The Importance of Community Engagement

The following slides are recommendations developed by Community Partners intended to address some of the issues expressed by CABs/CAGs and communities around site closures.
Community Engagement
Site Closure

• Site closures have a huge impact on the communities where research is being conducted
• Special attention should be given to how the information is conveyed to communities (local meetings or forums vs. email)
• Principal Investigators and/or other key trial staff members should consider attending meetings to discuss site closure
• Transparent communication between researchers and communities around site closure should include:
  – Expression of sincere gratitude for the time, commitment and energy of participants and CAB members
  – Clear and accurate information about studies that will continue, patient referrals, timeline, future CAB meetings and communications
Community Engagement

Site Closure

(continued)

• If patients will remain on study ongoing communication should be maintained with the CAB for the duration of the study

• If monthly meetings cannot be maintained, every other month or quarterly meetings should be considered

• The CAB should be given a timeline for study and CAB phase out

• Ongoing communication with the community post phase-out should be explored post-phase, e.g. emails, for the site to remain in good standing in the community and to help ensure future community support and trust.
Community Engagement
Site Closure Communications

• Site closures have a huge impact on the communities where research is being conducted
  – Transparent communication between researchers and communities around site closures is critical
  – CABs/CAGs should have clear and accurate information about site closures and should be included in providing feedback as to how information can be shared with communities and stakeholders
  – Special attention should be given to how the information is conveyed to communities (local meetings or events)
  – Principal Investigators and/or other key trial staff members should consider attending meetings to discuss site closure
Community Engagement
Site Closure Communications Plan

• Principal Investigators and site staff discuss and develop a communications plan
• Develop key messages to be communicated about site closure
• Identify the various socially and culturally appropriate communications methods to be used for CAB/CAB and other specific audiences
• Identify CAB/CAG members to help deliver and/or facilitate communications to broader community
• Discuss frequency of delivering message
• Discuss chain of communication within the research team, CABs/CAGs and stakeholders
• Discuss procedures to anticipate, monitor and address community concerns related to site closure
• Discuss procedures for keeping participants informed of trial results after site closure
• Provide CAB/CAG and stakeholders with ongoing updates regarding trial closure
Community Engagement Resources

To assist in helping participants and communities stay connected and informed:

• Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination
  – www.hanc.info

• Community Partners
  – https://www.hanc.info/cp/Pages/default.aspx