**Mental Health Committee**

**Meeting Recommendations**

**Monday, February 24, 2014**

**Present**: Michael Noss, John Nelson, Jenna Bardwell, Fran Cournos, Sanjay Sharma, Jeff Beal, Debbie Cestaro-Seifer, Patrick Marsh, Phil Meyers. Tiffani Pestotnik.

 **Recommendations for resource find/development:**

**1.** Mental Health Screening, Evaluation, Follow-up **Algorithms or System Models** – to be used in primary care clinics/health centers providing care to person with, at-risk of, and affected by HIV.

**2.** **Best Practice Programs** incorporating state-of-the-science mental health screening, treatment, and continuity of care for PLWHA.

**3**. **Slide Set**(s) on mental health issues (program inclusion/capacity building; screening, evaluating, diagnosing, treatment, and monitoring; clinical reimbursement/sustainability???) for education of students, multidiscipline providers/clinical staff without mental health expertise to be available to trainers, presenters, and faculty.

**4. Recommendations** for use of varying validated instruments, questionnaires, scales for differing purposes: **screening** (“do we need to have this individual see a mental health professional today”), **diagnosis** (“what is the quantitative measure of this individual’s mental health”), and follow-up/monitoring **evaluation** (“is the intervention having any effect; is the individual improving, progressing, or stable”). Which groups (peds, adolescent, young adult, middle age adult, older adults, ethnic identity, gender identity, socioeconomic class, literacy level. . . .) have validation and reliability studies been done?

**5.** Development of **short educational videos** on cognitive-behavioral techniques, motivational interviewing, anger diffusion, clinic site engagement practices for those at great risk of dropping out of care or not following through with treatment recommendations.

**6. Publish article/opinion paper** on the above – “expert panel of multidisciplinary mental health professionals from the AETC Program review of current evidence, and recommendations accordingly. Perhaps a “where do we stand, and where do we need to go” paper. Similar to what IAPAC did on Engagement in Care:

Ann Intern Med. 2012 Jun 5: Guidelines for improving entry into and retention in care and antiretroviral adherence for persons with HIV: evidence-based recommendations from an International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care panel.