



The 24th Annual HIV/STD Conference is less than a week away, and we're so excited to have more than 400 of partners and grantees join us!

If you can't make the event, watch online as we live stream four of our most anticipated sessions <http://multimedia.illinois.gov/dph/dph-live.html> :

Wednesday, October 28

10:15-11:00 AM CST

“DDF-Ub2”: HIV Stigma in LGBT Communities, with Noël Gordon, Human Rights Campaign. “Stigma” is a word often thrown around but seldom understood. This session will interrogate three dimensions of stigma in the context of HIV prevention and LGBT communities, as well as identify possible models for reducing said stigma.

11:00 AM-12:00 PM CST

Women and PrEP: The Status, the Research, What Happens Next? with Anna Forbes, writer, policy analyst and women’s health activist; Gretchen Weiss, National Association of County and City Health Officials. Summary of what we know about women’s use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and the status of its availability and uptake by women in the US today and an overview of what local health departments can do to support PrEP implementation, with a particular focus on how local health departments can increase PrEP awareness and access among women in their communities.

Thursday, October 29

8:00 – 9:00 AM CST

HIV as a Shared Experience: Intimacy Uncertainty, Identity, and Disease Management of Serodiscordant Couples with Scott Eldredge, Western Carolina University. While individuals diagnosed with HIV face many challenges as they learn to manage their disease, their life partners also feel the disruption and life changing effects of the illness. The session will discuss how an HIV diagnosis becomes a shared experience for romantic partners, and will explore how the couple navigates issues of intimacy, condom use, decisions relating to the use of PrEP, and overall disease management.

12:45 – 1:45 PM CST

Greater Than AIDS: Speak Out with Bryan Bautista, Howard Brown Health Center; Antonio Elizondo, Test Positive Aware Network; Jason Elliott, Virginia Department of Public Health; Josh Rice, University of St. Francis; Ken Williams, Ken Like Barbie, HIV Activist. Speak Out engages the LGBTQ community in confronting the silence and stigma that still too often surrounds HIV/AIDS. Gay and bisexual men and transgender women account for most new HIV infections in the U.S. Speak Out promotes more open communication in relationships, with health care providers, and within community.

Follow #HIVConf15 on twitter for photos, quotes and quips from the event!

Visit the website: <https://ipha.com/event/details/10/24th-annual-illinois-hiv-std-conference>