

**California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of AIDS (OA)  
Monthly Report  
July 2018**

This report is organized to align the updates with Strategies from the *Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero: California’s Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention, and Care Plan* (the Plan). In April 2018, a Getting to Zero Baseline Report was released with new baseline measures for each Plan Objective, a description of formative activities, and a summary of next steps. The Plan and Baseline Report are available on the OA website at [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OAmain.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OAmain.aspx).

**Strategy A: Improve Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Utilization**

**Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP)**

- On June 21, 21 enrollment sites received their go-live date of June 25, to begin enrolling uninsured and insured clients into the PrEP-AP.
- As of June 21, there are 134 PrEP-AP enrollment sites.
- The OA webpage has been updated to include tools to assist enrollment workers in enrolling uninsured and insured clients in the PrEP-AP. These resources, along with job aids and policy documents, are available in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Enrollment Worker SharePoint.
- As of June 21, OA has executed 20 contracts covering a total of 33 clinics who currently make up the PrEP-AP Provider Network:

Clinical Provider Name	County	# of clinics on contract
Primary Care at Home, Inc.	Alameda	1
Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo	Imperial	4
Los Angeles LGBT Center	Los Angeles	1
Kern County Department of Public Health	Kern	1
Dignity Health - St. Mary's Medical Center	Los Angeles	1
APLA Health & Wellness - Baldwin Hills	Los Angeles	2
Watts Healthcare Corporation	Los Angeles	1
St. John Well Child and Family Center	Los Angeles	1
East Valley Community Health Center	Los Angeles	2
Vista Community Clinic	Oceanside	1
Desert AIDS Project, Inc.	Riverside	1
One Community Health	Sacramento	1
San Ysidro Health	San Diego	2
San Francisco AIDS Foundation	San Francisco	1
UCSF 360 Positive Care	San Francisco	1

HealthRIGHT360	San Francisco	4
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness	San Francisco	1
Santa Rosa Community Health Center	Sonoma	1
West County Health Centers	Sonoma	4
AIDS Healthcare Foundation	Alameda and San Francisco	2

**Strategy F: Improve Overall Quality of HIV-Related Care**

In July and August 2018, the HIV Care Branch will host two, two-day trainings for HIV Care Program contractors, one in northern and one in southern California. The training will discuss changes coming to the HIV Care Program (HCP), such as the Standards of Care and a financial eligibility requirement. OA will provide an overview of these changes, discuss implementation, and answer questions during the training. An email invitation will be sent to HCP Contractors soon, requesting they attend one of the two trainings. The training is only for HCP Contractors, not sub-contractors. Each HCP Contractor must send one attendee, and can send up to two.

**Strategy J: Increase Rates of Insurance/Benefits Coverage for PLWH or on PrEP**

**Expansion of the Medicare Part D Premium Payment (MDPP) Program**

- Effective June 14, 2018, the MDPP Program benefits have expanded to include payment of Medigap premiums and outpatient medical out-of-pocket claims up to a client’s annual out-of-pocket maximum.

**Employer Based Health Insurance Premium Payment (EB-HIPP) Program**

- Effective May 24, 2018, new and existing ADAP clients who are currently enrolled in an employer-based health insurance premium plan may receive premium assistance for the client’s (employee’s) portion of their employer-based insurance premiums, if eligible.
- The EB-HIPP Program will pay medical and dental premiums, if eligible. If a vision premium is included in the medical or dental premium, the client will have their vision subsidized.
- The EB-HIPP Program will also pay the client’s outpatient medical out-of-pocket claims up to a client’s annual out-of-pocket maximum, if eligible.

**Strategy K: Increase and Improve HIV Prevention and Support Services for People Who Use Drugs**

As part of the FY 2018-19 state budget, the California legislature enacted a trailer bill that included the following changes to laws governing CDPH’s ability to authorize syringe exchange programs (SEPs) and provide them with supplies. These changes went into effect on June 27, 2018:

- The January 1, 2019, sunset on CDPH's power to directly authorize new SEPs was repealed.
- The 90-day public comment period for review of new SEP applications was cut from 90 to 45 days.
- The legislature added a new section to the Health & Safety Code, which will allow an SEP already authorized by CDPH to request approval for changes to service locations, hours, or services model (e.g. mobile vs fixed site). The request will not be subject to the public comment requirements for new SEPs, and CDPH will respond to the request within 30 days.
- The state drug paraphernalia law was amended to allow CDPH, through the Syringe Exchange Supply Clearinghouse, to purchase and distribute any materials deemed necessary for disease prevention or safety. This change will allow OA to expand the Clearinghouse catalog to include materials needed for safer injection, such as "cookers" (bottle caps used for dissolving drugs) that were not previously available.
- The requirement that health officers report biennially (every other year) about SEPs was retained, and statute did not revert to the previously enacted annual reporting requirement.

### **General OA Updates**

- Governor Brown signed the Enacted Budget on June 27, 2018. The Enacted Budget includes several changes for OA, which are outlined in a letter to stakeholders at the following link:  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Stakeholder%20Letter%20FY%202018-19%20Enacted%20Budget%20Office%20of%20AIDS.docx.pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Stakeholder%20Letter%20FY%202018-19%20Enacted%20Budget%20Office%20of%20AIDS.docx.pdf).
- Dr. Karen Mark has been named the Medical Director at the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). As DHCS' Medical Director, she will join an incredible team to work on improving health care quality and clinical preventive services for over 13 million Californians on Medi-Cal, including over 47,000 living with HIV. Her last day at the OA was June 29, 2018. Dr. Mark would like to thank everyone for their collaboration over the years and for their dedication to California's Getting to Zero goals.
- Effective June 18, Karl Halfman is the new HIV Care Branch Chief. He has worked in public health at the state and local levels for over 22 years. Since 2005, Karl has worked at OA in various roles. He has a bachelor's degree in Cultural Studies from Pitzer College and a master's degree in Sociology from California State University, Sacramento.

For questions regarding this report, please contact: [michael.foster@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:michael.foster@cdph.ca.gov).