

**HIV EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES
BRANCH UPDATE
November 2006**

HIV COMMUNITY PREVENTION SECTION

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**State of California Budget – One-Time Education and Prevention
Augmentation**

The HIV Community Prevention Section is finalizing their review of Fiscal Year 06/07 one-time augmentation scopes of work and budgets submitted by the local health jurisdictions (LHJs).

Prevention with Positives Conference

CPS and the Care Services Section hosted the Prevention with Positives conference at the Ontario Hilton, October 4-6, 2006. LHJ Education and Prevention coordinators, CARE coordinators, and representatives from State Office of AIDS (OA) funded community-based organizations in the top 27 LHJs attended. Keynote speakers included Dr. Don Francis and Dr. Rafael Diaz.

Stakeholders Contract Meeting

A stakeholders meeting with representatives from selected metropolitan, urban and rural local health jurisdictions met on August 31, 2006, to provide direction and response to a new guidance for the upcoming three year contract period, 2007-2010. The meeting was very successful and the guidance will be issued by the end of October with five regional informational meetings to be held throughout the state in early November.

Prevention with Positives Guidance to Effective Programs

CPS is working on the revision of the Prevention with Positives Guidance to Effective Programs first developed in April 2004. The Prevention with Positives REVISED Guidance to Effective Programs is scheduled for publication in November 2006.

Counseling, Testing & Training Section

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HIV Counseling & Testing Program Restructure Update

The Counseling, Testing and Training (CT&T) Section continues to move ahead in the restructuring process for the C&T program. After receiving input from internal and external partners, OA staff has developed a draft model that will be piloted among six local health jurisdictions (LHJs). A presentation of the new draft model will be presented at the November CHPG meeting.

Among the six participating LHJs, there are a total of 15 HIV test sites. The LHJs are: Fresno (2 sites); Los Angeles (2 sites); Orange (2 sites); Riverside (4 sites); San Francisco (2 sites); and, Yolo (3 sites). An information package that includes guidance on all the aspects of the restructured program has been distributed, and site visits have been scheduled by OA C&T Program Staff during the first two weeks of October. The pilot program for the HIV C&T restructured program will begin October 16, 2006 and is scheduled to end February 16, 2007, followed by an evaluation component. Regional trainings will be scheduled to take place statewide for all LHJs during the first two weeks of April 2007. Program implementation of the restructured C&T program is scheduled for July 1, 2007.

Training Update

OA's newest training partner, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), has begun to roll out their HIV Counselor training program. They held their first Basic I training at the end of July in Los Angeles, and it was a success. Their next Basic I training is scheduled for the beginning of October, in addition to their first Basic II training at the end of that month.

CT&T held a semi-annual Training Partners Meeting on September 15, 2006, in Sacramento, which brought together all three training partners (UCSF-AIDS Health Project, AHF, and LA County's Office of AIDS Programs and Policy) to increase communication, collaboration and coordination among the agencies and OA.

Prevention Policy and Program Development Section

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Syringe Access Update

Syringe access has continued to expand across the state in the past few months. San Luis Obispo has authorized both syringe exchange and pharmacy sale of syringes and the city of San Diego has re-authorized its city needle exchange.

Shasta County has authorized a syringe exchange program for the first time, and the Sacramento city council has authorized pharmacy sale of syringes. To date, fifteen county Boards of Supervisors and three city councils have authorized needle exchange. Currently, California has 39 Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs), more than any other state.

Perinatal Project

The Perinatal Project has received a 75% response to its survey of Rapid HIV Testing in Labor and Delivery Rooms. As of June 2006 approximately 60 have rapid HIV testing available in Labor and Delivery (RTLTD), although only about 30 offer it to every woman with an undocumented HIV status. During the next several months the survey data will be analyzed to assist OA and its subcontractors in targeting hospitals for implementation. Our technical assistance subcontractor has begun to provide training for hospitals that have expressed an interest in RTLTD.

HIV Partner Counseling and Referral Services

In July 2006 eight local health jurisdictions with the highest HIV/AIDS morbidity began implementing their plans to increase the availability of HIV Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS). The plans were developed in 2005 with the assistance of California Department of Health Services, STD Control Branch (CDHS/STDCB) staff. CDHS/STDCB staff is continuing to provide technical assistance to the local health jurisdictions as the plans are fully implemented. In addition, CDHS/STDCB staff has worked with the California AIDS Clearinghouse in the development of materials that raise awareness of the availability of PCRS which can be used by local health jurisdictions and community based organizations. The materials will be available through the California AIDS Clearinghouse beginning November 2006. For more information please contact Phoenix Smith, PCRS Unit Supervisor, at (510) 620-3182 or at psmith@dhs.ca.gov.

Toolkit to Increase STD Screening among HIV Positive Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)

California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS and STD Control Branch are collaborating on a toolkit to improve STD screening and treatment among HIV positive MSM. The presence of an STD can facilitate HIV transmission as well as impact quality of life. Studies have shown that despite recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the appropriateness of routine STD screening for HIV positive MSM, it does not occur routinely. The toolkit will address structural barriers that exist in clinic settings that inhibit screening. A pilot of the toolkit will be launched in January 2007. For more information please contact Tom Gray, HIV/STD Liaison at (510) 625-6005 or at tgray@dhs.ca.gov.

Latino Advisory Board

The Latino Advisory Board (LAB) Steering Committee met on September 20, 2006, in Sacramento and finalized their membership application and governance

document. The new LAB Steering Committee will be applied for and selected by OA staff. General LAB membership will be selected by the new Steering Committee. The membership application will be available late fall 2006. If you have any questions about LAB membership, please contact Catherine Lopez at CLopez@dhs.ca.gov

HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH AND EVALUATION SECTION

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New Chief

Steven Truax, Ph.D., retired in April, 2006. Christopher Krawczyk, Ph.D. was named Chief of PRE effective July 28, 2006. Dr. Krawczyk was formerly a Research Scientist in the OA Epidemiology Branch, Epidemiologic Studies Section; and a Project Coordinator at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Epidemiology Branch.

HIV Counseling & Testing Restructure Activities

The HIV Prevention Research and Evaluation Section (PRE) have been involved in numerous aspects of the HIV Counseling & Testing (C&T) restructure planning. In response to SB 2280 (Leno), PRE developed a document detailing potential options for C&T restructure. Plans for the currently proposed C&T restructure resulted from the PRE document. Subsequently, 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 started revising the Counseling Information Form (CIF) to reflect the C&T restructure. PRE has also taken the lead in developing materials to evaluate the C&T Restructure Pilot. Pilot evaluation will focus on three critical areas: data validity, program procedures/process, and client satisfaction.

Evaluating Local Interventions Activities

PRE is currently developing the second generation of our Evaluating Local Interventions (ELI) web-based system. The second generation, ELI II, will build upon the existing ELI system by also incorporating data from the CIF, Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS), and the HIV Information Processing System (HIPS). PRE submitted the Internal Feasibility Study Report to CDHS Information Technology Services Division on September 7, 2006, for preliminary review. PRE is developing the new database model and forming recommendations to guide programming of ELI II. PRE continues to provide technical assistance for the current ELI system.

Universitywide AIDS Research Program (UARP) Activities

Community Collaborative Research Project grantees for the 2004-2006 funding cycle are entering 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. UARP held a consortium in July for current Community Collaborative Research Project grantees. From this consortium and grantee progress to date, several collaboratives have been identified as promising interventions for further dissemination, including treatment of methamphetamine dependency.

Finally, OA and UARP have started development and programming of the CHOICE website. CHOICE will provide local health jurisdictions and community based organizations a forum to obtain information and materials for building program capacity and implementing evidence-based interventions. CHOICE will provide users with downloadable materials/curriculums for implementing evidence-based interventions; and information and resources for community planning, determining local needs, conducting evaluations, and training.

Satellite Syringe Exchange Activities

The Satellite Syringe Exchange (SSE) Targeted Initiative is in its third and final year of the current funding cycle. The five collaborating local health jurisdictions (LHJ's) will complete data collection for the SSE evaluation by year's end. Collaborating LHJ's and OA are also starting to develop a Best Practices manual and curriculum to guide implementation of SSE programs in other jurisdictions. OA and representatives from collaborating LHJ's have been invited to give a panel presentation on SSE at the National Harm Reduction Conference in Oakland on November 9, 2006. Finally, OA intends to fund the SSE Targeted Initiative for an additional three years (2007 – 2010).

Data Dissemination Activities

The 2003 HIV Counseling & Testing State Report has been submitted for OA and DHS approval. The 2004 and 2005 HIV Counseling & Testing State Reports are currently being prepared. PRE will also begin developing and disseminating quarterly HIV Counseling & Testing data summaries. These quarterly summaries will be disseminated starting in 2007. PRE will also begin developing and disseminating 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 2007: MSM, injection drug-users (IDU), African-Americans, Latinos/as, women, rapid testing clients, and youth/young adults.