



# HIV CARE CONTINUUM: SUCCESS STORY

## G.A. CARMICHAEL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

### CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

### CONTENT AREAS COVERED

*Social Determinants of Health*

*Culturally Responsive Services*

*Routine HIV Testing*

*Link to PrEP/Other Prevention Services*

*Link to Care*

*Engage in Care*

*Medication Adherence*

### ABOUT

The spirit of Dr. George Albert Carmichael, a 1933 graduate of the historically black Meharry Medical College (Nashville, Tennessee) and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., remains the driving force of the G. A. Carmichael Family Health Center (GACFHC). Two years after graduating, Dr. Carmichael returned to his hometown of Canton, Mississippi and practiced medicine in the community for more than 50 years. He lived by and embodied Kappa Alpha Psi's motto of "Achievement in Every Field of Human Endeavor." Today, the clinic staff continues his legacy of improving the health care status of all populations by providing quality, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive health care for every individual, regardless of their ability to pay. ([Coleman, n.d.](#))

### BACKGROUND

GACFHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and nonprofit agency providing a wide variety of primary care services. Founded in 1972, GACFHC now has four locations across three counties in Central Mississippi. From establishment to expansion, residents of Madison, Yazoo, and Humphreys counties have received accessible, affordable, and quality health care from their neighbors at GACFHC.

### AT A GLANCE...

**TYPE OF CLINICAL SETTING:**

Community Health Center

**PATIENTS SEEN YEARLY:**

Clinic-wide: 14,000  
HIV: 128

**COLLECT SEXUAL ORIENTATION:**

**YES**

**COLLECT GENDER IDENTITY:**

**YES**

**SEX AT BIRTH:**

Male: 66.4%  
Female: 33.6%

## HIV SERVICES

The Ryan White HIV Part C Early Intervention Service (EIS) program has been integral to GACFHC's mission from the start. Since EIS programming began in 1972, it has expanded to provide comprehensive care to patients at every stage of the HIV Care Continuum, and currently serves 11 counties. As an FQHC, GACFHC provides comprehensive HIV services regardless of a client's ability to pay. The services offered include, but are not limited to:

- HIV ambulatory medical care
- Link to care and early intervention
- Case management
- Mental health services
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) referrals
- Substance abuse services
- Health education
- Support groups
- Free Rapid HIV testing
- And many more

## HELPFUL TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Don't be afraid of HIV
- People who are living with HIV want to flourish beyond their diagnosis
- Build genuine relationships with clients

## SUCCESSES

- Proactive client follow-up, resulting in 91% of patients routinely taking their medication as directed
- Addressing service gaps based on data collection and analysis
- Treating clients like family

## CHALLENGES

- Issues with younger clients who haven't fully grasped the consequences of medication adherence
- Outside factors negatively affecting care and treatment adherence
- Working to meet patients where they are, even in their personal lives, so holistic care can be provided

## PROVIDING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SERVICES

- Provide cultural competence training to all staff
- Hire staff who reflect the patient population
- Emphasize respect towards transgender-identified clients, such as addressing individuals by their preferred names
- Conduct quarterly training/updates
- Foster an environment for staff questions
- Include culturally sensitive signs, posters, and reading materials throughout the health center

**“The faces of your community change and we have to continue to reflect on this and be mindful of it.”**

*Patricia Smith, Social Worker,  
G.A. Carmichael Ryan White Program*

## ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

G. A. Carmichael Family Health Center works to support patients by connecting them to critical services such as food support, housing assistance, and job a center, to name a few. If GACFHC does not provide the necessary services in-house, patients are referred to local community partners who can accommodate their needs.