

**Office of AIDS
Care and Treatment Program Update**

**HIV Care Branch and ADAP Section
June 2007**

HIV Care Branch

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Department of Public Health Update

The Department of Health Services will no longer exist after July 31, 2007 when it is formally split into two separate, yet linked, state departments. OA, and other public health programs, will reside in the Department of Public Health. Dr. Mark Horton has been named by Governor Schwarzenegger as the new CDPH Director. The new Department of Health Care Services will house direct medical programs, such as Medi-Cal. Both departments are committed to ongoing coordination and collaboration and are formalizing this through development of interagency agreements.

Additional information will be disseminated as it becomes available. Email addresses are changing but existing addresses will continue to be in effect for many months as we transition to the new addresses.

State Budget Update

The Governor's Budget, made public in January, 2007, was recently released after being revised through the May Revise process. The May Revise provides updated revenue information, etc. and may also include updated or newly proposed uses for the state general funds. The revised budget includes a redirection of \$9.8 million in general funds from ADAP to other HIV-related activities and services, such as HIV surveillance, and support for existing programs and activities such as the Therapeutic Monitoring Program (TMP), the AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES), capacity building, and support for EMAs and TGAs as they transition to decreased Part A funding in 2007. The budget will now continue through the legislative budget process; final numbers are made available when the budget is signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in June.

Part A (Title I) Supplemental Grant Awards

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced the Part A (Title I) EMA and TGA Supplemental awards on May 23, 2007. Nationally, the awards are \$17.9 million less than the previous year. In California, San Francisco received \$8.6 million less than the previous year. Although six of California's nine EMAs and TGAs received a slight funding increase, the total award of \$8.2 million was less than the previous year.

Part B (Title II) MAI Grant Application

OA submitted to HRSA an application for Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) grant funds on May 30, 2007. Grant awards are expected to be announced by August 1, 2007. Part B MAI funds must be utilized for education and outreach services that are focused on increasing access to Part B AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and, as appropriate, other programs that provide prescription drug coverage.

AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES)

ARIES is an internet-based HIV/AIDS client case management system that assists providers in coordinating the care of their HIV clients while producing state and federal mandated HIV care reports. The statewide installation of ARIES was successfully launched on July 17, 2006, and more providers are being migrated to

ARIES each month. The OA ARIES Implementation Work Group completed the evaluation of the pilot phase and a Local Implementation Committee works directly with providers in preparation for migration to ARIES.

As of May 4, 2007, the ARIES system contains almost 14,500 unduplicated clients associated with almost 430,000 services. There are currently 65 providers with approximately 600 staff using ARIES.

For further information, please contact the OA ARIES Project Lead, Susan Sabatier at ssabatier@dhs.ca.gov.

CARE Section

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HIV Care Consortia/Care Services Program (CSP)

CSP contract documents for fiscal years 2007-2010 are being prepared. The new contract period is April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2010.

CSP Service Delivery Plans are now being submitted and reviewed by CSP staff.

CSP Advisors will continue to conduct on-site contract monitoring and work with the California Department of Health Services, Audits and Investigations Division to complete audits of selected fiscal agents.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA)

At the end of March, 2007, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) notified HOPWA grantees of their 2007 allocation. The State HOPWA allocation is \$2,926,000, which is \$4,000 less than previous year. The OA will allocate funds to eligible counties by a formula that is based on reported AIDS cases to the OA HIV/AIDS Case Registry as of December 31 of the prior year. The HOPWA Application and Guidelines was released to all HOPWA fiscal agents on May 14, 2007. HOPWA staff is working with the Department of Housing and Community Development to submit its Consolidated Annual Action Plan to the HUD by May 31, 2007. Staff is continuing to work with the ARIES team to develop the HOPWA component of the data system. Staff will begin program site monitoring at the end of May 2007.

Residential AIDS Licensed Facilities Program (RALF)

The RALF Program is working with the Contracts Management Unit to prepare new contracts for the FY 2007-2008 allocation with the contract period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010. The request for application was issued and applicants are submitting their Five-line budget for the year.

Staff will begin site monitoring of the RALF facilities by July 2007, and continue monthly thereafter.

Community Based Care Section

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AIDS Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP)

State Office of AIDS will be meeting with Medi-Cal staff, federal Medicaid administrators, and project directors to develop a response and implement a plan to address how services are to be provided to eligible MCWP clients on a waiver "waiting list". The plan must be developed by July 1, 2007 and fully implemented by July 1, 2008. MCWP contracts have been fully executed for the current three-year contract cycle. CMS 372 reports are being prepared for submission to CMS by June 30, 2007.

Medi-Cal Billing Codes

The Office of HIPAA Compliance is working with DHS Payment Systems Division to identify selected codes currently being used by Medi-Cal. Fiscal and system/operational impact assessments have been completed and submitted to initiate operational changes. Necessary Operational Instruction Letters will be drafted and submitted to PSD.

CMP/MCWP Annual Conference

Planning is also underway for the 2007 Statewide Conference. This year, the annual conference will be held in San Diego, California. The dates are October 23-25, 2007. Attendees include Project Directors, Nurse and Social Work Case Managers, Case Aides, and other CMP/MCWP staff. The conference steering committee, made up of various CMP/MCWP staff from projects around the state and CBC staff, has begun to schedule workshop and plenary sessions and to solicit sponsors.

Early Intervention Section (EIS)

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Early Intervention Program

Eleven statewide one-day regional trainings "Understanding Stigma and HIV: Strength-based Approaches for Clients and Providers" are being conducted in April, May and June 2007. Trainings are for EIP staff and as space permits, other HIV service providers.

Positive Changes

OA staff are planning the next Positive Changes training/workshop which will take place July 10-22, 2007. More information will follow.

Therapeutic Monitoring Program (TMP)

Applications for 2007-2008 voucher requests under TMP have been received. OA is unable to fill all requests for vouchers since we received many more requests than available program funding will allow (voucher requests equal \$7.5 million, funding is \$4 million). Vouchers for FY 2007-08 were to be distributed by June 15, 2007.

Bridge

A Bridge Project training/workshop was provided for all Bridge workers in Sacramento, March 8 and 9, 2007.

AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Section

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AIDS Drug Assistance Program Unit

**Contact: Thérèse Ploof, Chief
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Fifteen New Drugs Added to ADAP Formulary

Effective March 30, 2007, fifteen new drugs were added to the ADAP formulary, bringing the total number of drugs on the program to 171. The new drugs represent additional treatment options within existing classes of drugs already on the ADAP formulary. These include anti-fungals (2), anti-seizure medication (1), antidepressants (1), anti-diabetics (3), antidepressant (2), antibiotics (2), anti-cholesterol (2), and anti-psychotics (2).

Prior Authorization Requirement for Aptivus Removed

On May 18, 2007, the Prior Authorization and ADAP usage criteria for Aptivus were removed from the program. Clients may now access Aptivus simply by presenting a valid prescription from a California-licensed physician.

Benefits Counseling Services

ADAP plans to convene a small advisory group to discuss the feasibility of ADAP funding one to four local providers/ADAP enrollment sites to work with ADAP clients on coordination of benefits, including Medicare Part D. These providers would have regional responsibilities for serving ADAP clients, assisting clients in maximizing their available benefits and, consequently, assuring that ADAP is the payer of last resort. Implementation of the proposed benefits counseling services would be targeted for fiscal year 2007-2008.

CARE/HIPP UNIT

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CARE/HIPP and Medicare Part D

To date, Part D premiums have been paid for approximately 837 ADAP clients and approximately \$209,000 has been expended on premium payments.