



# Hepatitis C: Substance Abuse, Hepatitis C and Linkage to Care for Those that were Formally Incarcerated

Presenters:

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# CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

## Corey Rosmarin- DeStefano, BA



**Corey Rosmarin- DeStefano has nothing to disclose.**

# North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI)



North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI) is a non-profit organization in Newark, New Jersey that provides medical care and support services for highly vulnerable and hard to reach patient populations (e.g., homeless, HIV/AIDS, transgender, MSM, injection drug users, sex workers), 83% of whom are people of color. The North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI) is one of New Jersey's largest and most comprehensive community-based organization. Our mission is to "empower our clients by reducing social and health disparities in the greater Newark area." Over the past 30 years of service, NJCRI has adapted and changed to serve the community. We have integrated, high quality, caring and co-located programs at our single-site facility providing a one stop shop model. Our services include primary medical care, medical case management, mental health, psychiatry, substance abuse treatment, LGBTQI services, education, prevention, counseling & testing, broad-based support services, early intervention services, research and specialized addiction services including syringe exchange to over 11,000 unduplicated clients.



# Integrity House



Integrity House provides a holistic approach to addiction treatment which includes care coordination with mental health service, medical services and education and employment readiness services. Integrity provides short term and long term residential programs along with Intensive outpatient treatment and supportive housing. Located in Newark and Secaucus, NJ Integrity Houses half way house program assist both men and woman in sustaining sobriety, reentering the community, securing employment and focusing on relationships with family.



# Hepatitis C Linkage to Care and Treatment program



NJCRI and Integrity House began our collaboration in 2017. The goal was to treat the half way house clients for their hepatitis C at NJCRI and overarching goal was to eradicate Hepatitis C in the half way house facilities. Our program serves both the men and women of the houses in the locations in Newark and Secaucus. The men and women come on different days and NJCRI provides transportation to the patient from Integrity House to NJCRI and back to the Integrity House after the appointment. Dr Jihad Slim is the provider for the program. The nurse at Integrity house coordinates all paperwork, registration, lab results and medical records with the nurse at NJCRI, so when the patient arrives it is a seamless process. Upon arriving at NJCRI the patient is linked to our provider and pharmacy program and medication is arranged for delivery at Integrity house once the insurance verification and prior authorizations are approved. The patient is then followed up and enrolled in other support services if necessary.

During COVID-19 these services did not stop. All medical services were provided by telemedicine and all prescriptions were still being delivered by the pharmacy to both locations for patients.

# Data and Outcomes



In 2018, the New Jersey Department of Health reported in 2018. Viral Hepatitis rates are higher in our service area. In 2018 Chronic Hepatitis C Rates in Essex County were 107.3/100,000 compared to 80.2/100,000 for all of New Jersey.

Our program since inception until 12/31/2019

- 198 patients started Hep C treatment
- 33 were lost to follow up
- 165 completed treatment
- 124 reached SVR
- 41 did not follow up for SVR

# Conclusion



NJCRI and Integrity's House program is still continuing to date. Moving forward we are putting mechanisms in place with our new EMR system and the patient portal to incorporate reminders for follow up appointments and SVR appointments. The Residents of the half way houses sometimes get discharged and we don't have follow up address or area that they relocate to upon discharge. We added follow up address and phone numbers and a follow up contact so we can follow up more easily upon discharge and also offer telemedicine services so travel is not necessary if they move further away from the clinic. The pharmacy will still mail order their medications and lab orders are sent to a lab near the patient to make the transition back to the community seamless for the patient.



Thank you !

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