



AIHA Update

News from the American International Health Alliance

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Russian Clinicians Travel to United States to Learn about HIV Prevention for MARPS, Coordinated Care for PLWHIV

UNAIDS Study Tour to Focus on Coordinated HIV Prevention, Care, and Social Support for Targeted Populations, including Youth and Injecting Drug Users

WASHINGTON, DC, February 7, 2011 — A high-level delegation of Russian clinicians and policymakers began today a week of intensive education and training designed to expand their knowledge of coordinated systems of HIV/AIDS responses, in particular policies and best practices related to HIV prevention for youth and most at risk populations (MARPs). Another key focus of this week-long study tour will be learning about exemplary social support programs for people living with HIV, in particular injecting drug users.

With support from UNAIDS, the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) organized this study tour, which features visits to model HIV/AIDS programs in New York City; Providence, Rhode, Island; and the Washington DC Metro area.

In New York, the delegates will spend time at the State Department of Health AIDS Institute, where they will learn about organizational policy development, including the management, coordination, and integration of HIV services — particularly those for special populations, such as youth and injecting drug users — at the state and local level. They will also discuss community-based planning strategies, quality management, and budgeting processes. Additionally, the delegates will spend time at The AIDS Service Center and Ryan-NENA, two community-based sites that are highly successful at providing a comprehensive battery of HIV prevention, treatment, and support services.

The second leg of the study tour will be conducted near Providence, where the Russian clinicians will learn about many local and statewide model programs at Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR) in the city of Fall River. SSTAR's continuum of care is acknowledged

to be one of the most extensive and successful treatment, care, and support networks in Rhode Island and represents an excellent model for health system reform efforts. Delegates will be greeted there on February 9 by Fall River Mayor, William A. Flanagan, who will present the Russian specialists with honorary keys to the city.

Representatives from a number of area governmental and nongovernmental organizations dedicated to HIV/AIDS-related issues and services will be onsite to share information about their respective programs and the importance of coordinated, comprehensive care and support for people living with, or at risk of contracting, HIV. These include officials from Project Aware (prevention with positives), the Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Bureau (government cooperation with NGOs and prevention planning groups), the BOLD Coalition (substance abuse and addiction prevention and support), Teenagers Against Drugs and Alcohol (a youth-led prevention program of BOLD), and the Center for Teen Empowerment (awareness and mobilization for youth at risk). In addition, the director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Rhode Island State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration will be on hand to answer questions about governmental funding mechanisms.

The Russian delegates will conclude their study tour in Washington, DC, where they will visit local substance abuse treatment and prevention services, including the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Kolmac Clinic, and the US Department of Health and Human Services, where they will meet with experts from the HIV/AIDS Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

AIHA has extensive experience conducting exchanges and study tours to the United States and to partnership sites in Eurasia and Africa. Through its extensive contacts within the US health sector and close working relationships with US Federal and State Government agencies, AIHA is able to structure and manage highly targeted study tours to US communities and recognized centers of excellence and to provide especially comprehensive and substantive agendas for large or small groups. Study tour themes have ranged from nursing, primary care, women's health, health management, and informatics. Over the past decade, many of these study tours have focused on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care.

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