**PROYECTO COMPADRE**

**FACILITATOR INITIALS (INITIALS): \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_**

**DATE OF FOCUS GROUPS (DATE): \_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**START TIME OF FOCUS GROUP (HR\_START): \_\_\_ \_\_\_: \_\_\_ \_\_\_**

**END TIME OF FOCUS GROUP (HR\_STOP): \_\_\_ \_\_\_: \_\_\_ \_\_\_**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP FACILITATOR/MODERATOR:**

Please feel free to modify your language and paraphrase as needed to accommodate for participants’ health literacy.

**Introduction:** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* Welcome and thank you for taking time out of your busy day to participate in this online focus group.
* We invited you here today to follow-up on our findings from Phase 1 of Proyecto Compadre.
* In the Phase 1 focus groups (with SYHealth providers) and key informant interviews (with Latino men) we learned about the challenges that Spanish-speaking, Latino men face in accessing HIV testing, PrEP, and HIV services; and of strategies to address those challenges.
* In the web-based survey, you had the opportunity rank those strategies in terms of importance, feasibility, and acceptability.
* In this focus group, we will discuss the strategies that you (and SYH Staff) ranked as most important, feasible, and acceptable to increase Latino men’s access to HIV testing and PrEP.
* This focus group will take approximately 90 minutes. We will take a short break about an hour in and you are welcome to request a break at any time.
* We are interested in your opinions; you are the experts. As such, we will not be sharing our own opinions but we may summarize what we hear or ask for clarification.
* We are deeply appreciative of your time and participation.

**Anonymity**: The information you give us will be transcribed and anonymized. It is important for you to know that the information from this focus group should be kept completely confidential. Please respect that everything shared today stays here. It is also important for you to know that your participation is entirely voluntary. You can ask us to stop the recording at any time or ask that your responses not be shared. If there are any questions or discussions that you do not wish to answer to participate in, you do not have to do so. If there is anything that you wish to share that is personal, please share it from the perspective of someone else (ex/”My co-worker once said that….”).

1. **FORMAL PEER NAVIGATION PROGRAM (~20 minutes)**

**According to the web survey with both SYH Staff and Latino men, the first most important, feasible and acceptable approach to increasing access to HIV testing and PrEP for Latino men included developing and implementing a Formal Peer Navigation Program.**

The sentiment has been that Peer Navigators are important in engaging Latinos in care, but maintaining a peer program requires additional support. We hope to gather ideas of how to best implement a Formal Peer Navigation Program.

A Formal Peer Navigation Program might include:

* A team (Supervisor and ~4 half-time Peer Navigators) who carry out recruitment of at-risk Latino men (in person and on social media/apps) to take an HIV test, screen for PrEP, and/or link to social or Ancillary services (e.g., mental health, addiction, etc).
* Peer Navigtors might work with recruited peers for ~8 weeks to help link, retain, and support them in SYH care, as well as provide weekly check-in/support sessions.
* Peer Navigators might also disseminate HIV prevention information and SYH services marketing media.

**We would like to spend the next 20 minutes hearing from you about the training, skills, recruitment and activities that would make up a strong Peer Navigation Program. First, we will guide you through questions about activities for Peers.**

**PROMPTS:**

* What organized activities would make up a strong Peer Navigation Program?
	+ **Example activities**: Training; Peer referral; Structured sessions with peer recruit to assess and support needs; Group activities; Tech trainings; Peer Navigator support groups; Supervisor check-ins; Monitoring efficiency in referral)
* In terms of trainings for Peer Navigators:
	+ What type of topics/info to include
		- **Example topics**: PC structure; Peer Competency; HIV risk and infection; SYH Ancillary services – mental health, substance use, trauma, violence; SYH social services; HIV testing and PrEP assessments; Warm hand off techniques; relationship building with SYH staff & peer recruits; technology; information dissemination)?
	+ What is an appropriate length of training? What activities for training? How often follow-up training?
	+ What types of support would help Peer Navigators in terms of supervision and check ins with SYH Staff? Peer Recruits?What characteristics or skills would you want a Peer Navigator to offer for this program?
* How comfortable would it be for Peer Navigators to provide referrals to HIV services (testing, PrEP) for their friends/acquaintances? What is the best way to provide referrals?
* In terms of recruitment: What ways can Peer Navigators best recruit their friends/acquaintances in person? Via Social media/Dating apps? What are the top Social Media/Dating Apps that you recommend?
1. **HAVING PEER NAVIGATORS PROVIDE REFERRALS TO SOCIAL & ANCILLARY (MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE) SERVICES (~15 minutes)**

**The second most important, feasible and acceptable approach to increasing access to HIV testing and PrEP for Latino men included having peer navigators provide referrals to social services (such as housing, legal, etc) and ancillary services (such as mental health, substance use treatment).**

**For the last 15 minutes, we would like to discuss ways that Peer Navigators could support specific referrals to social and ancillary services.**

**PROMPTS:**

* How would you feel about asking for an HIV test before being eligible for referrals to these? What are some barriers and how can we overcome them?
* How do you feel about offering other tests with an HIV test? Do you think this will be attractive and increase the number of Latino men who get tested? If so, which tests?
* How do you see Peer Navigators best providing referals to social services? Ancillary services?
* How should Peer Navigators be trained in providing these referrals?
	+ In knowing what services are available?
	+ In assessing their client’s need?
	+ In providing risk reduction options to clients?
1. **CULTURALLY-TAILORED HIV PREVENTION MATERIAL (~20 minutes)**

**The third most feasible and acceptable approach to increasing access to HIV testing and PrEP for Latino men included increasing knowledge of HIV prevention and SYH services.**

**We have only two more sections now. For this next 20 minutes we would like to discuss ways to design and tailor HIV prevention material to be more approachable and engaging for Latino men.**

**PROMPTS:**

* What type of material have you seen in the community that you liked/understood/thought worked, and why? What about it did you like? What don’t you like that you have seen?
	+ What about the emotional or motivational aspects of the materials? For example, serious, funny, scary, informative?
* Would you (or have you) found material more approachable and engaging if they were in Spanish or another language? How would you change the wording or design to make it more appealing in Spanish or another language?
* How should we design this material for diverse groups such as: Latino identity, sexual identity, gender identity, social or economic class, MSM who identify as heterosexual?
* How can we address the following barriers in these materials:
	+ Like public charge? Lack Insurance? Language barriers? Gender and sexual identity Stigma? HIV stigma? Documentation status?
* What type of media do you think would be the most effective at reaching Latino men?
	+ Examples: pamphlets, posters, social media ads, alternative formats like comic/novela, business cards, online presence
* How could we improve the following regarding HIV prevention media broadly and/or within SYH services specifically?
	+ To help Latino men find HIV information and services
	+ Help Latino men to communicate their needs and preferences and respond to HIV information and services
	+ Help Latino men process the meaning and usefulness of the HIV information and services
	+ Help Latino men understand the choices, consequences and context of the HIV information and services
	+ Help Latino men decide which HIV information and services match their needs and preferences so they can act
1. **MARKETING AROUND SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO (~15 minutes)**

**The fourth most important, feasible and acceptable approach to increasing access to HIV testing and PrEP for Latino men included the general marketing of HIV awareness and SYH HIV services in the South Bay and Southeast San Diego.**

**For our last 15 minutes, we would like to discuss ways to more effectively conduct marketing on HIV prevention and care to raise awareness in the South Bay and Southeast San Diego.**

**PROMPTS:**

* What type of information should be included in the marketing material:
	+ General HIV prevention education? HIV testing? PrEP?
	+ To address barriers like public charge? Insurance? Language? Stigma?
* When and where should we conduct the marketing? (e.g., timed events during the year, health fairs, Target radio stations/newspapers, buses, clubs/bars, supermarkets, etc)
* What type of media do you think would be the most effective at sharing the marketing information? (e.g., pamphlets, posters, social media ads – which sites, dating apps – which apps, alternative formats like comic/novella)
* How can Peer Navigators support this type of marketing?

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING. YOUR OPINIONS WILL MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY.**