

**The Johns Hopkins AIDS Psychiatry Service Responses
Questions from June 17, 2014 Data Panel to Planning Council**

- 1) What are you doing to reduce barriers to mental health care, such as stigma and availability of a psychiatrist?** We frequently meet with patients along with their providers to explain about mental health services in order to help reduce any potential barriers to treatment. We have 2-3 psychiatrists available on Mondays 1-5pm, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays we have a psychiatrist in clinic from 1-5pm. It is always the same psychiatrist on the same days.
- 2) Why do you have rotating providers when that is a known barrier to care?** We do not rotate providers, the providers are always on the same days and have been for a number of years. Sometimes at the patient's request we change providers, or sometimes the patient comes to an appointment on the wrong day when the provider that they normally see is not in clinic.
- 3) How long does the average person spend in treatment? Are individuals able to transition out of regular psychiatric treatment over time?** We tend to treat severe psychiatric disorders, not usually simple adjustment disorders or situational emotional issues. Severe psychiatric disorders involve chemical imbalance in the brain that are treatable like HIV/AIDS, but cannot be cured at this time. So patients tend to remain in treatment as long as they are in treatment for their HIV/AIDS. That being said, stable patients may only be seen by our service every 3-6 months whereas patients new to treatment and unstable may be seen weekly.
- 4) Are patients assigned to a doctor or do they see a different doctor each visit? If patients are not assigned a single doctor, are they negatively impacted by not consistently seeing the same doctor each visit?** Patients generally see the same Dr. over the course of their treatment unless a change in provider is needed, Johns Hopkins is a teaching Hospital so a patient may be seen by a 3rd year psychiatry resident who is being supervised by an attending psychiatrist. A patient is always asked if they mind being seen by a resident and no one is ever forced to be seen by someone they do not feel comfortable with.