

**Office of AIDS
HIV Education and Prevention Services Branch
March 2007 Update**

**Contact: Kevin Farrell, LCSW
(916) 449-5818**

HIV Community Prevention Section

**Contact: Gail Sanabria, Chief
(916) 449-5790**

New guidance for FY 2007-2010 contract period was issued along with funding amounts to the Local Health Jurisdictions in January, 2007. The guidance provides clarification of what activities constitute an effective intervention, defines the level of interventions, and adds requirements for some interventions. Scopes of work and budgets are due from the Local Health Jurisdictions on March 1, 2007. Staff are reviewing, finalizing and processing the submitted FY 2007-10 scopes of work and budgets.

The HIV Community Prevention Section is updating their site visit monitoring tool to incorporate items from the new guidance, and beginning in late spring will be scheduling site visits.

HIV Prevention Policy and Program Development Section

**Contact: Catherine Lopez, Acting Chief
(916) 552-9823**

IDU

Syringe access has continued to expand across the state in the past few months. New syringe exchange programs are opening up in Los Angeles, San Mateo and Shasta counties, and the city of Sacramento has authorized syringe exchange for the first time. To date, fifteen county Boards of Supervisors and four city councils have authorized needle exchange. Currently, California has 39 Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs), more than any other state.

CDHS/OA continues to distribute the IDU Issues Newsletter to LHJs, CBOs and others working in the field: to be added to the email list contact aross@dhs.ca.gov. Ongoing policy work related to injection drug user health and wellness includes collaborative work with other state agencies to bring IDU issues to the forefront, implementation assistance with AB 547, the bill which simplified the process for cities and counties to authorize syringe exchange programs, and TA related to SB 1159, the bill which permits over-the-counter pharmacy sale of syringes.

Screen, Test, Diagnose & Prevent: A Clinician's Resource for STDs in Gay Men and Other MSM

In collaboration with the Office of AIDS, on March 7, 2007 the California STD Control Branch launched *Screen, Test, Diagnose & Prevent: A Clinician's Resource for STDs in Gay Men and Other MSM*. This initiative is designed to improve clinicians' knowledge, skills, and comfort in effectively diagnosing and managing STDs in gay men and other MSM. Tools to support routine and periodic sexual history taking, laboratory screening for STDs including the use of highly sensitive and specific nucleic-acid based screening, as well as risk reduction counseling for those at highest risk, are included. Also offered is guidance for creating a safe clinical environment for gay, bisexual, and other MSM patients, as well as information about STD and HIV partner management, useful in preventing post-treatment STD re-infection and transmission of HIV. All of the included tools — along with additional resources and referrals for both clinicians and patients — may be found at www.stdcheckup.org.

HIV Partner Counseling and Referral Services

HIV Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS) is a joint effort of the Office of AIDS and the STD Control Branch. In recent months PCRS staff worked with the California AIDS Clearinghouse (CAC) on the development of materials that local health departments, community based organizations, and HIV care clinics can use to promote the disclosure assistance services available to people living with HIV. The materials, titled *"You Care About Your Partner... and So Do We"*, can be found on the CAC website, www.hivinfo.org. In addition, the CDHS/STD Control Branch is collaborating with OA on the development of a plan to train HIV counseling and testing providers in preparation for the greater emphasis that will be placed on the offer of HIV disclosure assistance services in the new HIV counseling and testing structure.

Perinatal Project

The Perinatal Project has received a 79% response to its survey of Rapid HIV Testing in Labor and Delivery Rooms. As of June 2006 approximately 60 hospitals have rapid HIV testing available in Labor and Delivery (RTLTD), although only about 30 offer it to every woman with an undocumented HIV status. Our technical assistance contractor, Pacific AIDS Education and Training Center (PAETC), has begun providing trainings for hospitals throughout the state to assist them in implementing RTLTD. OA expects that 30 additional hospitals will be providing RTLTD by the end of 2007.

African American Initiative

The California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (CDHS/OA) continues to provide leadership to reduce the HIV incidence and prevalence among African Americans in California through the deployment of services which include: (1) the African American Gay Men/MSM Action Plans, (2) technical assistance and capacity building activities through ONTRACK Program Resources, and (3) working with the African American HIV/AIDS Coalition and their regional committees

African American Gay Men/MSM Action Plans

Data has shown that African American gay men/MSM are disproportionately impacted by HIV in California. Following your recommendation for the top 18 local health jurisdictions (LHJ) create Action Plans to address this issue. The Action Plans must: (1) be in conjunction with local

community planning priorities, (2) consider social, economic, cultural and political factors that contribute to risk, (3) be in the context of health and wellness, and (4) have C&T and HERR activities that target African American gay men/MSM. The first meeting with those LHJs was held on January 17, 2007 to begin the process. The next phase will be for CDHS/OA to create a more comprehensive Action Plan template that will include formative, program, and evaluation phases that will provide clear guidance and the ability to monitor the Plans. The Action Plans will be implemented in 2007.

Technical assistance and capacity building activities through ONTRACK Program Resources CDHS/OA awarded ONTRACK Program Resources an a \$1.2 million (\$400,000 over three years) award to provide technical assistance and capacity building to HIV prevention providers that serve African Americans. The programs will provide: (1) on-site technical assistance, (2) training, and (3) an electronic service directory.

HIV Latino Initiative

Project Concern International (PCI) is the contractor charged with implementing the CDHS/OA funded HIV Latino Initiative. PCI is in the process of conducting a statewide needs assessment to identify gaps in HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to Latinos. Later in Fall 2007, PCI will begin providing training and technical assistance to those agencies providing HIV/AIDS services to the Latino community.

Additionally, on February 28th and March 1st, the state funded Latino Advisory Board (LAB) met to work on recommendations that will assist state and local jurisdictions in serving the Latino community. The LAB has 23 members who were selected by the LAB Steering Committee, through a competitive application process. The LAB membership brings a wealth of expertise and diversity of experiences to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

HIV Counseling, Testing and Training

**Contact: Brian Lew
(916) 449-5538**

The HIV Counseling, Testing and Training Section (CT&T) is continuing efforts to restructure counseling and testing services in Office of AIDS (OA) funded sites. The new model that was previewed by CHPG at the November 2006 CHPG meeting has now been piloted in six representative Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs); the data from this pilot process is now being evaluated by the Prevention Research and Evaluation Section (PRE). The results of this comprehensive evaluation process will be used to make final changes to the new model. In mid-April through early May of 2007, OA staff will be convening six regional trainings for LHJs and their Community Based Organization sub-contractors (CBOs) to ensure a smooth transition in implementing the new model that will begin July 1, 2007. CT&T staff will continue to be available for technical assistance as the model is implemented. There will be an updated CT&T Restructure presentation at the June 2007 CHPG meeting.

After an absence in 2006 because of the restructure efforts, the Annual CT&T/NIGHT Coordinators meeting will return in the fall of 2007. This years meeting will focus on the restructure and the progress of implementation. A Training of the Trainers (TOT) type training on integrating and delivering Hepatitis C (HCV) testing services in C&T settings is in the planning stage and we anticipate this will be included in this year's meeting. This year's meeting will be convened in Southern California.

Recent CT&T staff hires include Peg Wright, Associate Health Program Advisor and Robert Crook, Office Technician. Peg comes to OA from the California Housing Finance Agency where she was a Training Officer. Peg's focus in CT&T will be on training issues such as coordinating CT&T's training program partners, training quality assurance and assisting in the revision of the C&T manual. Robert comes to OA from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation where he was an Office Technician at what was formerly California Youth Authority. Robert will be taking over the training logistics responsibilities formerly handled by Amy Kile-Puente. Amy was recently promoted to Staff Service Analyst, is the lead staff for CHPG, and coordinates Rapid Test kit inventory. Welcome Peg and Robert and congratulations to Amy!

HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH AND EVALUATION SECTION

Contact: Christopher Krawczyk, Ph.D.
(916) 449-5831

Local Evaluation Online Activities

The HIV Prevention Research and Evaluation Section (PRE) is currently planning the development of Local Evaluation Online (LEO) web-based system. LEO will build upon the existing Evaluating Local Interventions (ELI) system by also incorporating data from the Counseling Information Form (CIF), Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS), and the HIV Information Processing System (HIPS). PRE is developing the new database model, forming recommendations to guide programming of LEO, and developing trainings and guidance documents for planned LEO users. PRE has also collaborated with the CDHS/STD Control Branch to standardize data elements collected by both groups; and collaborated with the AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES) team to identify opportunities for LEO/ARIES data sharing. PRE continues to provide technical assistance for the current ELI system.

HIV Counseling & Testing Restructure Activities

PRE have been involved in numerous aspects of the HIV Counseling & Testing (C&T) restructure planning. PRE has contributed to the conceptualization of the restructured C&T system, has collaborated in developing the Client Assessment Questionnaire (CAQ), provided data support for determining the new reimbursement algorithm, and revised the CIF to reflect the C&T restructure. PRE has also taken the lead in evaluating the C&T Restructure Pilot. Pilot evaluation will focus on four critical areas: data validity, program procedures/process, client satisfaction, and frontline staff feedback.

Universitywide AIDS Research Program (UARP) Activities

Community Collaborative Research Project grantees for the 2004-2006 funding cycle are in the third and final year of funding. Collaborative projects funded include three focusing on methamphetamine using men who have sex with men (MSM), three focusing on Latino MSM and non-gay identified (NGI) men, three focusing on African-American MSM, and one establishing a web-based community for MSM intended to promote safer sexual practices and use of HIV Counseling and Testing services. Several collaboratives have been identified as promising interventions for further dissemination, including treatment of methamphetamine dependency.

OA and UARP are also in the process of developing Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2007-2010 Special Initiatives Program and The Community Collaborative Research Project. Foci for these RFA's include: a feasibility and effectiveness evaluation of HIV RNA testing, an evaluation of HIV testing attitudes, the development and evaluation of an HIV prevention intervention for African-American women, evaluation of an evidence-based intervention for African-American and Latino MSM, and a prevention preparedness evaluation of the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PREP) and microbicides.

Satellite Syringe Exchange Activities

The Satellite Syringe Exchange (SSE) Targeted Initiative is in its third and final year of the current funding cycle. Collaborating agencies and OA are developing a best practices manual and curriculum to guide implementation of SSE programs in other jurisdictions.

Data Dissemination Activities

The 2003 HIV Counseling & Testing State Report has been published and posted on the OA website. The 2004 and 2005 HIV Counseling & Testing State Reports are currently being prepared. PRE has developed and will be disseminating quarterly HIV Counseling & Testing data summaries; dissemination will begin in April 2007. PRE is currently developing semi-annual HIV Counseling & Testing summaries specific to populations of interest. A separate summary document will be disseminated for each of the following populations starting in Summer 2007: MSM, injection drug-users (IDU), African-Americans, Latinos/as, women, transgender, rapid testing clients, and youth/young adults.