

Monterey County HIV Planning Group Agenda

Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 2:00-4:00pm

Monterey County Health Department, Shasta Room, 1270 Natividad Rd., Salinas 93906

Present: Amanda Mihalko (MCHD), Akin Miller (AAHAWP), Orlando De la Cruz (CCHAS), Patti Yurus (OPIS), Susie Barnes (MCHD), Elena Maciel-Pantoja (MCHD), Anna Rick (CRLA), Bruce Loisel (CHS/Off Main Clinic), Daniela Mejia (CCHAS)

Welcome and Introductions

I: Agency and Clinic Updates

- [Central Coast HIV AIDS Services](#) (CCHAS) –
 - Orlando De la Cruz shared that there are a few housing slots available at this time. Please share referrals for those who may qualify. In addition, CCHAS is recruiting for a Part Time Education and Testing position. See link for more info: <http://monterey.craigslist.org/npo/4412607344.html>
 - Daniela Mejia shared that she has transitioned into the role of Education Prevention Supervisor and Alex Fernandez is transitioning into managing Client Services.

- [CRLA](#) – Anna Rick, LGBT Community Advocate, provided information about CRLA's hope to check-in with organizations and community members in the MCHPG about CRLA's **LGBT Fair Housing Project**. CRLA is looking to identify groups/organizations on the Central Coast that have observed problems with anti-LGBT housing discrimination in our community or are interested in learning about laws that protect against this type of discrimination and strategies for combating it. To begin to identify these groups, they are conducting a brief survey. If you are interested in any aspect of this project please complete the survey and/or contact Anna Rick, arick@crla.org, (831) 757-5221.

- [CHS](#) – Bruce Loisel, Lead Program Officer at [Off Main Clinic](#) and CHS, spoke about services available through [C.A.T.S.](#), or Counseling and Therapy Services, which provides the HIV/AIDS and LGBT communities in Monterey County with priority services for individuals and groups offered on a sliding fee scale. In addition, Bruce spoke about the methadone maintenance program at the Off Main Clinic and the partnership with CCHAS to provide HIV testing on site.

- [African American HIV/AIDS Wellness Program](#) – Akin Miller, Chair of AAHAWP, shared information regarding the groups idea to have a booth available at summer upcoming festivals, including possibilities of providing material at the CA Roots Festival, Summer Madness at CSUMB, Blues in the Park, the Jazz festival, and the Reggae Festival. More info to come.

- NIDO – Maria Benitez presented on the state-wide Office of AIDS Care Branch Best Practice Call in March about the outreach efforts that NIDO has developed and the amazing work she does with retaining and re-engaging clients into care. She received a number of kudos from colleagues at the state level as well as those in other health jurisdictions. Great work, Maria!
- OPIS – Patti Yurus, RN, reported that OPIS has 8 new clients from other areas. She also shared that a new Infectious Disease MD, Dr. Blum, will be hired at Peninsula Primary Care and comes with some HIV Care experience.
- Monterey County Health Department (MCHD) HIV/AIDS Programs
 - Elena Maciel-Pantoja, Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist, shared her work with registering venues for the Condom Distribution Program. If organizations are not registered and are interested in finding out more information about the process or requirements, please contact Elena. Also, promotional material for the National Viral Hepatitis Awareness Day was ordered and will be available for promoting the day.
 - Amanda Mihalko, HIV/AIDS Programs Coordinator, shared that a STD Month Awareness Table with reference material and condoms was hosted in the lobby of the MCHD for a week earlier in April. Condoms moved from the table very quickly, and were replaced throughout the week. The MCHD STD & HIV Prevention Facebook Page launched earlier in April. A successful Motivational Interviewing Training was held April 25th in Marina.

II. Additional Announcements

- National STD Awareness Month, April 2014
- National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, May 19, 2014
- National Hepatitis Testing Day, May 19, 2014
- National HIV Testing Day, June 27, 2014
- MCHD Twitter Account, follow us @WashCoverStay
- MCHD STD & HIV Prevention Facebook Page launched! Please Like and share!
- STD/HIV Update for Educators Training, May 9, 2014 in San Jose, presented by California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (PTC) – Full/waitlist opportunity
- Human Trafficking Training, Friday, May 16, 2014

III: Reports and Numbers

- Anticipating Updated Monterey County HIV/AIDS Quick Facts

IV: [Monterey County HIV/AIDS Resource Guide](#)

- MCHD staff is in the reviewing process of revising the Resource Guide. Please share any feedback, changes, or additional venues with Elena Maciel-Pantoja and/ or Amanda Mihalko.
- [MCHPG](#) Mission Statement
 - Discussion was initiated about the current Mission Statement and if it continues to reflect the current mission of the group.
 - *The Monterey County HIV Planning Group (MCHPG) is an unincorporated Planning Group of service providers and concerned community members whose purpose is to identify local, met and unmet, needs for HIV education/prevention and care/treatment services.*
 - No suggestions were brought forth, so a decision was made to send the MCHPG email distribution list a request for feedback/suggestions/changes from participants. Be on the lookout for an email asking for feedback.

V: Prevention/Care

- Review of updated [Viral Hepatitis Action Plan for Prevention, Care, and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis](#)
 - [Viral Hepatitis Action Plan 2014-2016 at a glance \(fact Sheet\)](#)
 - Patti Yurus shared that OPIS has been impressed with success of referrals to UCSF for management of HCV, placing clients on the new line of HCV medications. The meds were covered by private insurance (at this point).
 - Susie Barnes shared that at a recent training she learned that doctors affiliated with the PACE Clinic in Santa Clara who are prescribing the newer HCV medications have been able to get them paid for through the Medication Assistance Program. This may be an important resource to be knowledgeable about if cost is a concern for clients.
- [California Planning Group](#) Representation for 2014-2017 Term
 - Amanda Mihalko was asked to be a part of the CPG for the current term. The first meeting was held earlier in April and an in person meeting will be happening this summer in Sacramento.
 - The CPG members will work to help inform the update, revision, and implementation of the California Integrated Plan, advise Office of AIDS staff on issues related to the OA's work and mission, and act as a community liaison.
- Targeted Testing/Outreach Discussion
 - CCHAS will be continuing to utilize the Personal Section of Craigslist and will be beginning outreach on other social media sites/apps to share information about testing and safer sex practices.

- Discussion of outside the box ideas that other health jurisdictions are trying with personal apps (Grindr, A4A, Etc.).
- Possibility of CCHAS providing mobile van testing in Monterey was discussed.
- Participants asked to keep targeted testing on their radar and to share ideas with the group.
- Medical Provider outreach to increase routine testing, promote Linkage to Care (LTC) and Partner Services (PS)
 - MCHD Epi staff will be compiling a list of local medical providers who are testing for HIV, and staff will be following up with these providers to provide support, resource material, and information regarding LTC and PS. Project in progress.

VI: ACA

- [Affordable Care Act and Immigrants Health Brief](#)
- Enrollment Workers with HIV/AIDS Expertise to be added to OA list?
 - [Current List of Covered CA Certified Enrollment Entities working with HIV/AIDS Communities](#)
 - Send any names of individuals who have this specialty to Amanda Mihalko. Currently, the closest Certified Enrollment Entities with experience working with the HIV/AIDS Community are in SLO and the Bay Area.
- ACA/ADAP – successes, challenges, questions
 - Discussion about some of the challenges of receiving timely documentation from Medi-Cal and difficulty getting follow up responses from medical and social services staff in regards to coverage and enrollment.
 - Anna Rick shared that if individuals do not receive a Notice of Action letter within 45 days they are eligible for a hearing. In addition, if a person is ill, they can request a hearing before 45 days. There was not a clear definition of “ill” at this time, but may be an effective piece of information for getting action moving.

VII. Open Forum

- Fair Housing Surveys distributed.

VIII. Resources

- Free Online Webinars: [Best Practices in HIV Prevention: Translating Innovation into Action](#)
- [CDPH Viral Hepatitis Resources](#)
- [CalHEP \(California Hepatitis Alliance\)](#)
- [CDC HIV/AIDS Fact Sheets](#)