HIV Link is now called STAR Community Link, to reflect the STAR Program’s expansion beyond HIV care and its connection to the local and global communities it serves.

The mission of the Special Treatment and Research (STAR) Program is to provide and enhance quality healthcare locally and globally through the integration of treatment, prevention, research, and education.

STAR Health Center Expands Services to Brookdale Hospital Medical Center

On October 22, 2018, the Special Treatment and Research (STAR) Program held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new primary care clinic for people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center. The new clinic, STAR Health Center-Brookdale, formerly known as the Treatment for Life Center, is a collaborative effort between SUNY Downstate and Brookdale Hospital Medical Center. STAR Health Center-Brookdale offers primary medical care, care coordination services (including home visits), specialized hepatitis C education and counseling, mental health counseling, substance use/harm reduction counseling, and PrEP for HIV negative partners.

Established in 1992, the STAR Program is a multidisciplinary care, clinical education, and research program responding to the combined epidemics of HIV, HCV, and substance use in Central Brooklyn. The STAR Program will continue its mission to achieve health equity and create a culture of continuous improvement, integrity, and respect for patients and employees at the STAR Health Center-Brookdale site.

The STAR Health Center-Brookdale was created in partnership between the two medical centers to provide enhanced clinical training, as well as expanded services such as care coordination, home visits, mental health, and substance use counseling at the STAR Health Center-Brookdale. The expansion represents one of 3 new grant awards totaling $7.7 million to expand care coordination, mental health and substance abuse treatment services at the STAR Health Center, its primary care clinic for adults with and at risk for HIV, located at University Hospital of Brooklyn and Brookdale Hospital. The first award of $3.3 million over 2.5 years is from the Ryan White Part A Care Coordination Program for New York City. This award represents a significant increase in funding that will allow STAR to expand care coordination services to PLWHA to the STAR Health Center-Brookdale site. The Care Coordination Program re-engages PLWHA who are lost-to-follow up into consistent medical care and self-directed health promotion activities. The primary strategy is medical case management, which includes assessment, treatment plan development, and regular plan updates. Patient Navigators are key to the program, providing home visits, appointment accompaniment, ongoing support, education, and directly observed therapy, when needed.

“By combining the work and expertise of two medical institutions, the STAR Health Center will be able to bring patient-centered, comprehensive care to a population that we know benefits when their providers work together,” said Jack DeHovitz, MD, MPH, MHCDS, and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor who will lead the STAR Health Center-Brookdale. “I am proud to spearhead this new initiative and look forward to improving the health of those living with HIV.”

“Our role of caring for our neighbors is one that we take seriously—we are committed to keeping our community healthy,” said SUNY Downstate president Wayne J. Riley, MD, MBA, MPH, MACP. “This is a significant effort in our ongoing partnership with One Brooklyn Health and Brookdale to best serve Brooklyn residents. With the extended grant, we are afforded greater opportunities to expand our services and help more people live longer and healthier lives.”

“Brookdale and One Brooklyn Health are excited about strengthening our relationship with SUNY Downstate and other community partners to provide enhanced care to those we serve,” said Brookdale Medical Center President and CEO and One Brooklyn Health System Chief Operating Officer Dominick Stanzione.
STAR Health Center clinicians and staff had 8 of 9 submitted abstracts accepted for presentation at the annual National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment, which will be held in Oxon Hill, Maryland in December. Over 6,000 submissions were filed with the HIV/AIDS Bureau of HRSA, the conference’s sponsor. STAR’s abstracts include: 1) Improving Cervical Cancer Screening Rates by the 3 C’s: Capacity, Compensation and (Trauma Informed) Care; Poster ID: 12284 (Jameela Yusuff); 2) Use of Motivational Interviewing and Electronic Reminders to Improve Viral Load Suppression at Safety Net HIV Clinic; Poster ID: 12297 (Tyler Martinson, Morgan Gebhardt, Peggy Noel, Elliot DeHaan, Jameela Yusuff); and 3) Integrating Health Literacy Assessment into HIV Urban Clinic; Poster ID: 12290 (Aldean Morris, Lorraine Sanassi, Magna Robinson, Jessica Yager, Jameela Yusuff). Oral presentations include: 1) Evaluating Barriers and Facilitators of Transition from Adolescent to Adult Care Among HIV Infected Individuals (Jeffrey Birnbaum, Jessica Yager, Magna Robinson); 2) Utilizing Capacity Grant to Minimize Gaps in HIV Care Continuum (Jameela Yusuff, Susan Holman, Ron Calangi); 3) Taking up the Baton: How HIV Patient Navigators Expedite Specialty Referrals to Reduce Health Disparities (Lori Hurley, Vanessa Lauradin); and 4) Identifying Linkage to Care Strategies from Organizational Care Cascade Data at SUNY Downstate Medical Center (Jameela Yusuff).

PROGRAM UPDATES

4TH ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY PROGRAM

Friday, November 30, 2018
12:30pm-2:00pm
Alumni Auditorium
SUNY Downstate

Lunch Reception to follow
Classroom 1A

Survivors’ Quilt Display
10:00am-4:00pm, Atrium

SAVE THE DATES

The Adolescent Education Program-Teens Helping Each Other (THEO) presents its Annual World AIDS Day Teen Town Hall Event

Are you PrEP’n and Reppin? 

Brooklyn Association of Teen Educators (BATES) & Teens Helping Each Other (THEO) presents

WORLD AIDS DAY TEEN TOWN HALL
12.5.18
4:30PM-7PM
SUNY Downstate Health Science Building
995 Long Island Rd
Brooklyn, NY 11209
Free Food, Free HIV/STI Testing, Performances, and much more!

Voice your opinions and ask questions about your health!

COME JOIN US!

Register @https://theworldaidsevent2018.eventbrite.com
Jose has extensive expertise on both the client and platform side, delivering award-winning ideas for global corporations and brands.

Jhavon Kornegay joined the STAR Program as a Licensed Social Worker in September 2018. She is a recent graduate of Touro College School of Social Work. Jhavon has experience working with patients with neurodevelopmental disabilities, serious and persistent mental illness, and substance use disorders. At the STAR Health Center, she will be providing counseling to HIV+ and seronegative patients through the Supportive Counseling Program.

Sasha Mayers joined the STAR Program in October 2018 as a Prevention Navigator on the PrEP Team. Prior to joining STAR, Sasha served as a Patient Coordinator and Retention Manager for the Audiology Department at University Hospital of Brooklyn. As part of the practicum experience for her MPH degree program, Sasha assisted Dr. Yusuff with the HIV cascade for the NYS Department of Health.

Alberto Medina-Caviedes joined the STAR Program in September 2018 as a Prevention Navigator on the PrEP Team. Prior to joining STAR, Alberto served as PrEP & PEP Specialist at CAMBA, Inc. He has experience working with the LGBTQ+ community and HIV prevention services. He has been trained by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on HIV, hepatitis C and harm reduction services, and is bilingual (English/Spanish).

Shaniee Sherriffe, BS, joined the STAR Program as a Care Coordination Patient Navigator in September 2018. Shaniee earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services from NY City College of Technology and has previous navigation experience at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center and Pierre Toussaint Family Health Center.

John (“Jack”) Spencer, PMHNP-BC, is a board-certified Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner who joined the STAR Health Center in May 2018. He received his training in advance-practice psychiatric nursing at SUNY Stony Brook. He has experience in the inpatient psychiatric environment and has a small private practice where he specializes in psychopharmacotherapy and individual psychotherapy.

The third award is a $2.5 million grant over 5 years from SAMHSA for the “Brooklyn SUD Services Project” (Melendez, PI). The project will identify adults with a serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders (COD) who are living with or at risk for HIV and/or hepatitis, implement evidence-based interventions, provide HIV and hepatitis screening and hepatitis vaccinations, and engage and retain those testing positive for HIV and/or hepatitis and/or substance use disorders (SUD) to primary care and behavioral health services at the STAR Health Center, SUNY Downstate’s outpatient primary care clinic for adults with and at risk for HIV.

The second award of $1,940,000 over 4 years from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is to conduct the “STAR Health Center Integrated Mental Health and Primary Care Services Project” (Melendez, PI). The project will identify adults with a serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders (COD) who are living with or at risk for HIV and/or hepatitis, implement evidence-based interventions, provide HIV and hepatitis screening and hepatitis vaccinations, and engage and retain those testing positive for HIV and/or hepatitis and/or substance use disorders (SUD) to primary care and behavioral health services at the STAR Health Center, SUNY Downstate’s outpatient primary care clinic for adults with and at risk for HIV.

The STAR Program (DeHovitz, PI) recently received 3 new grant awards totaling $7.7 million to expand medical case management (MCM), care coordination and substance abuse treatment services. The first award of $3.3 million over 2.5 years is from the Ryan White Part A Care Coordination Program for New York City. This award represents a significant increase in funding that will allow STAR to expand medical case management and care coordination services to people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center, further strengthening its existing relationship with Brookdale’s HIV program. The MCM Program re-engages PLWHA who are lost-to-follow up into consistent medical care and self-directed health promotion activities. The primary strategy is medical case management, which includes assessment, treatment plan development, and regular plan updates. Patient Navigators are key to the program, providing home visits, appointment accompaniment, ongoing support, education and directly observed therapy, when needed.
Patient Care, Community and Medical Education, and Research Programs are listed below. For more information, please call the numbers listed below or the STAR Program at: (718) 270-2301 OR visit our website at: www.starprogram.nyc

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

STAR Health Center Operations Manager (Staff Associate)

Brief Description of Duties: Oversee and coordinate all day to day patient care activities and operations to ensure optimal patient experience. Work with staff across disciplines to ensure smooth patient flow including clinic and site assignment, timely start and end of sessions, completion of all elements of initial/annual visits, and team meeting, training, and evaluations as needed for effective patient care. Ensure compliance with internal policies and regulatory requirements such as NYS Department of Health, Joint Commission and the Accreditation Committee for Quality Assurance. Directly supervise nursing, nutrition and clerical staff, ensuring appropriate staffing assignments, efficiency and responsiveness to patient needs to facilitate patient enrollment and retention in care at SHC and research programs. Manage and evaluate nursing staff in the provision of patient care, and administration of the operations of the STAR Health Center (SHC), including all physical plant related issues (coordination with housekeeping, maintenance, and trade shops); ensuring efficient management of the SHC front desk, supplies, and equipment. Participate in the leadership of the SHC Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program; directly responsible for the identification of QI measures, tracking and development of systems for improvement. Develop, maintain, and execute SHC specific policies and procedures governing all aspects of service delivery, in compliance with institutional and regulatory requirements. Address/resolve consumer requests/complaints through discussion, arbitration, conflict resolution and collaboration with UHB Patient Relations. Additional responsibilities and duties as required. Required Qualifications: Bachelor’s Degree in nursing, health care administration, public health or related field. Minimum of three (3) years of supervisory experience in ambulatory care. Experience with MSM, LGBTQ and gender non-conforming, sex workers, HIV and HIV-positive individuals, substance users and/or other high risk populations. Effective written and verbal skills. Experience with EHR and emergency office functions. Preferred Qualifications: Master’s Degree in health care administration, public health or related field preferred. Management experience in an academic medical center preferred. Hours: M-F, 9:00AM to 5:00PM (with some Monday & Wednesday, evenings required). Salary Range: commensurate with education and qualifications. Persons interested in the above position should send a resume along with a cover letter to careers@downstate.edu. Please include: Job Title (STAFF ASSOC, STAR/CMS OPERATIONS MANAGER), Line (23560) and Posting ID (17690). All successful candidates must undergo various background checks, maintain credentials required for continued employment and adhere to the SUNY-DMC UHC Principles of Behavior. Clinical Faculty, and Allied Health professionals must receive and retain a valid New York State medical license.  

Patient Navigator

 Duties & Responsibilities: Provide field-based health education and case management on a weekly or biweekly basis to patients with HIV, HCV and/or substance use dependency and/or mental health issues. Assist the field through electronic health record (EHR) notes, EHR messaging, participation in multidisciplinary care conferences and phone town h Hallows. Participate in multidisciplinary case conferences and phone town halls. Participate in interdisciplinary care conferences. Participate in SHC multidisciplinary case conference meetings and other SHC meetings, as required, including Inpatient, Perinatal, and HEAT. Required Qualifications: Bachelors Degree in BA/BS or LMSW/LCSW/LMH/C or RN/LPN degree with at least two years of case management experience or three years’ experience in clinical or community resource or case coordination or two years of supervision or program management experience in a clinical or care coordination setting. Experience preferred. Experience working with HIV and substance use and/ or mentally ill chemically addicted (MICA) populations preferred. Bilingual in English/Haitian Creole or English/Spanish preferred. Salary Range: $37,500-40,000. Hours of work: Full-time, Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm, 37.5 hours per week. To apply, submit cover letter and resume to Lori Hurley, LMSW, MPH, Assistant Director, Care Coordination, at Lori.Hurley@downstate.edu

Care Coordinator

The STAR Program is seeking a Care Coordinator to support our Patient Navigators, as part of our interdisciplinary team and help individuals navigate the health care and public benefits systems. This is a great opportunity for social justice advocates or gap year students who desire a position that addresses the social determinants of health through provision of case coordination services to people living with HIV. Patient Navigators address barriers to care such as food insecurity, housing instability, substance use dependency and/or mental health issues by conducting home visits, arranging transportation, accompanying patients to appointments and providing health promotion and adherence support. Duties: Provide direct supervision to 3-4 Patient Navigators. Monthly reviews will include face-to-face assessment of staff competency and chart-based review. Work to ensure quality of service delivery and review of field based encounters. Perform a comprehensive assessment and develop an interdisciplinary treatment plan. Attend interdisciplinary comprehensive treatment plan meetings and provide written feedback. Assist patient with relevant applications and other paperwork for benefits and other support services. Document all patient activities in the EHR and on required data forms for submission into eSHARE or an alternative data system. Required Qualifications: AA, AAS degree or equivalent educational credits with at least 3 years of experience working in an agency providing case management, public health or related services. Experience working with LGBT populations. Experience with outreach and use of social media.

Salary Range: $37,500-40,000. Hours: Full-time, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm, 37.5 hours per week. To apply, submit cover letter and resume to: Lori Hurley, LMSW, MPH, Assistant Director, Care Coordination, at Lori.Hurley@downstate.edu

Care Coordinator (CCR Program) - STAR Health Center (SHC)/Brookdale: The purpose of this position is to provide case coordination and treatment adherence services to engage and retain people living with HIV (PLWH) in care and treatment, thereby improving health outcomes and reducing onward transmission. The goal is to engage patients who are not enrolled in care, and work with health care providers to enroll patients. The position reports directly to: Lori Hurley, LMSW, MPH, Assistant Director, Care Coordination, at Lori.Hurley@downstate.edu

Link
Guarantor: The author(s)

**Title:** Community Linkage Specialist

**Duties:** Conduct outreach and re-engagement activities using calls, text messages, social media and home visits; contact clients before every visit to ensure they keep their substance use treatment appointments. Participate in team meetings and in-service training. Coordinate with substance use treatment providers and counselors as needed to help clients stay in treatment. Collaborate with other disciplines and programs to develop comprehensive care plans for clients. Participate in the provision of counseling to LGBTQ and gender non-conforming populations and/or families. Complete and maintain required documentation and reports. Establish and maintain client records in a HIPAA compliant manner. Attend meetings and trainings as requested. Participate in quality improvement activities.

**Qualifications:** Bilingual English/Haitian Creole preferred. Experience working with medically behaviorally complex populations with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, HIV, Hepatitis C, and women’s health disorders. Experience working with people who are hard to reach and who have complex needs. Experience working with clients who have HIV, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, and other STI’s. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office Applications. 

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**Title:** Behavioral Health Care Manager

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