

Monterey County HIV Planning Group Minutes

Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 2-4pm

Marina Training Center, 299 12th St., Marina, CA 93933

Present: Akin Miller (African American HIV AIDS Wellness Program, NAACP Health Committee), Kim Keefer (CCHAS), Jocelyn Brady (CCHAS), Irma Ecleava (NIDO), Patti Yurus (OPIS/CHOMP), Janice Banello (CSUMB Student Intern/MCHD), Amanda Mihalko (MCHD), Elena Pantoja (MCHD), Emiko Torres (MCHD), Kristy Michie (MCHD), Susie Barnes (MCHD), Lillian Clements (Off Main Clinic)

Welcome and Introductions

I. Agency and Clinic Updates

- Updates from participants (agency/staff changes, projects of interest, trends, trainings, announcements, questions for group, etc.)
 - [African American HIV/AIDS Wellness Program \(AAHAWP\)](#) – Akin Miller, Chair of the African American Wellness Program, reported was that Dr. Strand (OPIS, Salud Para Gente) presented at the AAHAWP and NAACP Health Committee meeting on April 7th about PrEP. Akin also reported that AAHAWP is hoping for funding through the Community Foundation for a small grant to assist with booth design for events (various jazz and music festivals). Akin presented a new poster on PrEP and PEP, and expressed that the AAHAWP will be incorporating information about PrEP into their presentation of materials at events. In addition, there has been interest for AAHAWP to present to various sororities and the NAACP Executive Committee.
 - Off Main Clinic - Lillian Clements, Counselor at the Off main Clinic shared that there are 6 counselors at the Off main Clinic at this time. If anyone has referrals of clients who may benefit from methadone maintenance, please refer them to come to Off main Clinic, 831-424-4828. Welcome and thanks to Lily for attending MCHPG!
 - OPIS Clinic – Patti Yurus, RN, shared that a per diem/part time nurse is orienting at OPIS. No changes in doctors or other staff. This past quarter there have been 6 additional clients at OPIS, 1 newly diagnosed individual and 5 individuals who have transferred.
 - NIDO Clinic – Irma Eclavea, Outpatient Service Manager, reported that a new RN has been hired for the NIDO Clinic. There have been an additional 11 clients this past quarter, 8 newly diagnosed individuals and 3 individuals transferring.
 - [Monterey County Health Department](#) (MCHD)
 - Kristy Michie, Program Manager and Epidemiologist, reported that Monterey County has seen an increase in the number of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea (after a decrease last year). HCV numbers appear to be stable at this time. In 2014, there were 15 Monterey County residents reported with new HIV infections and 17 Monterey County residents

reported with AIDS. During the first 3 months of 2015, 6 individuals were reported with new HIV infections and 2 individuals with AIDS. There has been an increase in provider HIV testing with the correct tests in the new testing algorithm.

- Elena Pantoja, Teen Pregnancy and HIV Prevention Programs, requested for venues that are part of the Condom Distribution Program to remember to order condoms on a regular basis so there is time to receive your orders before you run out or need for events. If anyone knows of additional venues that could be enrolled, please send contact information to Elena at pantojaME@co.monterey.ca.us.
- Amanda Mihalko, HIV & AIDS Programs Coordinator, reported that she attended the National Transgender Health Summit in Oakland earlier in April. She is hoping to send out a list of resources she learned about at the Health Summit to the MCHPG email distribution list. She also reported this past quarter has seen a fiscal audit for HCP/MAI FY13/14, preparation of new budgets (Prevention FY15 and SCIP FY15/16), and working on the Care budget for the 15/16 FY.
 - [Central Coast HIV AIDS Services \(CCHAS\)](#) – Kim Keefer, Executive Director, shared that CCHAS will be ending operations on June 30, 2015, remaining in the space until July 31, 2015, due to budgetary restrictions and lack of funding. Clients have been told individually during case management sessions. Press release to the wider community is imminent, no later than mid-month. Kim reported that if current staff leave before the June 30th date that CCHAS may close sooner. CCHAS is trying to find an agency who may be able to take on HOPWA funding and potentially Recovery funding, and have made contact with the ADAP Branch about what will happen with ADAP contract. MCHPG members present thanked them for the work they have provided the community.

II. Announcements

- April – National Youth HIV AIDS Awareness Day (April 10th), STD Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- May – Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month, Viral Hepatitis Testing day (May 19th), National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV AIDS Awareness Day (May 19th)
- June – National HIV Testing Day (June 27th), PRIDE Month
- Potential guest speaker ideas for summer quarter meeting
 - Ideas generated by the group included someone to speak about PrEP and ER procedures for PEP. Group asked to send ideas to Elena Pantoja (pantojaME@co.monterey.ca.us).
- New contact person at the [C.A.T.S.](#) program offered through Community Human Services, Elizabeth Wilson (757-7915, x002). [C.A.T.S.](#) aims to provide a supportive space in which individuals and their families can talk confidentially with an LGBT-friendly staff and LGBT-identified professionals. C.A.T.S. provides

the HIV/AIDS and LGBT communities in Monterey County with priority services for individuals and groups offered on a sliding fee scale. Individuals can call and leave a message requesting C.A.T.S. services and someone will call them back to complete an intake.

III. Surveillance

- Joint Training held April 14th in Santa Cruz by the State Office of AIDS Surveillance Branch for county staff working with Surveillance data
 - Brief review of information shared at the training, including the need to collect ethnicity in case reporting, and race and ethnicity if the individual identifies as non-Hispanic, as well as the need to look closely at how people are exposed to HIV. The Office of AIDS Surveillance Branch hopes to produce LHJ specific Treatment Cascade/Continuum of Care information.
 - Kristy Michie (MCHD) reviewed the updated [Gonorrhea Quick Facts](#) with the group, including the inclusion of looking at both repeat infection numbers and co-morbidities. The fast sheet will be published on the web and the Health Department will have printed copies for distribution if needed. Amanda thanked Kristy Michie and Susie Barnes for their work on providing the data and review of the fact sheet, as well as Jose Hernandez (CSUMB/MCHD Intern) for his assistance with the formatting of the updated fact sheet.
 - Other surveillance news – Kristy Michie shared that the Health Department would like to make local data available moving forward that can be used to help groups support grant applications and other projects. MCHD staff have gone through confidentiality trainings to be able to look at available data to review cases for co-infections, and this has corresponded with databases (CalREDIE) available that have caught up with the amount of data available.

IV. Prevention

- PrEP – Updates
 - Dr. Strand (OPIS and Salud Para Gente) presented to the African American HIV AIDS Wellness Program and NAACP Health Committee on April 7th, providing an overview of PrEP including use, effectiveness, side effects, and cost. MCHD has received confirmation that Dr. Strand at Salud Para Gente and Dr. Saglio at his Valle Verde office in Salinas are prescribing PrEP, and will be included online as local resources. We are following up with an additional provider and once this information is confirmed will publish information on the MCHD website. Community members are asked to check in with their health care coverage plans about the coverage of PrEP and any co-pays and deductibles associated with medical appointments and prescriptions.
 - Questions? Challenges? Need resource materials?
 - Jocelyn Brady (CCHAS) suggested that PEP information and resources be published and geared toward the general community. Discussion began about the cost and typical use of PEP in ERs (occupational exposure), as well as the

messages that may be appropriate to share regarding using PEP as a harm reduction tool. Individuals who may be seeking PEP are also possible candidates to discuss PrEP with at future points.

- Syringe law change (AB 1743)
 - Questions? Any community pharmacies that seem receptive?
 - Review of the new law language, and clarification that pharmacies are not mandated to sell syringes without prescription, but rather the law gives the permission to do this. Amanda (MCHD) shared her recent discussion with the State Office of AIDS Injection Drug Use Specialist about the lack of pharmacies moving forward with these sales, and reported that many counties are experiencing the same disconnect between the law change and pharmacies. MCHD is moving forward with an additional one page fact sheet to be sent to pharmacies.
 - Kim Keefer (CCHAS) shared that her staff have reported being alerted to three pharmacies that are selling syringes without a prescription. At this time this information is being confirmed.
 - Patti Yurus (OPIS) asked group if there was a specific type of syringe injection drug users request and if we are moving forward with contacting larger pharmacies that this information be shared. Patti also shared that she is willing to ask pharmacists that she has contact with what their pharmacies policies are at this time.
 - Jocelyn Brady (CCHAS) suggested to the group contacting pharmacy managers and then asking for their regional manager information and working contacts up the chain of command as a possible way to gather information and advocate for the non-prescription sale of syringes.
- Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) moving forward
 - Kim Keefer (CCHAS) shared that there have been discussions with two local agencies/organizations about the possibility of continuing SEP in Chinatown. At this time one of the agencies has said no and the other is still considering, though it is questionable if SEP fits into their mission. MCHPG members asked about the possibility of approaching Clinica de Salud or Off Main Clinic, but Kim shared that these agencies have expressed a conflict of interest. Funding is also a concern as SEP is not currently supported by any government dollars, and Kim shared that to run the minimum needed for SEP a budget of approximately \$55,000 is needed annually to support SEP activities. Clarification given about the funding available in the past for SEP activities, specifically that these funds were available through Prevention funding that CCHAS received through the county via the state Prevention Contract, but that since the federal ban on supporting SEP this money has not been available.
 - SEP clients have been notified of the CCHAS closure and gap in SEP services verbally, and this information is posted in Chinatown at Dorothy's Place. Information may be posted on the CCHAS website.

IV: Care and ACA

- Ryan White Part B, Fiscal Audit, April 20-24th
 - Fiscal audit completed and appeared to go well. Expecting exit letter in the following weeks and formalized report within the next few months. Thank you all around to NIDO and NMC staff, OPIS/CHOMP staff, and MCHD fiscal department for their work on helping this process go as smoothly as possible.
- Ryan White Waiver (recap of state webinar, 4/29/15 at 9am)
 - Review of the State Office of AIDS Care Branch webinar, including reasons for the waiver and what the waiver entails. Jocelyn Brady (CCHAS) asked if the general trend shown is expected to continue, and it was shared that with the changes in Health Care Coverage and expansion that this seems to be true. General consensus among group was support of the waiver. Amanda (MCHD) shared that if folks have questions, feedback, or concerns that they can contact her (mihalkoa@co.monterey.ca.us) or Marjorie Katz (marjorie.katz@cdph.ca.gov) by May 8th.
 - Two page fact sheet - [OA's Core Medical Service Waiver Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
 - PowerPoint Slides from OA Webinar on 4/29/15 - [OA's Core Medical Services Waiver Webinar - 4/29/15 - Slides \(PDF\)](#)
 - Recording of the webinar from 4/29/15 - [OA's Core Medical Service Waiver Webinar Recording - 4/29/15](#)
- ACA/Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal– successes, challenges, specific questions?
- ADAP moving forward
 - Kim Keefer (CCHAS) reports that she has contacted ADAP Branch about CCHAS closure and that a phone conference will be held with advisor/coordinator at the state level and her supervisor with CCHAS staff. Irma Eclavea (NIDO) expressed that NIDO's ADAP enrollment staff are working at capacity, and they have received an abundance of calls from CCHAS clients re: ADAP services moving forward. Patti Yurus (OPIS) shared that she would be interested in discussing ADAP with staff/supervisors at OPIS/CHOMP and requested that Kim send contract information to her to share with CHOMP staff. Kim reported that there are approximately 100 people on the ADAP caseload of the CCHAS Client Services staff on the Monterey Peninsula. A question was raised about how clients at CCHAS are being notified of their closure and Kim Keefer reported that all clients have been notified in-person by their case manager/client services staff.
- HOPWA moving forward
 - Kim Keefer (CCHAS) reported that they are still trying to find an agency willing to take on their HOPWA contract. Housing Resource Center

(HRC) has been contacted and meeting within the next week to discuss this possibility. State Office of AIDS HOPWA staff will have to approve any agency willing to take on this contract. A total 50 households are served through CCHAS for housing needs. CCHAS handles the county's HOPWA contract and uses funding for tenant based assistance, emergency rental and utility assistance, hotel and motel vouchers, and subsidized rent. Kim shared that a contingency plan proposed is Santa Cruz's HOPWA office could assist with contract, but would need space to work from in Monterey County. The question was raised again about how clients at CCHAS are being notified of their closure and potential gap in services and Kim Keefer reported that all clients have been notified in-person by their case manager/client services staff.

V. California Planning Group

- Review of March 11, 2015 meeting in Sacramento
 - Amanda Mihalko (MCHD) shared with the group the highlights from in-person CPG meeting, including discussion about the upcoming state wide needs assessment and revised Integrated Plan. The agenda can be reviewed here: [CPG March 2015 Meeting](#). Meeting minutes will be forthcoming on the Office of AIDS CPG website.

V. **Open Forum/discussion**

- Kim Keefer (CCHAS) shared information about Camp Kindle, a camp that serves children and youth ages 7-15 who are living with HIV and AIDS or who have caregivers who are. The camp registration and travel to camp is covered. Information about Camp Kindle was sent to the MCHPG Distribution list on 4/30/15. More information is available at <http://www.projectkindle.org/forms/>