

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

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

- **Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program**
 - OA has sent contracts to 10 selected ADAP enrollment sites that have expressed interest in participating in the program.
 - Phase II of the Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program is currently underway and will focus on providing ADAP clients who are not virally suppressed with resources to help achieve and maintain viral suppression.
 - On February 5 and 6, 4 Access and Adherence Navigators received a Phase II Introductory Training.
 - The Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program Phase II Policy Training is currently being developed, and will be provided to the Enrollment Worker Advisory Committee for feedback and input.

- **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP)**
 - OA is finalizing the training for PrEP-AP that will be rolled out in early 2018. The PrEP Stakeholder Group and Enrollment Worker Advisory Committee have reviewed the training.
 - Enrollment site contract amendments are in progress with CDPH's contracting unit. As of February 7, 11 PrEP clinical provider network contracts have gone out.

RW Part B: HIV Care Program (HCP)

OA has issued Management Memo 18-01 to HCP contractors regarding rental security deposits. Effective immediately, HCP contractors, including those participating in the Housing Plus Project, are not to issue security deposits. The Health Resources and Services Administration recently clarified Policy Notice 16-02 stating that rental security deposits are not allowable expense. The HCP memo is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/HCP%2018-01.pdf.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

OA has issued Management Memo 18-01 to provide guidance to HOPWA contractors on compliance with the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). On March 2, 2013, VAWA was signed into law and expanded housing protections for victims of domestic

violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to include HOPWA programs. On November 16, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the VAWA final rule through HUD regulations (81 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 80724). The HOPWA memo is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/18-01%20VAWA.pdf.

AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)

MCWP agencies experiencing Medi-Cal claim reimbursement issues can refer to the resources available at the following links for assistance:

- General Medi-Cal contact information for providers:
<https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/contact/services.asp>
- Assigned MCWP agency regional representative:
<https://learn.medi-cal.ca.gov/Resources/LookupRegionalRep.aspx>

HIV Prevention

- Steve Gibson, HIV Prevention Branch Chief, will be leaving OA on February 22, 2018. OA is thrilled that he will be continuing California's *Getting to Zero* work in Alameda County, working with Dr. Nick Moss to oversee HIV prevention services there. Please join OA in thanking Steve for his two years of outstanding service with OA's Prevention Branch. A transition plan is being developed and OA will communicate more information as it becomes available.
- Plumas County Public Health Agency (PCPHA) has applied for CDPH authorization of a new syringe services program to be named Northern Sierra Harm Reduction. Syringe services will be provided at the community resource centers in Quincy, Portola, and Chester, along with limited home delivery services for people unable to access the resource centers. The 90-day public comment period required by regulations governing the authorization process opened on January 12 and will continue through April 12, 2018. Public comments may be sent to SEPAApplication@cdph.ca.gov. The public comment announcement can be found on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_prev_secpapp.aspx.
- **Update on CDPH Renewal of Certification for Orange County Needle Exchange Program**
On January 12, 2018, CDPH, OA renewed the two-year certification for Orange County Needle Exchange Program (OCNEP). On January 18, the Santa Ana City Manager's office denied a permit requested by OCNEP to provide services in the Santa Ana Civic Center Plaza. Because the permit is now required by a new local ordinance, and because current CDPH authorization of OCNEP is to

provide services at the Civic Center location, denial of the permit effectively shuts OCNEP down. OCNEP was the only syringe service program in Orange County, and served a critical public health role. Orange County Health Care Agency reports that Santa Ana has the highest rate of HIV infection in the county, and CDPH data indicates that there was a 201% increase in hepatitis C rates in Orange County from 2011 to 2015. The opioid overdose death rate in Orange County is nearly twice the California average.

In addition to OCNEP's own services, the program provided a trusted space through which other service providers could reach people in need, such as hepatitis A vaccinations offered by Orange County Health Care Agency and linkages to substance use disorder treatment and homeless services. In an effort to continue the crucial public health services offered by OCNEP, OA staff are working with OCNEP and other partners to explore alternatives.

Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation

The Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded HIV supplemental surveillance system designed to learn more about the needs of people living with HIV, both in and out of care. On February 1, 2018, OA sent email communication to local health officers and members of the California STD/HIV Controllers Association to provide an update on recent California legislation. Health and Safety Code section 121025, subdivision (c), paragraphs (2)(A) and (B) allows OA surveillance staff to contact a patient's HIV health care provider directly to link the patient to care and treatment. OA is reaching out directly to the very few local health jurisdictions for which this will represent a change in how MMP is conducted.

For questions regarding this report, please contact: michael.foster@cdph.ca.gov.