

**California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
Report to San Francisco HIV Community Planning Council
December 2016**

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

- Development of the internal work plan for the Office of AIDS (OA) implementation of the Integrated HIV Surveillance, Prevention and Care Plan is proceeding with each branch reviewing the strategies and objectives to identify their roles and responsibilities, as well as coordination between branches to ensure a collaborative and integrated effort within the OA and with state, local, and community partners.
- Work continues on the California Needs Assessment Briefs with the topics housing, partner services, and mental health currently in the spotlight. Each brief will be posted on the website as they are completed.
- A meeting with staff of Covered California is scheduled to develop a collaborative role in implementing the Integrated Plan.

Office of AIDS Division/Cross Branch Issues

- The California Conference of Local AIDS Directors and the California Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Controllers Association are pleased to announce that they have consolidated into the *California STD/HIV Controllers Association*. The consolidation reflects a combined effort to create a vibrant association with a common mission to reduce STD and HIV transmission and ensure high quality prevention and care services to all Californians who are vulnerable or living with HIV. Bylaws for the new Association have been adopted, with 100 percent of those voting in favor of approval. The next step will be to elect the leadership team of the new Association, including President-Elect, President, Secretary/Treasurer, and four At-Large Members.
- Staff from OA attended the National Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) Summit in San Francisco on December 3 - 4, 2016. Convened by NMAC (formerly known as the National Minority AIDS Council), the meeting was a collaboration between community-based organizations (CBOs), health departments (HDs), national organizations and NMAC. The meeting brought together HIV leaders to discuss and learn about PrEP and other biomedical HIV prevention interventions. Information about the conference is available at <http://hivprepsummit.org/>.

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

- **Staffing Update**

After over six years of working within OA's ADAP Branch, Niki Dhillon, ADAP Branch Chief, will be leaving by the end of December 2016. OA has posted this position

(www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Pages/OAVacancyAnnouncements.aspx) and

will fill it as soon as possible. In the interim, all questions regarding ADAP policies and procedures and the ADAP enrollment portal should be directed to Chris Unzueta, ADAP Eligibility and Operations Section Chief. Please join OA in thanking Niki for her enormous achievements during her time at OA, including leading an expansion of the ADAP Branch and program and working with OA staff and enrollment workers statewide to transition clients to comprehensive health coverage while meeting HRSA requirements over the course of full Affordable Care Act implementation in California. OA will miss Niki's incredible policy and fiscal expertise; her positive outlook as OA encounters and overcomes challenges; and her amazing dedication to serving ADAP clients.

- **Contractor Update**

- The ADAP Enrollment Portal was unexpectedly and temporarily shut down on November 29, 2016. CDPH is working to bring the portal back up as soon as possible. During this system upgrade period, enrollment workers can submit paper applications and fax them to A.J. Boggs. ADAP has extended client eligibility through January 31, 2017 for clients with an eligibility end date in December and January. ADAP will continue to communicate updates to enrollment workers via email and will alert them once the portal is restored.

- On November 2, 2016, ADAP disseminated an email to ADAP enrollment workers to remind them of the binder payment (initial health insurance premium) process. Included in the email was a link to the list of ADAP/Covered California enrollment sites and a list of health plans that have established a binder payment process with ADAP and ADAP's Insurance Benefits Manager contractor, Pool Administrator Inc. (PAI). The list is available on the ADAP webpage of the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/ADAPandCCEnrollmentSites.pdf.

- On November 8, 2016, ADAP disseminated an email to ADAP enrollment workers to provide them with an "ADAP Enrollment Portal: Helpful Tips and Frequently Asked Questions" document. The document provides an overview of how to successfully navigate the ADAP Enrollment Portal.

- On November 14, 2016, Major Release Notes were disseminated to ADAP Enrollment Workers to inform them of the implementation of the electronic Medical Out of Pocket Claim Form in the ADAP Portal.
- **Management Memos**
 - Management Memo 2016-19, posted on November 8, 2016, informs enrollment workers of the Medicare Part D open enrollment period and requirements and provides a policy update regarding the Medicare Part D Premium Payment Program. The memo is available on the ADAP webpage of the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/ADAPMM2016-19MedicarePartDOpenEnrollment.pdf.
- **Covered California Open Enrollment Activities**
 - The Comprehensive Health Care Coverage fact sheet, which outlines basic information on health insurance available through Covered California and the associated federal tax penalties if adults do not enroll in public or private health insurance has been updated, shared with enrollment workers via email on November 8, 2016, and posted on the ADAP webpage of the OA website at:
 - English version: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/CovCAOverviewbyOA.pdf
 - Spanish version: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/CovCAOverviewbyOA.SPA.pdf
 - The ADAP Screening Flow Chart for the 2017 coverage year, to inform enrollment workers of health coverage options available for uninsured clients has been updated, and will be shared with enrollment workers by December 9, 2016, and posted on the ADAP webpage of the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/ADAPACAScreeningInfoFlowchart.pdf.
 - The ADAP/Covered California formulary comparison chart has been updated, and posted on the ADAP webpage of the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/aids/Documents/ADAPCoveredCaliforniaFormularyARVComparisonChart.pdf. This information was shared with ADAP enrollment workers on December 7, 2016 during the monthly ADAP Enrollment Worker call and link will be shared with them by December 9, 2016.

RW Part B: HIV Care Program

The HIV Care Program (HCP) Advisors are conducting site monitoring visits for the period of April 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016. Out of the 42 HCP contractors, 19 site visits have been conducted, 17 site visits have been scheduled, two are pending, and four are in the process of being scheduled. All 42 contractor site visits will be complete by March 31, 2017.

RW Part B: Clinical Quality Management Program

- OA's Clinical Quality Management (CQM) committee has been meeting on a monthly basis to ensure that the State continues to have a CQM program that matches the scope of RW Part B funding and services.
- The CQM staff is participating in the Health Resources and Services Administration HIV/AIDS Bureau and the National Quality Center (NQC)'s end+disparities Learning Exchange. This is a 9-month national initiative that promotes the application of quality improvement interventions with the ultimate goal of increasing viral suppression rates for disproportionately affected HIV subpopulations.
- The CQM Committee is looking at both ADAP and HCP's clinical data to identify statewide RW Part B disparities, and will determine the population to focus on for statewide quality improvement activities. HCP contractors should expect an invitation to discuss this data and interventions.
- OA's CQM program in conjunction with the University of California, San Francisco will be conducting a quality improvement project to increase extragenital gonorrhea/chlamydia screening in two RW Part B clinical settings to improve STD screening for men who have sex with men who are living with HIV. HCP contractors that fund Outpatient/Ambulatory Medical Care and meet the criteria for this project will be contacted soon.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

- HUD published CPD-16-17 explaining the changes to the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program resulting from the passing and signing of the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA), Public Law 114-201. Exact allocations for jurisdictions will not be available until a federal budget is passed. Below is a synopsis of the new changes:
 - The law provides that HOPWA modernization will begin in Fiscal Year 2017 and will be phased in over 5 years to avoid highly volatile shifts in either direction for any one jurisdiction. Jurisdictions will not gain more than 5% or lose more than 10% than their prior year funding during the 5-

year phase in. These caps will give communities time to adjust and plan for new allocation amounts.

- All current formula grantees remain eligible, but the baseline for newly eligible areas is increased to 2,000 living HIV/AIDS cases (previously, this was 1,500 cumulative AIDS cases).
- The old requirement that 25% of funds be distributed to cities based on AIDS incidence is removed, and replaced with a new requirement that 25% of funds be distributed based on local Fair Market Rents and poverty rates of States and Metropolitan Statistical Areas weighted for persons living with HIV or AIDS in all such eligible areas.
- The law contains provision to allow for reallocations and alternative grantees when necessary.

Office of HIV/AIDS Housing (OHH) is developing a Notice to explain how the changes to the formula will be implemented and operationalized starting with the 2017 allocations.

OHH will undertake rulemaking process to revise regulations at 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 574 consistent with the new law. A public comment period will be announced prior to the regulation change. The announcement should be posted within the next few months on the HOPWA Formula Modernization webpage of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Exchange website (link is listed below), which will allow all interested parties an opportunity to provide feedback.

OHH is planning a series of webinars to be held as soon as Fiscal Year 2017 formula allocations are announced, and will offer enhanced technical assistance efforts to assist communities experiencing losses or gains in funding to ensure the continued availability of housing supports for HOPWA-eligible households.

Additional information and the Community Planning and Development (CPD)-6-17, to read in its entirety, is available on the HOPWA Formula Modernization webpage on the HUD Exchange website at www.hudexchange.info/programs/hopwa/formula-modernization/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=42f029d0a7-HUD+Publishes+CPD-16-17+2016+11+02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-42f029d0a7-19354425.

- **HUD Announces Publication of Final Rule Implementing VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2013**

On November 16, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's final rule regarding the implementation of housing protections authorized in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) was published in the Federal Register. This final rule is a critical step in protecting housing of survivors of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The rule becomes effective on December 16, 2016. Some of the critical components of the final rule include extension of the core protections to Continuum of Care (CoC), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and HOPWA and protections against denials, terminations, and evictions that directly result from being a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. HUD will be publishing additional guidance in the coming months. The Final Rule in its entirety is available on the HUD Exchange website at www.hudexchange.info/resource/4718/federal-register-notice-proposed-rule-violence-against-women-act-2013-vawa-2013/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=4820afceae-Final+Rule+VAWA+Reauthorization+Act+-+11%2F18%2F16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-4820afceae-19354425.

AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)

- The 2017 – 2021 AIDS Waiver Renewal Application has been placed in Request for Additional Information (RAI) status by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pending responses to follow-up questions sent by CMS. MCWP and Department of Health Care Services staff responded to the follow-up questions and replied to CMS on November 28th. It is anticipated that the RAI status will be lifted and CMS will approve the application by December 31st. The current 2012 – 2016 Waiver expires December 31st.
- The MCWP one-year term extension contract amendments continue to be returned by Waiver agencies since their issuance on September 15th. To date, 15 amendments have been executed. As a reminder to AIDS Waiver agencies, all signed contract amendments should be returned to the OA Administration Branch by December 9, 2016, in order to have them fully executed by December 31st.
- The MCWP Project Director (PD) monthly teleconferences have concluded for 2016. Thus far, the MCWP has received positive feedback from the PDs regarding the helpfulness of the calls and the usefulness of the discussion topics. The monthly teleconferences will resume in January 2017. Additionally, the

MCWP anticipates having further outreach efforts to AIDS Waiver agencies regarding the content of the approved 2017 – 2021 Waiver, which will go into effect January 1, 2017.

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