Let us help your patients get linked!
Roadmap for today:

- What is Linkage-to-Care?
- How it applies in NH
- Who we are as a team
- Current Linkage-to-Care Team Projects
- Future goals of the program
- Contact information
- Resources
Traditionally, Linkage-to-Care (L2C) is term used for getting a newly diagnosed HIV patient linked to an appropriate provider for treatment.
Expand upon that HIV/AIDS linkage foundation by connecting various diagnoses to medical care/testing: Hepatitis C, STIs (Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Chlamydia), PrEP/PEP patients, and those seeking Partner Services/Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT).

Care Re-engagement- for those who have ‘fallen out’ or are at risk of ‘falling out” of care.

Connecting people who use drugs (PWUD) to harm reduction programs like Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) around NH.

Basically, we want to make sure if a patient/client wants to see a provider or request services, we to help connect them!
PrEP: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis—a pill or injection you can take to prevent HIV.

PEP: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis—medication taken after a known exposure to HIV. It can prevent HIV if started within 72 hours of the last exposure.

EPT: Expedited Partner Therapy--EPT is an evidence based practice that decreases rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea reinfection by increasing the number of sex partners appropriately treated for chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. However, it is currently only recommended for heterosexual partners. See more: tinyurl.com/EPTinNH OR:
Neat. Why should I care?

- To share resources available to citizens at the state ‘system’ level.

- The L2C team is here to be a beacon for clients, and assist with navigating their diagnoses.

- To create meaningful relationships with NH providers and organizations.
Who the heck is in the L2C Program?

- Rachel Schubert Kusch (Pronouns: she/her/hers)
  - Program Manager

  - Has been working in Health Education and Public Health since the last century
  - Known to arrange lengthy road trips to try delicious food
  - Displaced New Yorker-turned-proud Granite Stater
  - INTJ (introverted, intuitive, thinking, and judging)

That’s nice, Rachel….Can I have a treat now?
Ann Goulbourne, RN (Pronouns-Always Ask!)

- Sexual Health Nurse Specialist

- Always eager to educate healthcare providers and the public that Sexual Health is just ... *Health*
- Ann believes in reducing stigma, promoting extra-genital testing, and the power of a thorough sexual health history
- Prior to State service, Ann worked as an Obstetrics and Gynecology nurse in various settings including urban and rural hospitals, ambulatory care, contract travel, and Planned Parenthood in Boston
- When not battling the outbreaks of gonorrhea and syphilis, Ann can often be found knitting or mapping out directions to the nearest grist mill.
Amanda Ladd (Pronouns: she/her/hers)

- Infectious Disease Care Coordinator

- 8+ years serving people living with HIV (PLWH) and people who use drugs (PWUD)

- Previous roles included providing medical case management to PLWH and providing counseling to PWUD in a medication assisted treatment (MAT) setting.

- Undergraduate degree in Addiction Studies

- Self-proclaimed cat lady

Clarice the cat rivals the ever popular ‘Grumpy Cat’
Krissy Nikitas (Pronouns: she/her/hers)

- Infectious Disease Care Coordinator
  - 12+ years of internal medicine, oncology, and infectious disease experience
  - Specialties in Hepatitis C, HIV, Drug-User health, Corrections Health, and 340B
  - Pink-haired (for now) wife and mom of 2 humans, a cat, a dog, and sometimes a fish.
  - Loves cycling, running, quoting The Simpsons, and decompressing to the Golden Girls

Yes, that is a Golden Girls mask.
Current NH L2C Projects

- Outreach and linkage to safe, stigma-free, healthcare and/or social services

- PrEP Connect: website to include more focus on HIV prevention in the IVDU community

- Data-to-Care/Care Engagement Program (CEP): Getting patients previously diagnosed with HIV and connected to care, back into care if found to have fallen out of care (re-engagement).

- Working with the state’s SSPs to create more comprehensive offerings for clients (Currently 2 contracts overseen by L2C, that cover 5 of the states current SSPs).

- Training/education_updates on HIV/HCV/STIs/Sexual Health/PrEP/PEP/EPT/SSPs/Drug-User Health (ask us how!)
More of our projects....

- Working towards increased offerings to NH citizens: free condoms and lube, at-home HIV test kits, partner services, naloxone distribution

- Educating NH providers about 340B sub-grantee status and eligibility

- Collaborating with Dartmouth Hitchcock and NH Department of Corrections on better discharge planning and resident resources for those leaving the DOC and re-entering community life (ie: Naloxone, harm reduction resources, care resources, medications, employment, cell phones, residential assistance, etc.)
Goals for the L2C program’s future

- Increased visibility, communication, and collaboration with NH community providers, organizations, and citizens
- Creating comprehensive drug-user health models for care
- Increased continuing education for NH providers around HIV/HCV/STIs/Sexual Health/PrEP/PEP/EPT/SSPs/Drug-User Health
- Increase the visibility and ‘normalcy’ around all the above services to remove the stigma around self-advocacy for better health.
- Making all citizens aware of the resources available for assistance through the state of NH (RW CARE, EPT, Medicaid benefits, testing and treatment, etc.)
- Continued work with the Department of Corrections to improve quality of life and increase self-advocacy and education/training for residents.
Wow, that’s cool! So how can I get in contact with L2C if we have a patient/client that needs you? Do you have more questions?

Call us: 603-271-4496 and ask for the Linkage-to-Care program

Email us: L2C@dhhs.nh.gov
Resources

- Syringe Service Program Initiative Brochure
- Granite State PrEP Connect
- NH HIV Planning Group (HPG)
- Free Condom Access—mailed directly to clients
- Testing for HIV/Hep C/STIs
- Syringe Services Programs in NH
- The NH Ryan White CARE Program
- NH Legal Aid
- NH STI/STD Prevention/Treatment/Forms
Any Questions