Using a Peer Support Model to Improve Access to Care for Women with Female Genital Cutting (FGC)

Kiera Kenney, MSW
African Family Health Organization (AFAHO)
Global Map of FGC: 200 million women and girls affected worldwide
Women and Girls Living with or at Risk of FGC in the U.S.

“The fastest-growing group of foreign-born Philadelphians from 2000-2016 came from Africa”

– PEW Charitable Trust
Philadelphia International Women's Project

Nationalities Service Center
Resettlement & Integration Services for Immigrants and Refugees

African Family Health Organization
Culturally Specific Service Delivery to African & Caribbean Immigrants & Refugees

Drexel Medicine Women’s Care Center
University-Based OBGYN & Family Planning Services
Barriers to Quality Health Care

Provider:
- Inexperience
- Discomfort
- Lack of formalized Training
- Lack of cultural Competence

FGC Client:
- Language
- Healthcare system navigation
- Insurance status
- Immigration status
- Healthcare-related cultural norms & stigmas

Combined Outcomes:
- Minimum preventive care
- Alienation
- Misidentification of FGC
- FGC not discussed with patient
- Harmful Provider reactions (shock and discomfort)
- Patients lost to care
- Alienation
- Patients lost to care
Our Peer Support Model

- Having the right staff
- Breaking the silence
- Cultural & Religious Aspects
- Medical & Legal implications
- Health Care Navigation & Clinical Integration
- Support & Sex Therapy Groups
- Case Management & Referrals

Multifaceted Interdisciplinary Approach
Integrating Peer Specialists into the Clinical Team
Measuring Impact

Retention in clinical care
Resolution of health issues
Preventive screening

Changes in self efficacy

Electronic Health Medical Records
Patient Activation Measure
Our Ask
Acknowledgements

• The Wonderful PIWP Team
• U.S. Office on Women's Health
• Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC)
• Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health
• The Health Annex
• Our Amazing Clients!

Thank You!

Contact: Kiera@afaho.net / 215-546-1232