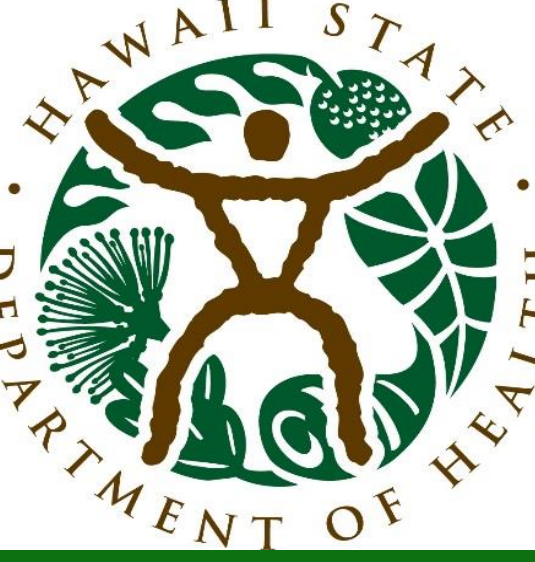


Shifting Focus: Development of Integrated HIV/HCV Outreach, Testing and Linkage (OTL) Training

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BACKGROUND

In 2014, the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) developed a new statewide Outreach, Testing and Linkage (OTL) training curriculum for certification of HIV/HCV testers. Replacement of the existing counseling, testing and referral (CTR) curriculum was based on multiple factors:

- AWARE study¹ which deemed individual counseling ineffective
- Dwindling resources and funding
- National HIV/AIDS Strategy² and Viral Hepatitis Action Plan³

Figure 1:
The AWARE Randomized Clinical Trial

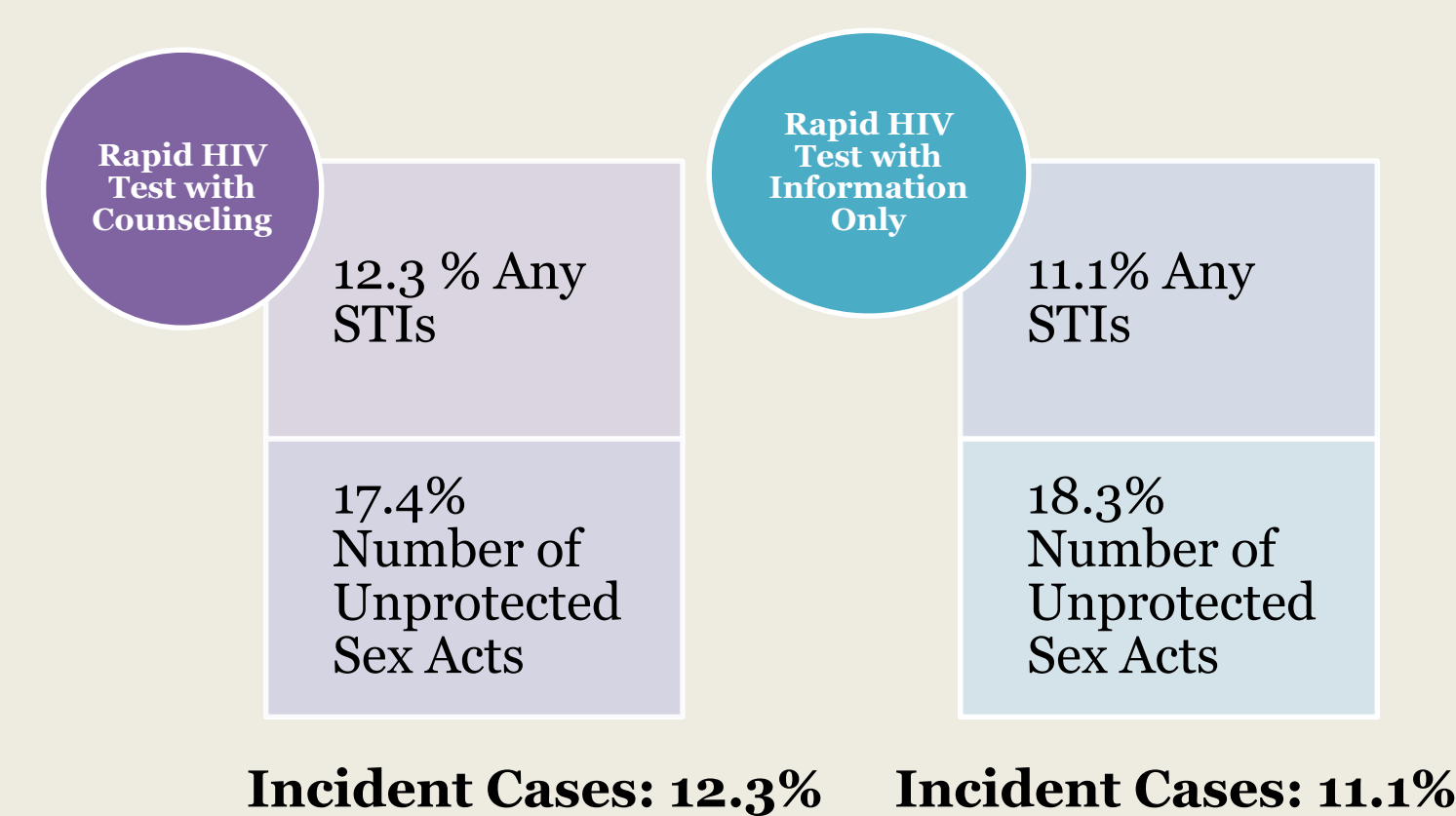


Figure 1: No significant difference between Rapid HIV Test with Counseling Group and Rapid HIV Test with Information Only Group on major sexual risk behaviors and incidence.

Figure 2:
3 Primary Goals of National HIV/AIDS Strategy



Figure 2: The 3 primary goals of the NHAS integrate prevention, implementation, treatment and research and require a coordinated national response.

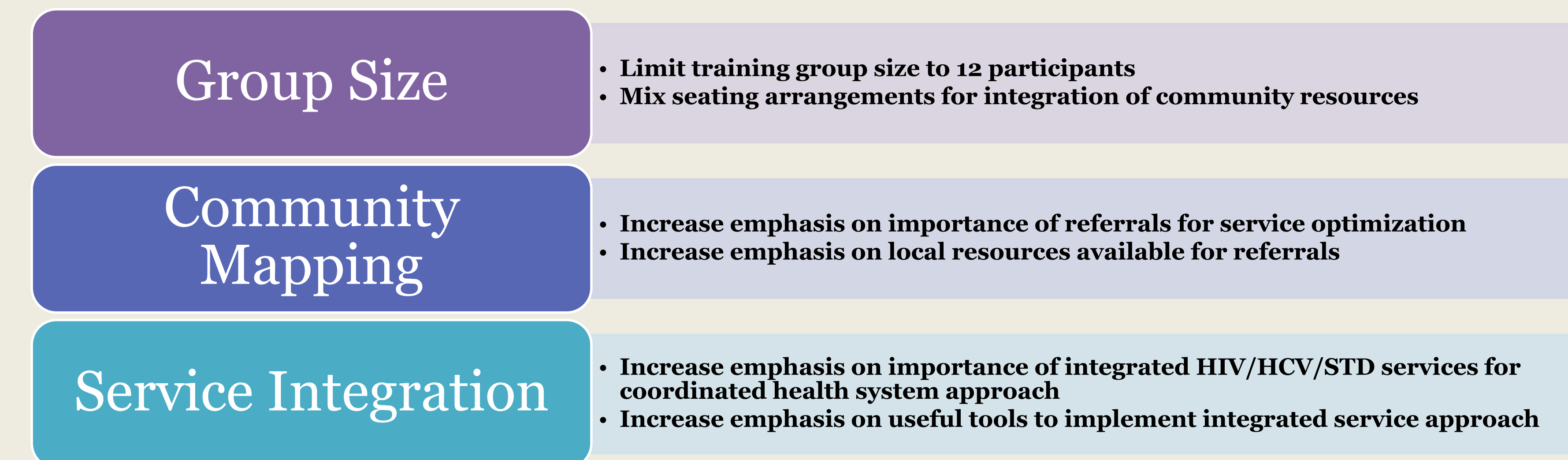
OBJECTIVES

- Provide training specific to targeted referral, linkage and retention-in-care services for high risk groups especially people who inject drugs and HIV-positive individuals
- Enhance tester knowledge, attitudes and practices around HIV, HCV, PrEP and referral services

RESULTS

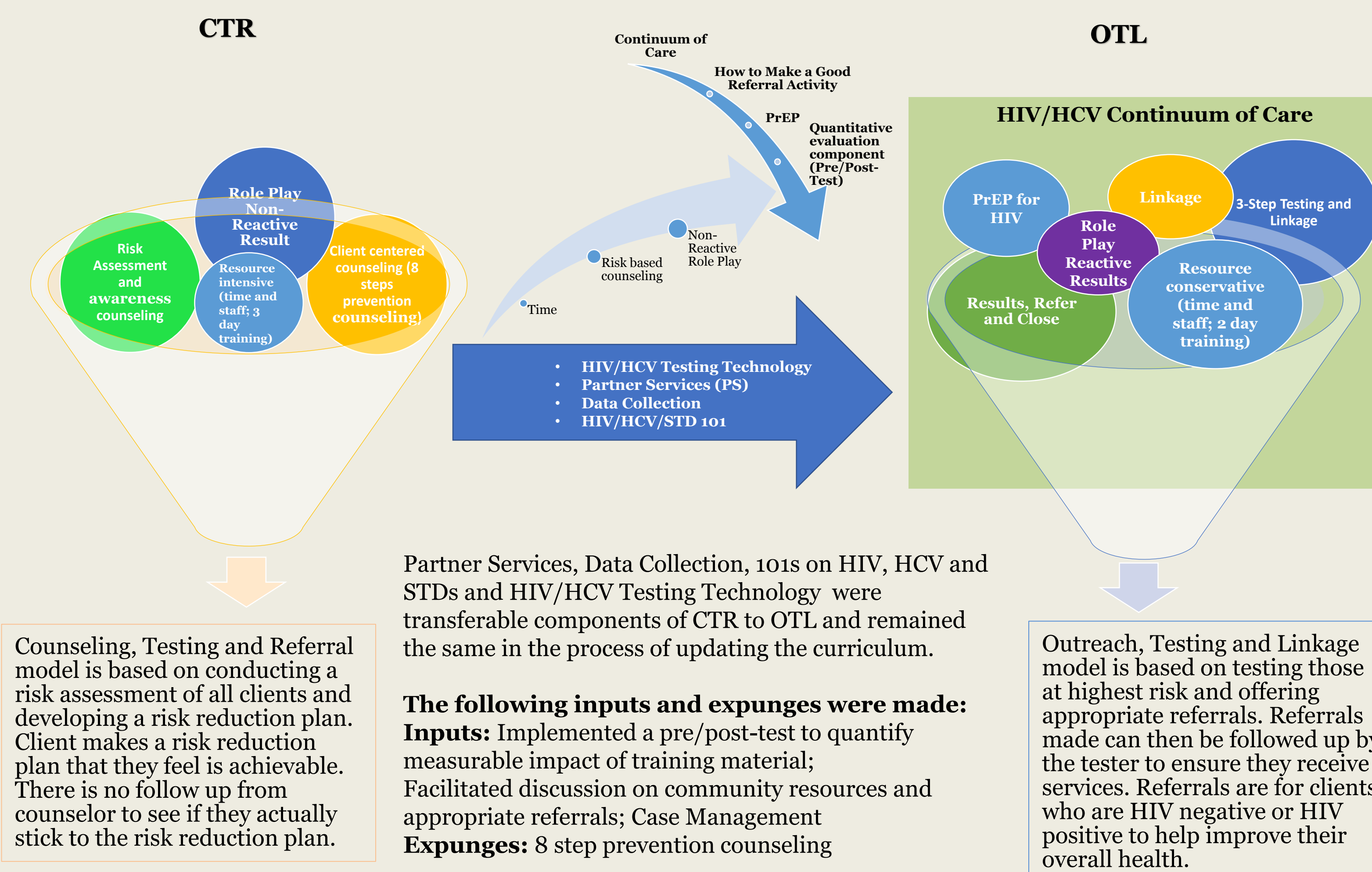
DOH and LF reviewed priority areas and developed new curriculum, agenda, and all necessary training materials. The pilot training took place in February 2015 with eight participants of varying HIV/HCV testing knowledge and experience.

- The pilot training certified eight participants in February, 2015.
- Evaluation surveys from all participants demonstrated increased capacity to test, refer, and link clients, especially those at high risk.
- A refresher training for previously certified testers will provide new strategies and tools emphasized in the new curriculum.



The pilot training informed strategies to be implemented by trainers and facilitators at future trainings. Key results include the importance of small **group size** for the training and **relationship building among trainees**; increased attention to **community resources**; and increased emphasis on **integration of HIV/HCV/STD services**

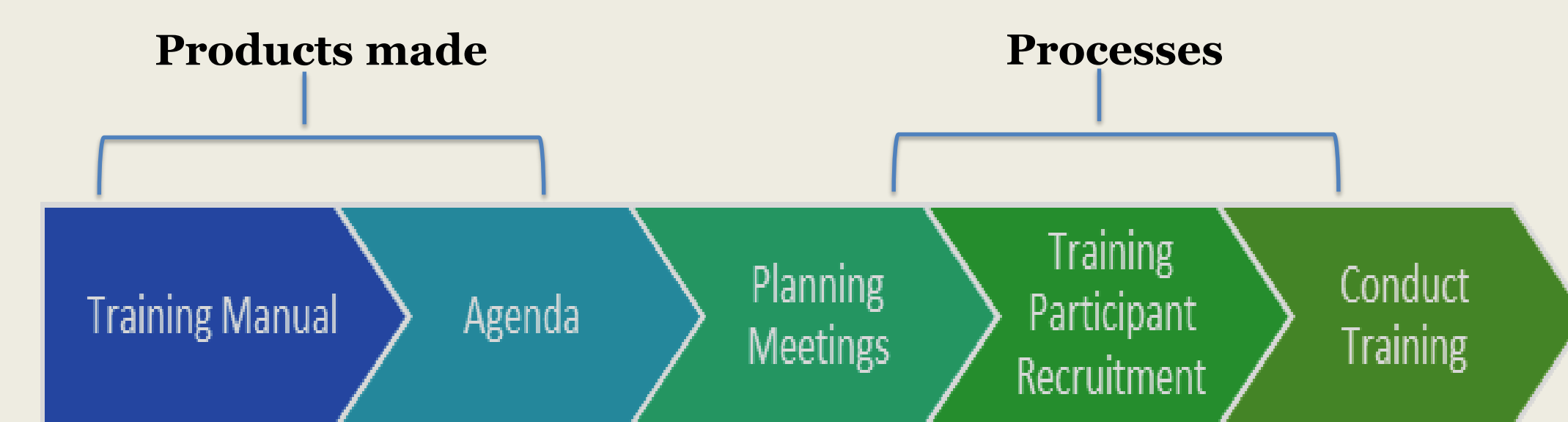
Key Transitional Components from CTR to OTL



METHODS

DOH staff assessed current testing curricula used in Hawaii and other jurisdictions and identified priority areas for the new curriculum:

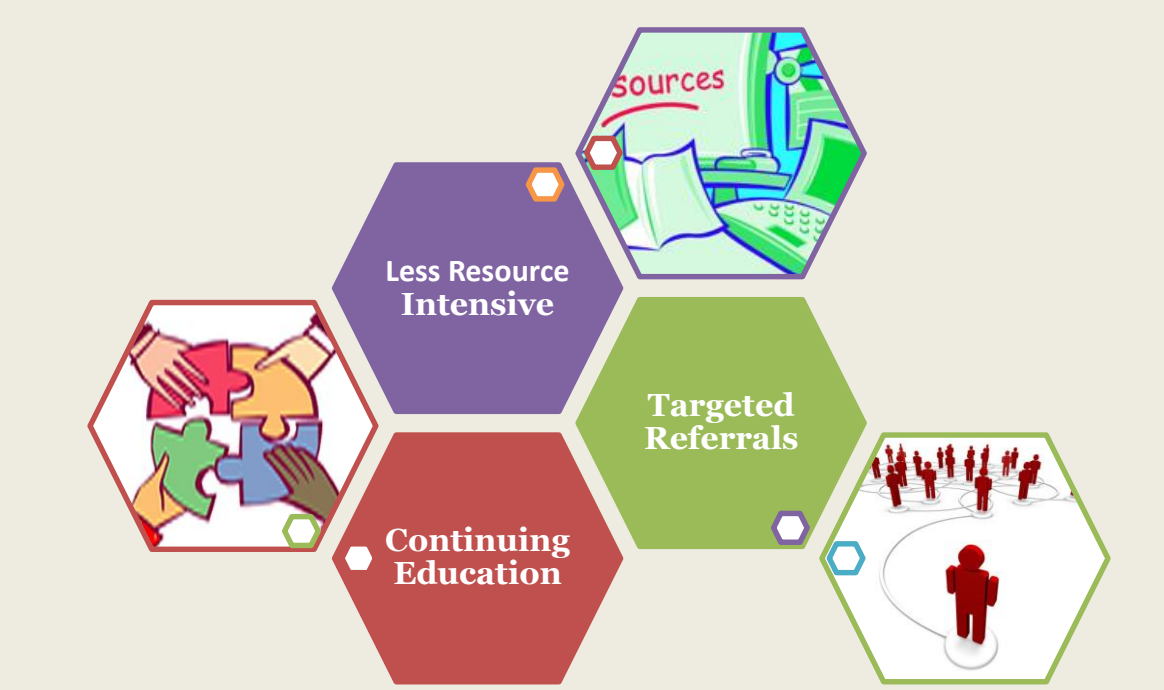
- Established continuum of care as context
- Integration of HIV and HCV testing services
- Testing, referrals, linkage and retention-in-care
- Emphasis on PrEP
- Emphasis on referrals for Partner Services
- Streamlining DOH time and resources



Over 6 months, DOH developed training manual, agenda, held multiple planning meetings, recruited participants and conducted training with the help of Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) from Capacity for Health which subcontracted Life Foundation (LF).

CONCLUSIONS

- The training emphasizes streamlined services for clients at high risk for HIV/HCV. The new training model is **less resource-intensive** for DOH and AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) and more aligned with national strategies.
- The shift in priorities from counseling to **targeted referrals** has engendered larger discussions with ASOs about novel strategies for HIV and HCV prevention.
- **Continuing education** and refresher trainings will be provided for all certified testers to maintain testing and linkage skills and to ensure adherence to the priority populations at risk for HIV and HCV.



Acknowledgements
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