Introduction

• The mission of PolicyLab is to achieve optimal child health and well-being by informing program and policy changes through interdisciplinary research.1

The project was set up prior to my internship with research teams (CHOP, Emory, University of North Carolina Greensboro) and the programmers, Pattern Health, to develop an HCT web-app called "iTransition"

Objective of the Study

"Developing iTransition" aimed to develop an eHealth tool to improve the healthcare transition (HCT) process from pediatric/adolescent to adult care for youth living with HIV in Philadelphia, PA and Atlanta, GA.

Methods

• The project convened a Youth Advisory Board and a Provider Board to gain feedback on the web-app for development.

• My responsibilities entailed updating reference libraries using Endnote software and summarizing local and national HIV and STI incidence and prevalence; contributing to weekly web-app development meetings; attending/taking notes for provider board meetings; and creating provider web-app messaging content.

Results

• The study is still ongoing, but I learned several new skills that will be applicable to my future work by increasing my LGBTQ, HIV, STI, and antiracism competency, using Endnote X9 software to search and compile references to insert citations into literature reviews, web-app development process, specifically content creation.

• I was also able to attend and take notes for various webinars discussing Telehealth and HIV intervention Trials.

Discussion

• mHealth technology can be a great supplemental tool for youth living with HIV to help keep them engaged and retained in care by providing additional support. These tools need to be theory-driven, youth and provider-driven, and adaptable to be relevant and effective.

• Cultural competency is important for care providers and researchers because it is fundamental to establish a good relationship which can impact the patient experience and quality of care.

Questions?

• How can interventions aim to address some of the barriers that affect the quality of HIV healthcare for all youth and young adolescents?

Next Steps

• Usability testing and pilot testing the HCT web-app with 1) youth about to experience HCT compared to a historical control group who do not receive iTransition and 2) providers who facilitate HCT in pediatric/adolescent or adult clinics.

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