

**California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
Monthly Report
October 2017**

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Website Transition

Over the last several months, CDPH has been transitioning to a new departmental website. The Office of AIDS (OA) website is part of the CDPH website. During this transition period, both the new and the old (archive) websites were available. However, after Friday, October 6, 2017, the old site is no longer available. The new OA web pages can be accessed at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OAmain.aspx. All critical content has been transitioned to the new site; however, OA will continue to add new content as it becomes available. OA's program-specific webpages (Prevention, Care, ADAP, Surveillance, etc.) can be found using the navigation bar on the left side of the webpage. If visitors to the new site are unable to locate documents or content, then they are encouraged to contact their regular program contacts or use the *Contact Us* link on the page.

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

- Dr. Mark and Kevin Sitter presented an update on implementation of the *Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero* plan at the OA Care Conference held in late August.
- Santa Clara County's Integrated Plan Leadership Team held a one-day retreat to prioritize which activities they will focus on as they respond to their Getting to Zero plan. Riverside and San Bernardino Counties had their second meeting of community partners to continue their development of a work plan to respond to their Getting to Zero plan.

Kevin Sitter (kevin.sitter@cdph.ca.gov) is available to assist jurisdictions in implementing activities in response to their Getting to Zero plans. There is also Technical Assistance available from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP)

OA has been working in collaboration with a PrEP stakeholder group to develop a model for reimbursement for PrEP related medical services to pay providers participating in the PrEP-AP Provider Network for uninsured patients. The reimbursement model is based on the Medicare fee schedule and will be applied to contracted providers who provide services to uninsured PrEP-AP clients. OA is also working with stakeholders to identify gaps in areas where prospective providers invited to participate in the PrEP-AP Provider Network may not be as abundant as in more urban areas.

Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program

OA is holding weekly status meetings with enrollment sites selected to participate in the Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program to answer questions and provide program updates such as contracting and training updates.

Several system enhancements for the Access, Adherence, and Navigation Program were added to the ADAP Enrollment System (AES) including an:

- Interaction Log to help Access and Adherence Navigators log and manage client outreach,
- Access, Adherence and Navigation Program enrollment site indicator, and
- Access, Adherence and Navigation search criteria to the Client Dashboard.

ADAP Enrollment System (AES)

The AES is being developed in stages, with releases of features and improvements every four weeks to support eligibility management, system navigation, data exchange, reporting, quality assurance, and data security. ADAP continues to coordinate each release with training and outreach to ensure enrollment workers and other users are aware of changes and can correctly use any new features.

On September 12, OA sent enrollment workers (EWs) an email regarding the new functionalities available in the AES effective Friday, September 15. Attached to the email was the “Navigating the AES for ADAP EWs; Release 7, September 15” job aid and the Insurance Benefits Manager (IBM)/Medical Benefits Manager (MBM) Display job aid. The following functionalities were added:

- 1) Ability to filter clients by Insurance Assistance Type in the Dashboard.
- 2) Ability to view insurance premium payments and medical out-of-pocket cost claims paid on the Client Profile page.

On October 5, OA sent enrollment workers an email regarding the new functionalities available in the AES effective Friday, October 6. Attached to the email was the “Navigating the AES for ADAP EWs; Release 8, October 6” job aid. The following functionalities were added:

- 1) Enrollment workers will be able to use the Insurance Tab indicate if clients want to be enrolled in the Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (HIPP) or Medicare Part D Premium Payment (MDPP) Program.
- 2) Enrollment workers will not be able to dis-enroll a client from HIPP or MDPP. Enrollment Workers will need to fax supporting documentation to the processing center so an ADAP advisor can update all plan end dates and dis-enrollment date.

RW Part B: HIV Care Program

- OA was awarded Ryan White Supplemental funding from HRSA for the fiscal period of September 30, 2017 – September 29, 2018. Care staff reviewed 31 requests for funding proposals and all 31 HIV Care Program (HCP) contractors will receive additional funding. All contractors have been notified of the amounts and provided instructions for submitting budgets. The total estimated amount of Supplemental funding that will be allocated to HCP contractors is \$8.6 million.
- AS part of Activity O1 in California’s *Laying a Foundation for Getting to Zero* plan, OA will update its HCP, Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI), and Housing Opportunities for Persons With HIV (HOPWA) allocation formulas. OA established a Stakeholder Engagement Group (SEG) to assist OA in this process. The SEG consists of 11 representatives from the California Planning Group, California STD/HIV Controllers Association, and HCP, MAI, and HOPWA contractors. The SEG will work with OA to first update the HCP allocation, with a goal completion date of April 2018 and a planned implementation date of April 1, 2019; and then second to update the MAI and HOPWA formulas, with a goal completion date of July 2018 and planned implementation date of April 1, 2019, for MAI and July 1, 2019, for HOPWA. The work of the SEG is expected to be completed by July 2018.

A SEG kick-off webinar meeting was held on September 29, 2017. An in-person meeting will be held on October 17, 2017, in Anaheim, California. Questions about the SEG may be sent to Liz Hall at liz.hall@cdph.ca.gov.

- On October 30, 2017 (time to be determined), OA will conduct a stakeholder call to obtain input on the delivery of training services to 42 contractors and up to 100 subcontractors and stakeholders starting April 1, 2018. OA will broaden training

topics from treatment education and benefits counseling to include standards of care, AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES), quality improvement, housing services and other support services. OA has previously procured California State Training Education Services Program (C-STEP) services through a Request for Applications. On this call, OA will discuss with stakeholders the possibility of procuring a contract through the California State University, Sacramento College of Continuing Education (CSUS) to deliver a training program that will decrease OA administrative burden and maximize support services to meet all logistical needs for OA-sponsored conferences and statewide meetings, such as OA's California Planning Group meetings, in addition to training services. OA will increase its role, at the state, to deliver robust training programs for its contractors, subcontractors and stakeholders. Further information about the call will be sent out by Monday, October 16.

- Care Operations Advisors started the 2017-18 site visits, monitoring the 2016-17 X07 and X08 HCP and MAI contractors.

AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)

On September 21, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved an amendment to the California Section 1915 (c) Home and Community-Based Services HIV/AIDS Waiver with an effective date of July 1, 2017. This amendment informed CMS of the rate increases for MCWP services detailed in the Budget Act of 2017 (Assembly Bill 120 Section 3, Provision 3), which included an increased annual allocation of up to \$4,000,000 General Fund (\$8,000,000 Total Fund) for MCWP local agency payments.

HIV Prevention

- OA sponsored scholarships to allow California syringe exchange program (SEP) staff and volunteers to attend "Moving One Step Beyond: A Meeting of the California Syringe Exchange Programs" in Oakland, September 28 and 29th. The purpose of the meeting was to share resources, support, and build community among the syringe exchange programs in California. Topics included relationship building with health providers, measuring the impact of the work, and expanding the reach of SEPs in rural areas, and each day highlighted SEP responses to the impacts of both the overdose crisis and recent increases in hepatitis C among young people in California. The meeting was hosted by Project Inform.
- On October 10, OA Prevention staff will attend a site visit with the Desert AIDS Project in Riverside, California, one of the entities funded through CDPH under the CDC "Project Pride" demonstration project to reduce HIV infections and improve engagement in HIV medical care among gay and other men who have

sex with men (MSM) and transgender women. A similar site visit will also take place at the Orange County Health Care Agency on October 19. The County of San Diego Public Health Services as well as the Alameda County Health Department are also funded under Project Pride through CDPH. San Francisco and Los Angeles receive Project Pride funding directly from CDC.

- The Harm Reduction Coalition, a subcontractor of OA, has released two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for two new projects:
 1. **HIV/HCV outbreak vulnerability research study by county in California:** they are seeking a research team to conduct a sub-study as part of its statewide syringe exchange program needs assessment project.
 2. **Online training module development project:** they are seeking an individual or group to conceptualize and produce three (3) online training modules on its top requested training topics.

Deadline to apply for both RFPs is October 25th by 5 pm Pacific Standard Time. The project timeline is November 15, 2017 to May 15, 2018. Additional information, including the project activities and submission requirements, are described in the RFP documents, which are available on the HRC website at <http://harmreduction.org/about-us/rfp/>. Local experts and vendors are encouraged to apply.

- The OA Prevention Branch will sponsor a workshop, *HIV Testing in California Jails: Tools for Planning, Implementing and Sustaining*, on November 7-8, 2017, in Anaheim. The goal of the workshop is to assemble public health officials, county jail administrators and jail medical providers to develop skills and discuss strategies to increase and/or strengthen routine HIV testing and discharge planning programs in California jail settings. The incarcerated are disproportionately impacted by HIV, and routine testing and linkage to care upon release are successful interventions to both maintain the health of HIV positive formerly incarcerated individuals and prevent new HIV infections in California communities.
- On November 27-29, 2017, the OA Prevention and Surveillance Branches are hosting a joint meeting for Prevention and Surveillance funded local health jurisdictions. Invitees include local AIDS Directors, STD Controllers, HIV Prevention Coordinators, HIV Surveillance Coordinators, and directly funded partners from the PrEP Navigation and Prevention Strategic Pilot Projects. The meeting will be a forum to discuss activities to be carried out under CDC's PS 18-1802 combined Prevention/Surveillance grant (starting January 1, 2018). The

meeting will also focus on the opportunities that integrating Prevention and Surveillance efforts will bring, and how combining efforts will assist California with working towards California's Getting to Zero goals.

Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation

OA has released a new fact sheet presenting data from nearly 500 men who have sex with men (MSM) who participated in an interview and HIV testing as part of the 2014 National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) project in San Diego. NHBS is a project that performs HIV testing and interviews about health behaviors among groups of people who are especially vulnerable to getting HIV. The CDC funds NHBS at more than 20 sites across the United States and OA carries out behavioral surveillance in San Diego with assistance from the Chicano Federation. The fact sheet, titled "HIV Infection, Prevention, and Health Behaviors among Sexually Active Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in San Diego, CA" is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/NHBS%20MSM4%20Fact%20Sheet%20Approved.pdf.

California Planning Group

On October 17-19, 2017, OA will convene a meeting of its California Planning Group (CPG) membership in Anaheim. During this meeting, members will hear presentations on the AltaMed Social Marketing Campaigns and the Tarzana Treatment Center, and receive updates on OA programs, the Statewide Needs Assessment, and Integrated Plan. 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 is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_CPG.aspx.

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