES. I LIVE BY MYSELF AND I GOT A REMINDER FROM MY PHARMACY ABOUT MY MEDICATION...IT'S NICE TO KNOW SOMEONE IS KEEPING TRACK AND CARES... THE MINDSET TO KEEP IS TO BE SUPPORTIVE AND UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WANT OR WHAT YOU WOULD FEEL IF YOU WERE HAVING THIS EXPERIENCE? -MAHLON RANDOLPH

RESOURCES & LINKS

- [April jobs report: 20.5M become unemployed as COVID-19 spreads](#)
- [Current Employment Statistics - CES \(National\): US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- [About the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#)
- [COVID-19 and the State of the STD Field](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [COVID-19: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE](#)
- [Home | Let's Stop HIV Together](#)
- [Advocates for Youth Youtube Video](#)
- [Resources | Let's Stop HIV Together](#)