

**California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
Report to San Francisco HIV Community Planning Council
January 2017**

Office of AIDS Division/Cross Branch Issues

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of AIDS (OA) is pleased to announce that the Governor's Budget proposal, released on January 10, 2017, includes several funding authority shifts and policy changes in alignment with California's [Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero](#) Integrated Plan. These include:

- implementing Standards of Care for OA's HIV Care Program,
- enhancing OA's Ryan White Part B Clinical Quality Management Program,
- implementing ADAP Case Management services,
- implementing a new ADAP Pharmacy Quality Incentive Program, and
- expanding ADAP's Medicare Part D Premium Payment Program to pay Medicare Part B premiums and outpatient medical out-of-pocket costs for enrolled individuals in order to achieve parity with OA's Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (OA-HIPP), which pays health insurance premiums and medical out-of-pocket costs for eligible individuals enrolled in ADAP who are not in Medicare.

Additional information about these items and more are available on the OA website (www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/TOAStateFunding.aspx), including a summary of the OA-specific budget items (www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/FY%202017-18%20Governor%27s%20Budget%20Office%20of%20AIDS%20Talking%20Points.pdf).

Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero: California's Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention and Care Plan

- On January 5, 2017, the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Board of Directors voted to endorse implementation of California's "Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero" Plan. Subsequent discussion included encouraging OA to work with Local Health Officers and Local AIDS Directors throughout California to achieve the objectives.
- The California Needs Assessment and Integrated Plan Workgroup reconvenes meeting this month, holding their first meeting of the New Year on January 11th. In January, the Partner Services Brief will be distributed to the co-authors' local planning councils for review; the Mental Health and Substance Use Briefs will

undergo review by subject matter experts. The Housing Brief, which examines both the current housing situation of people living with HIV and the housing services available to them, is now entering a review phase. Input from coauthors pertaining to local re-engagement efforts and services is being collected and will be folded into the Re-engagement Services Brief, also currently in review.

- Leadership from OA met with Covered California and Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders leadership in December to review common goals of the Integrated Plan and discuss collaboration possibilities. OA branches have been meeting and reviewing the strategies and activities of the Integrated Plan to begin to prioritize work plans. Beginning in January, OA staff will reach out to local health jurisdictions to discuss their initial activities to address the goals of the Integrated Plan.

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

- **Staffing Update**
 - OA has started recruitment to fill the ADAP Branch Chief position, formerly filled by Niki Dhillon. In the interim, Majel Arnold, OA's Care Branch Chief and Project Director for OA's Ryan White Part B funding, will temporarily serve as Acting ADAP Branch Chief and work closely with Dr. Karen Mark to address all ADAP priorities and activities.
- **Contractor Update**
 - Since November 29, 2016, the ADAP enrollment portal remains unavailable to ADAP enrollment workers and clients. The portal is only available to ADAP Advisors, A.J. Boggs Customer Support Team (CST), and Magellan call center staff. The portal will be made available to enrollment workers through a new connection via Citrix Access Gateway in late January. OA will contact enrollment workers with more information and instructions on how to access the portal once it becomes available.
 - The Magellan call center is able to provide real-time, 24/7 access to a 30-day supply of medications for existing ADAP clients who experience access issues at the pharmacy. The A.J. Boggs CST also has access to the Magellan system and is able to make real-time eligibility updates.
- **Interim Process**
 - During the portal outage period, enrollment workers have been instructed to fax paper applications for new applicants to A.J. Boggs. Effective December 15, 2016, and until further notice, enrollment workers should not submit an ADAP application or any supplemental application

documentation for medication assistance program annual re-enrollments or six-month re-certifications.

- For OA-Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) clients, health plan documentation must be submitted at the time of re-enrollment or recertification, and anytime there is a change in order to ensure that premium payment is made accurately. Enrollment workers should submit this information to the appropriate OA-HIPP Analyst. Applications for clients that require a binder payment (initial premium payment) must be submitted directly to the appropriate OA-HIPP Analyst via secure/encrypted email.
 - **Enrollment workers must continue to meet with their clients to conduct the re-enrollment or recertification process to ensure that clients are still eligible for ADAP. This is a requirement of ADAP's federal funder.** The application and supplemental documentation must be stored in the client's physical file at the enrollment site for audit purposes.
 - Effective December 19, 2016, for clients who were due for re-enrollment or recertification in December 2016, January 2017, or February 2017, eligibility has been extended 6 months to their next upcoming re-enrollment or recertification date.
 - Effective December 30, 2016, clients whose eligibility had expired on October 31, 2016, and who had taken action on their application in the portal, and clients whose eligibility ended during the month of November 2016, will be extended 6 months to their next upcoming re-enrollment or recertification date.
- **Enrollment Worker Communication**
 - To keep enrollment workers and stakeholders apprised of ADAP updates and enrollment portal status, ADAP has developed a weekly communication plan. Effective December 19, 2016, communication to enrollment workers and stakeholder was disseminated twice a week. Effective January 12, 2017, based on feedback from enrollment workers, communication to enrollment workers and stakeholders is disseminated once a week every Thursday. ADAP Communications are posted on the ADAP webpage of the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/ADAPEWCallSummaries.aspx.
- **ADAP Enrollment Worker Resources**
 - On December 20th and December 21st, ADAP disseminated an enrollment site report to each site that had responded to their ADAP Advisor's email request for their site contact information. The report included a list of the

site's clients' first and last name, date of birth, ADAP ID number, eligibility start date and the client's new, extended eligibility end date.

- The updated 2017 Comprehensive Health Care Coverage client handout has been updated to include health care options for individuals who do not qualify for Covered California Health Coverage. This document has been translated into Spanish and posted on the ADAP website.

English version:

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/CovCAOverviewbyOA.pdf

Spanish version:

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/CovCAOverviewbyOASPA.pdf

- Medical out of pocket benefit outreach materials, a provider waiting room poster and client card, have been finalized. These documents will be translated to Spanish and made available to providers and enrollment workers.

RW Part B: HIV Care Program (HCP)

- On January 5, 2017, OA conducted a Fiscal Year 17-18 HCP Contract Kickoff webinar for HCP Contractors. The webinar provided: technical assistance on budget development for 2017/18, technical assistance on budget forms and tracking forms, an overview of changes to Ryan White Service Categories, and a forum for questions and answers.
- On December 1, 2016, Ivo Klemes was promoted to Care Operations Unit Chief. He will continue covering the fiscal desk until a replacement has been hired. Guadalupe Morimune has joined the Care Operations Unit as the newest Care Operations Advisor. She will support Fresno, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Solano Counties.
- The Ryan White Service Report (RSR) is largely unchanged for 2017, although a few minor enhancements have been made to AIDS Regional Information & Evaluation System (ARIES) to make the report more accurate. While the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Branch's (HAB's) deadline for creating the Provider Report and uploading the Client Report in the RSR Web System is March 7, 2016, Grantees may have a large number of RSRs to review, verify, and submit. They may require an earlier deadline to ensure they can review and validate all their RSRs in a timely manner. HCP providers (Part B) must complete their Provider Report and upload it to the HAB Web Application System by February 15, 2016. More information on the RSR will be available in *The ARIES Advisor* later in the month.

- ARIES Policy Notice E6 was recently posted at www.projectaries.org. The notice defines and documents the data collection requirements for Outreach and Early Intervention Services (EIS) services categories.

AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)

- The 2017 – 2021 AIDS Waiver Renewal Application continues to be under Request for Additional Information (RAI) status per the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pending responses to follow-up questions sent by CMS. DHCS has formally requested a 60-day temporary extension, which was accepted by CMS on December 21st. The extension runs through March 1, 2017. MCWP and DHCS staff continue to respond to the CMS follow-up questions, and anticipate completing the responses by early January.
- The MCWP Project Director (PD) monthly teleconferences will resume on January 11, 2017. In addition to the teleconferences, MCWP anticipates having training sessions for AIDS Waiver agencies regarding the content of the approved 2017 – 2021 Waiver. The MCWP will schedule these trainings as soon as the Waiver application is approved by CMS.
- All Project Directors' Letter 16-03, which was released December 30, 2016, describes changes to the “service hierarchy” in the ARIES. The new MCWP service hierarchy is based directly on the AIDS Waiver Program Billing Code and Rates. This change will better reflect the work performed by MCWP providers, minimize data entry, and allow for more meaningful reports to be created.

HIV Prevention

- Staff from OA attended and participated in the California Syphilis Prevention Summit convened by CDPH Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch (STDCB) and the County of Los Angeles Public Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs in Los Angeles, CA from January 9 – 10, 2017. OA staff will collaborate with STDCB on the application of HIV status data on syphilis cases for Linkage-to-Care or Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) referral.
- The Kings County Public Health Department has applied to CPDH to authorize a new syringe exchange program (SEP). The proposed Kings County Needle Exchange will have fixed site locations in Hanford, Lemoore, Corcoran, and Avenal health clinics. The Kings County Board of Supervisors voted to endorse the application.

The 90-day public comment period for the Kings County SEP certification application was initiated on October 31, 2016, and will close on January 29,

2017. Public comments may be submitted to CDPH SEPCertificationProgram@cdph.ca.gov, and must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., January 29, 2017. CDPH will then review the application and issue a decision within 30 business days.

If approved, the new SEP will also be able to participate in the California Syringe Exchange Supply Clearinghouse which now provides a baseline level of supplies to authorized SEPs throughout California. California SEPs have been giving rave reviews of the project, which is a collaboration with the North American Syringe Exchange Supply Network (NASEN.) Several SEPs report being able to add new services, such as patient navigation, wound care, and expanded outreach with the new support from OA and the Supply Clearinghouse.

- OA staff will attend the Bay Area Condom Distribution as a Structural-Level Intervention Regional Institute in Berkley, California from January 23 – 24, 2017. The meeting is being convened by AIDS Project Los Angeles; Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center; Cicatelli Associates, Inc.; and the New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Goals for the meeting include: 1) Increase stakeholders' understanding of all aspects of Condom Distribution as a Structural-level Intervention (CDSI); 2) Promote capacity building assistance (CBA) services for health departments, community-based organizations, and community health organizations; and, 3) Increase attendees' capacity to implement CDSI.

California Planning Group (CPG)

OA is in the process of recruiting members for the CPG for the new membership term beginning in March 2017. In order to ensure CPG representation among the communities most affected by the epidemic, OA is doing additional recruitment for At-Large applicants.

While OA is currently reviewing a diverse pool of applicants, OA would like to see stronger CPG representation among these three communities: transgender women of color, young (18-30 years of age) MSM of color, and representatives from the Central Valley. These communities face disproportionate rates of HIV disease as well as HIV-related disparities including stigma, marginalization, and structural inequalities. To address increased access to prevention and care and optimize health outcomes for the people most directly impacted by the epidemic, it is imperative that they be represented in statewide planning efforts.

For those who represent any of the three communities and are interested in applying:

- There is the option of applying for a 3-year or 5-year membership term

- The online application is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/CPG_2017_App_Final.pdf
- Additional information about CPG is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/2017CPG_FunctionStructureWorkProducts_Final.pdf

Applications must be submitted by close of business on **January 20th** by email to cpg@cdph.ca.gov or certified mail to:

California Department of Public Health
MS770, PO Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426
Attention: Katrina Gonzalez

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