

California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS

Report to San Francisco EMA HIV Health Services Planning Council

January 2016

Office of AIDS Division/Cross Branch Issues

On January 7, 2016, Governor Brown released the 2016-17 Governor's Budget. Under this proposal, the two Office of AIDS (OA) programs that receive state General Fund for local assistance are the HIV Surveillance and Prevention programs. There are no changes proposed for either the \$6.65 million General Fund local assistance support for the Surveillance program or the \$7.5 million General Fund local assistance support for the Prevention program in either the Current Year (FY 2015-16) or the Budget Year (FY 2016-17).

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) proposes to expend \$2.625 million in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$3.5 million in 2016-17 in federal funds, and requests the addition of 5.0 permanent positions, to implement a three-year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant (15-1506) awarded to CDPH on September 3, 2015 to develop and implement programs to encourage the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication to decrease the transmission of HIV in San Diego, Orange, Alameda and Riverside Counties. The Los Angeles and San Francisco Metropolitan Statistical Areas received direct funding from the CDC for these activities.
- There is one new ADAP policy change included in the proposed budget and one revised policy change:
 - *Savings Due to Cross Match of Ryan White Client Data to Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS)* – To minimize the possibility of paying for medications that should be billed to Medi-Cal or other third-party payers such as Medicare Part D or Covered California, the CDPH executed an interagency agreement with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that allows for a monthly cross match of Ryan White and Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) client data. The first match was implemented in May 2015 and will continue to be performed on a monthly basis. Clients who are found to be enrolled in Medi-Cal without a Share of Cost (SOC) are disenrolled from ADAP after confirmation of their coverage. When these clients arrive at an ADAP pharmacy to get their medications, the medications will be billed to Medi-Cal rather than to ADAP. OA will re-coup any prior ADAP expenditures for these clients, to the extent allowable by Medi-Cal, through a pharmacy back-billing process by the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM). Estimated net savings to

ADAP in FYs 2015-16 and 2016-17 are \$2.4 million and \$3.1 million, respectively.

- *Payment of Out-Of-Pocket Medical Expenses for all OA-HIPP Clients* – On September 4, 2015, ADAP released one Request for Proposal (RFP) for both Insurance Benefits Manager (IBM) and Medical Benefits Manager (MBM) services to pay insurance premiums and medical out-of-pocket costs, respectively. OA awarded the IBM and MBM agreements on January 5, 2016, and services will be implemented in the Spring of 2016.
 - FY 2015-16: OA estimates that 260 additional clients will enroll in OA-HIPP/Covered California due to payment of medical out-of-pocket costs in FY 2015-16, leading to additional savings of approximately \$658,000 during FY 2015-16.
 - FY 2016-17: OA estimates that 747 additional clients will enroll in OA-Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP)/Covered California due to payment of medical out-of-pocket costs in FY 2016-17, leading to additional savings of approximately \$5.9 million during FY 2016-17.

Ryan White (RW) Part B: AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)

- ADAP Management Memo 2015-21 was disseminated on December 1, 2015, to inform Local ADAP Coordinators and ADAP Enrollment Workers about the OA-HIPP client letters regarding Blue Shield of California refunds for 2014. A sample client letter is attached in the management memo.
- ADAP Management Memo 2015-22 was disseminated on December 2, 2015, to inform Local ADAP Coordinators and ADAP Enrollment Workers that effective December 2, 2015, a four-drug combination Antiretroviral (ARV), elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide, has been added to the ADAP formulary.
- ADAP Management Memo 2015-23 was disseminated on December 10, 2015, to provide Local ADAP Coordinators and ADAP Enrollment Workers with new and updated Enrollment Worker tools for transitioning clients to comprehensive health coverage. The memo includes the following tools:
 - a. ADAP “Quick Reference Guide” for Covered California, http://hbex.coveredca.com/toolkit/webinars-briefings/downloads/CDPH_ADAP-Quick%20Reference%20Guide.pdf
 - b. “Screening for Medi-Cal and Covered California” flowchart
 - c. “Comprehensive Health Care Coverage” fact sheet

- d. “ADAP – Covered California 2016 Formulary (ARV and Hepatitis C drugs) Comparison Chart”:
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/ADAPCoveredCaliforniaFormularyARVComparisonChart.pdf .

The Management Memos are available on the OA website at
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/OAADAPMM.aspx.

RW Part B: HIV Care Program (HCP)

On December 10, 2015, OA conducted a Fiscal Year 16-18 HCP Contract Kickoff webinar for HCP Contractors. The webinar provided: an overview of the new three-year cooperative agreement process; technical assistance on budget development, specifically regarding the 10 percent administrative cap; guidance on effective allocation of quality management activities; and a forum for questions and answers.

HIV Prevention

- OA Prevention Branch is conducting a workshop held January 31 - February 2, 2016 in Berkeley, California. Invited attendees include California Local Health Jurisdiction AIDS Directors and Prevention Program Coordinators, California Planning Group members and other stakeholders from throughout California. The purpose of the “*Merge Ahead: Steering HIV Prevention into the New Landscape*” workshop is to provide capacity building assistance and receive stakeholder feedback and input on high impact prevention programs to reduce the number of new infections, increase the number of HIV positive persons on treatment and virally suppressed, and increase access PrEP and other prevention strategies to individuals at high-risk of acquiring HIV. Keynote speakers include Phill Wilson of the Black AIDS Institute and Dr. Robert Grant, lead investigator for the HIV PrEP iPrEX and iPrEX OLE studies.
- PrEP Updates:
 - CDC Grant 15-1506: Contracts for the four jurisdictions awarded 15-1506 funding began on January 1, 2016.
 - The General Fund PrEP Request for Application (RFA): The PrEP Navigation Services RFA is in the final stages of review and is expected to be released this month. The RFA will be made available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/OARFAListings.aspx, and an email announcement will be sent to stakeholders and other interested parties upon its release.
 - The PrEP activities within the three HIV Prevention demonstration projects are successfully proceeding. With the opening of the new West Hollywood clinic site, Los Angeles Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT)

Center has seen a dramatic increase in new PrEP clients. They are finding insurance issues require the most attention as clients initiate PrEP. San Diego and San Francisco are proceeding in their formative work and initial PrEP navigation services.

- The CDC National HIV Prevention Conference had a significant amount of PrEP presentations and a core element of the conference was appreciating how plans to “get to zero” will require a combination of prevention with positives to achieve undetectable community viral loads in combination with the increase of use of PrEP among high-risk negative individuals.
 - OA staff participated in a meeting in Atlanta of PrEP provider directory organizers to strategize how best to develop a national PrEP directory. Co-sponsored by PleasePrEPMe.org and AIDS Vu, the meeting included representatives from state and directly funded CDC grantees, AETC’s, CDC, the newly appointed Gilead PrEP marketing staff member and PrEP researchers including Dr. Bob Grant and staff from Emory University. OA will continue to work with this group to coordinate PrEP provider directories on a national, state, and local level.
 - OA staff also attended a community forum sponsored by Med-IQ, Health HIV, positively healthy and the national coalition on LGBT health, where Richard Elion, Robert Grant, Damon Jacobs (creator of PrEP Facts Facebook group) and Dazon Dixon Diallo, President of SisterLove, Inc. in Atlanta) presented and facilitated groups for consumers, advocates/community based organizations (CBOs) and health care providers. The information will be used in ongoing development of best practices related to PrEP.
 - Dan Wohlfeiler and Jen Hecht, co-founders of Building Healthy Online Communities, hosted a meeting of CDC, state and CBO staff after the HIV conference regarding strategies to enhance the use of internet resources. PrEP, PEP and syringe access and information were priority topics in this meeting. As this group continues to explore standards for online work, collaborate with the CDC’s new tool box and other CDC sponsored sites, and refine the use of online methods for HIV prevention, the Office of AIDS will monitor and provide guidance to contractors as appropriate.
- Partner Services (PS) is launching a new training curriculum, *Introduction to HIV Partner Services in California*. This curriculum focuses on revamping skills and techniques around offering and acceptance of PS. The new training is data driven with an independent PS technical assistance plan and site visits. All 19 OA-prevention-funded LHJs will receive training between January and September 2016.

- After years of debate in the U.S. Congress, the federal **ban on the use of federal funds to support syringe exchange programs was effectively lifted** by the budget act of 2016, which was signed into law by President Obama on December 17, 2015. The new law will allow OA and its LHJ partners to fund syringe exchange programs with CDC HIV prevention funds, and allow LHJs to use funding they may receive from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as appropriate. The only remaining restriction is that funds may not purchase needles or syringes; however they can be used to support staffing, rent, vehicles and all other aspects of program operation. The new law requires that each state consult with the CDC prior to using federal funding to support syringe exchange; OA will update LHJs when the CDC releases its protocol for these consultations and the consultation is completed.

As we have previously reported, the California budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (which started July 1, 2015) included \$3 million in new state general funds for syringe exchange program (SEP) supplies. These funds will be used to establish a syringe exchange supply clearinghouse. All authorized SEPs in California, including those run by health departments and those operating in LHJs that are not funded by the OA Prevention Branch, will be eligible to participate. Supplies will include but not be limited to needles, syringes, and sharps disposal containers. OA will release two RFPs – one for supplies and one for sharps disposal – for an anticipated program start in Spring, 2016.

Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation

The AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES) team recently deployed Releases 29 and 30 which include a number of new features and reports such as the revised HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) Quality Management (QM) Indicators Report, the updated Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Progress Report, and making case notes even more secure. Details about these and other enhancements are available in the latest edition of The ARIES Advisor, which is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/ARIESAdvisorNewsletter2015-12.pdf. Release 31, which includes updates to the Ryan White Services Report (RSR), will be deployed in January 2016.

Statewide Needs Assessment and Integrated Plan

No updates at this time.

California Planning Group (CPG)

The CPG will have an in-person meeting on April 11-12, 2016, in Sacramento. The meeting is open to the public and there will be an opportunity for public comment. Information about the meeting and the public comment opportunity will be available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/OACPG.aspx.

For questions regarding this report, please contact: liz.hall@cdph.ca.gov.