

**California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of AIDS (OA)
Monthly Report
February 2019**

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* (Integrated Plan). The Integrated Plan is available on the OA website at www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/CDPH%20Document%20Library/IP_2016_Final.pdf.

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

As of January 16, there are 150 PrEP-Assistance Program (PrEP-AP) enrollment sites covering 54 clinics that currently make up the PrEP-AP Provider Network. As of January 31, there are currently 1,139 clients enrolled in the PrEP-AP.

Clinical Provider Name	County	Number of clinics on contract
AIDS Healthcare Foundation	Alameda and San Francisco	2
Alameda Health System - Highland Hospital	Alameda	1
Asian Health Services	Alameda	1
East Bay AIDS Center (EBAC)	Alameda	1
Primary Care at Home, Inc.	Alameda	1
Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo	Imperial	4
Kern County Department of Public Health	Kern	1
APLA Health & Wellness	Los Angeles	3
Bartz - Altadonna Community Health Center	Los Angeles	1
City of Long Beach	Los Angeles	1
Dignity Health - St. Mary's Medical Center	Los Angeles	1
East Valley Community Health Center	Los Angeles	2
El Proyecto del Barrio, Inc. - Esperanza Clinic	Los Angeles	1
JWHC Institute, Inc.	Los Angeles	1
Los Angeles LGBT Center	Los Angeles	1
Men's Health Foundation	Los Angeles	1
Northeast Valley Health Corporation	Los Angeles	1
Planned Parenthood	Los Angeles	4
Saban Community Clinic	Los Angeles	1
St. John Well Child and Family Center	Los Angeles	1

Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.	Los Angeles	1
Watts Healthcare Corporation	Los Angeles	1
Desert AIDS Project, Inc.	Riverside	1
One Community Health	Sacramento	1
Regents UC San Diego Medical Center	San Diego	1
San Ysidro Health	San Diego	2
Vista Community Clinic	San Diego	1
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness	San Francisco	1
HealthRIGHT360	San Francisco	4
San Francisco AIDS Foundation	San Francisco	1
UCSF 360 Positive Care	San Francisco	1
Community Action Partners	San Luis Obispo	2
County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department	San Luis Obispo	2
Santa Rosa Community Health	Sonoma	1
West County Health Centers	Sonoma	4

Strategy B: Increase and Improve HIV Testing

OA has been instructed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to eliminate the use of oral fluid, also known as oral mucosal transudate, as a specimen for HIV screening or diagnosis using 18-1802 funding. While the CDC has not mandated a timeline for this elimination, OA is committed to working with its local health jurisdictions (LHJ) and other HIV testing stakeholders to determine a feasible timeline. As OA begins to develop a process for implementing this oral fluid specimen elimination effort, OA is soliciting comments on how this will affect state-wide HIV testing programs. OA will take these comments into consideration when developing its plan in collaboration with the CDC. Written comments may be addressed to Kama Brockmann at kama.brockmann@cdph.ca.gov by March 1, 2019.

Strategy D: Improve Linkage to Care

OA's HIV Prevention Branch, Transgender Health Specialist, Tiffany Woods, helped create two important documents in her previous position working on the 2012-2017, Health Resources and Services Administration Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Transgender Women of Color Linkage to Care Initiative. These documents are not only valuable for those working in the field with transgender women of color, but will also help inform OA when working with these communities, especially on linkage to care and reengagement to care activities.

1. Final Intervention Manual for The Brandy Martell Project that can be replicated in other communities. The manual includes Lessons Learned and Recommendations for Implementation. Tiffany was the author of this manual,

which is available on the TargetHIV website at www.targethiv.org/library/spns-transgender-women-color-initiative-manual.

2. Findings from the three Bay Area SPNS projects, published in June 2017 in *AIDS Care*, titled “Housing and income effects on HIV-related health outcomes in the San Francisco Bay Area – findings from the SPNS transwomen of color initiative”. The conclusion of the local evaluation with 159 transgender women of color participants, a majority of whom were African-American and Latina was: unstable housing was the structural factor most consistently associated with poor health outcomes along the HIV care continuum and may explain engagement in other sources of income generation. Interventions are needed that go beyond the individual and health care-level to address needs for housing and economic opportunities to improve HIV care outcomes among transwomen of color living with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. Tiffany was a co-author of this article, which is available online at www.tandfonline.com/eprint/9J2tkmE3ie3iTgrtDXEW/full.

This update also addresses Strategy E: Improve Retention in Care.

Strategy F: Improve Overall Quality of HIV-Related Care

Kevin Sitter, Integrated Plan Implementation Specialist, Dr. Philip Peters, OA Medical Officer, and Matt Curtis, OA Harm Reduction Specialist, met with staff of the Kern County Public Health HIV Prevention and Care to review progress and trends in HIV Prevention and Care services in the county on January 24, 2019. In the afternoon, Kevin facilitated a meeting of the Getting to Zero Community Partnership, during which the group identified specific activities in three areas that the partnership wants to work on more specifically over the next year. The county/community collaboration is achieving the goals of increasing access to care and improving health outcomes for people living with HIV in California, and achieving a more coordinated statewide response to the HIV epidemic.

Kevin and staff from OA are available to assist with local Integrated Plan implementation and getting to zero efforts. Kevin Sitter may be contacted at Kevin.Sitter@cdph.ca.gov for additional information and to discuss program needs.

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

AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Insurance Assistance Programs

As of January 31, 2019, the following number of ADAP clients are enrolled in each respective ADAP Insurance Assistance Program:

ADAP Insurance Assistance Program	Number of Clients Enrolled
Employer Based Health Insurance Premium Payment (EB-HIPP) Program	377
Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP) Program	4,371
Medicare Part D Premium Payment (MDPP) Program	1,589
Total	6,337

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

- Matt Curtis met with staff and community members in Kern County on January 24, 2019, to discuss harm reduction opportunities and syringe service program assessment methods and opportunities. Ongoing collaboration will continue from this initial meeting.
- OA received a new application to certify a syringe services program. ALM Mission in Lake County proposes an outreach-based program serving homeless individuals in the city of Clearlake. The application is currently [open for public comment](#), which respectively closes March 17, 2019.
- OA has [a new toolkit](#) designed to assist health departments expand syringe access through nonprescription syringe sale in pharmacies. This practice is especially useful in areas that have no syringe services programs, or where syringe services programs have limited scope or hours of operation. Nonprescription syringe sale in pharmacies can be used to inform people of available services, such as HIV or HCV testing, and treatment for opiate use disorder, and is especially critical in regions with high rates of opiate overdose.
- OA released a new [fact sheet on fentanyl test strips](#) (FTS) that summarizes public health evidence and the practical use of FTS as an overdose prevention tool. OA purchased more than 46,000 FTS in 2018 through the Syringe Programs Supplies Clearinghouse and has supported uptake of this approach by health departments in several other states and cities outside California.

General OA Updates

The CDPH, Center of Infectious Disease (CID), which OA is under, is pleased to announce that Dr. Marisa Ramos will once again serve as acting Chief of the Office of AIDS. Dr. Ramos previously served as acting Chief and will continue to work with CID to

ensure the work of OA continues. CID is working on finalizing the recruitment for a permanent Chief of OA and expect to make an announcement in the near future.

For questions regarding this report, please contact: angelique.skinner@cdph.ca.gov.