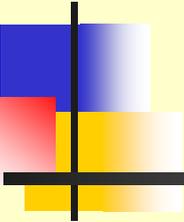


# Selecting Effective Behavioral Interventions for Men who have Sex with Men



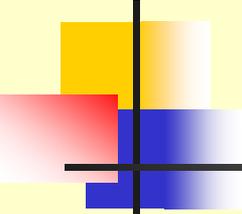
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## Simple Steps for Success

Gina D'Angelo

Health Program Associate

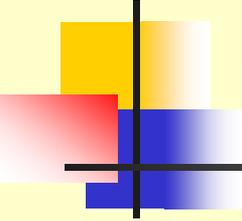
CT Department of Public Health



# Behavioral Interventions

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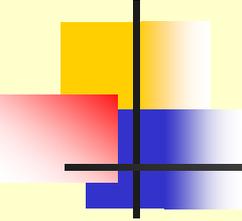
- If proven to work under research conditions, called Effective Behavioral Interventions – EBIs
- Those being diffused by CDC, called DEBIs (Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions)
- Choosing an EBI or DEBI which best matches your community and your agency is more likely to be effective in the real world



# How To Select an Intervention

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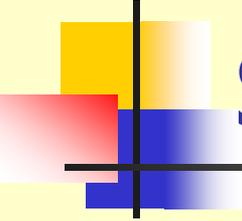
- Need to get answers to two questions:
  - Is this the best Intervention for the target population?
  - Does your agency have the resources to implement and maintain this Intervention?



# How do you get the answers?

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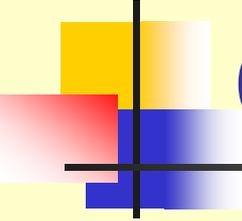
- Follow 5 Steps to Selecting an Intervention
  - Conduct A Community Assessment
  - Choose Target Population and Risk Behavior
  - Examine Interventions for Chosen Population
  - Assess Agency Capacity
  - Select a Matching Intervention



# Step 1 - Community Assessment

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- Assess the community's HIV prevention needs through observations, interviews, data collection, collaboration, etc.
  - What are the populations? Subpopulations?
  - What are their specific risk behaviors?
  - What are their specific prevention needs?



# Community Assessment

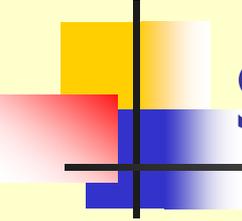
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## ■ Means:

- Physically going out into the community (bars, cruising areas, parties, bookstores, etc)
- Mapping activity (draw a simple picture)
- Finding out about activity (what is happening when and where)
- Interviewing people who see activity, work with the population, are a member of it, etc.
- Getting closer to the community and gaining access to them

## ■ Does Not Mean

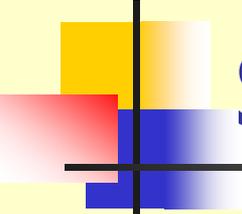
- Collecting own data
- Conducting a big needs assessment
- Spending a lot of time, money or resources



## Step 2 – Choose Population/Behavior

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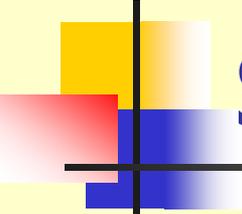
- Choose population and identify their risk behavior to target for change based on information from Community Assessment
  - What is the main target population?
  - Is there a subpopulation?
  - Who and what behavior are you specifically looking to target with an intervention?



## Step 3 – Examine Interventions

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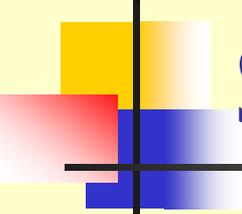
- Examine interventions to find a good fit for your community
  - Which interventions target your chosen population?
  - Which intervention best fits the populations needs (works to modify an identified risk behavior)?
- For info on EBIs,  
<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/research/prs/evidence-based-interventions.htm>
- For info on DEBIs,  
[www.effectiveinterventions.org](http://www.effectiveinterventions.org)



## Step 4 – Assess Agency Capacity

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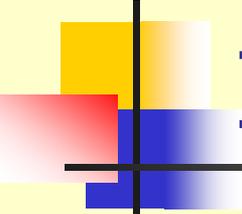
- Assess the Agency's ability to plan and implement an intervention using all available resources/tools.
  - Does the Agency have the capacity to implement the intervention (staff, expertise, funding, materials, etc.)
  - Does the Agency have the ability to recruit and retain work with the population?
  - Does the Agency have the ability to implement and maintain an intervention with fidelity (without changing it) ?
- There are agency readiness self assessment tools and other resources for agency's to use at [www.effectiveinterventions.org](http://www.effectiveinterventions.org)



# Step 5 – Select Intervention

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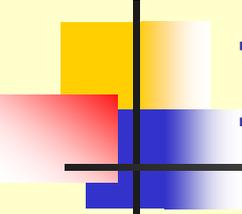
- Select an intervention based on information from Community and Agency Assessments
  - Which intervention is the best match for your community and your agency? Needs to fit both.
  - Create a detailed Implementation Plan, Propose an Intervention and Prepare Your Agency to Implement and Maintain the Intervention over time



# Interventions and the Community

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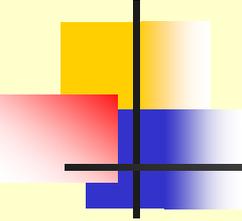
- Organizations proposing interventions should consider the work of the CT HIV Planning Consortium (CHPC) and DPH or other funders (priority populations/interventions, data, and RFP guidelines)
- Organizations need to identify target populations in their community and then interventions appropriate for them
- Organizations must demonstrate the target populations need for prevention services and how the intervention meets that need as well as how the agency can meet it
- Effective interventions should always begin with an up-to-date community assessment of each target population proposing to work with in the community – things change



# Interventions and DPH

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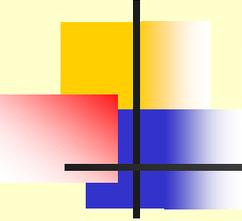
- DPH's HIV Prevention Unit puts out a Request for Proposals (RFP) every three years for prevention services
- DPH bases the RFP on CHPC Priority Populations/Interventions
- DPH's HIV Prevention Unit supports the use of Evidence-based Interventions for all Populations
- DPH Prevention Unit staff are assigned as Intervention Specialists to oversee the implementation of the interventions
- Intervention specialists can identify capacity building assistance and or training needs



# Future Goals

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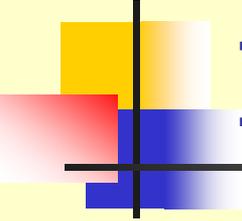
- Continue to fund appropriate science-based prevention interventions for all populations including MSM, why?
  - Cost effective, Extensive research already done, Easy to replicate and monitor
  - Appropriate interventions have been researched, proven effective and are culturally appropriate
- Ensure Interventions target populations that have been identified as high priority including MSM



# Future Goals continued...

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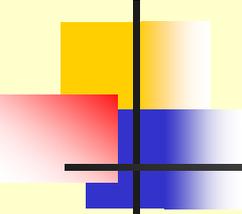
- Ensure chosen interventions are those that will have the greatest impact reducing HIV incidence
- Ensure that more interventions are available for gay men and men who have sex with men



# Immediate Next Steps

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- CHPC Priority Setting Process (In Progress)
  - Identify target populations and interventions for them and rank them in terms of priority
- DPH RFP Process (Fall 2010?)
  - RFP based on priorities set by CHPC and other recommendations
- Organizations Respond to RFP (Fall 2010?)
  - Propose target populations and interventions based on CHPC priorities and RFP guidelines



# For More Information

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- For DEBI info

[www.effectiveinterventions.org](http://www.effectiveinterventions.org)

- For 2009 CDC Compendium

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/research/prs/evidence-based-interventions.htm>

- For DPH funded interventions

[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)