

## **Monterey County HIV Planning Group Minutes**

Monday, February 22, 2015, 1pm-3:00pm

Monterey County Health Department, 1270 Natividad Rd., Salinas – Whitney Room

Present: Amanda Mihalko (MCHD), Kristy Michie (MCHD), Paris De la Rosa (ASN), David Kilburn (ASN), Irma Eclavea (NIDO), Maria Benitez (NIDO), Elena Pantoja-Maciel (MCHD), Susie Barnes (MCHD), Angela Cook (MCHD), David Perez (ASN), Jonathan Presley (ASN), Jeanette Hedgecock, Daniela Mejia (ASN), Kristina Baker (CHS, C.A.T.S.), Anna Logsdon CHS Off Main Clinic), Lillian Clements (CHS, Off Main Clinic), Elaine Fisher (CSUMB Student, ASN), Lisa Irish, Dina Calderon (ASN), Elena Ramirez (ASN), Suzanne Moreno (MCHD)

### Welcome and Introductions

#### I. Announcements/Agency and Clinic Updates

- Updates from participants (agency/staff changes, projects of interest, trends, trainings, announcements, questions for group, etc.)
  - Off Main Clinic: Lily Clements and Anna Logsdon shared that CHS Off Main Clinic currently has 214 patients and a waitlist, however pregnant women and HIV+ individuals can begin the program immediately.
  - C.A.T.S.: Kristina Baker shared that the C.A.T.S. Program offers free counselling for LGBT and HIV+ identified individuals and their loved ones, regardless of health care coverage.
  - NIDO Clinic: Irma Eclavea shared that NIDO has had 12 new patients since November 2015, including 8 transfers, 4 new. 2 patients has passed away in that time frame. Their current caseload is 298.
  - MCHD: Elena Pantoja has moved to the Planning, Evaluation and Policy Unit within the Health Department. She will be missed!
- Past and Upcoming Awareness Days
  - World AIDS Day (December 1, 2015) – activities at CSUMB
  - National Black HIV AIDS Awareness Day (February 7<sup>th</sup>)
  - National Women and Girls HIV AIDS Awareness Day (March 10)
  - National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 20)
  - National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (April 10)
  - First! National Transgender HIV Testing Day (April 18)

#### II. Surveillance

- Case Reporting and Lab Updates, Kristy Michie, M.S., Program Manager for the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Division
  - Review of 2015 new HIV demographic information comparing PLWA in Monterey County compared to 2015 newly reported diagnosis. Currently 630 PLWA in Monterey County.
  - Points of emphasis, 24% of the 2015 new reports were female, compared to 18% of PLWA in Monterey County. An increase was

noted in 2015 new HIV reports for youth aged 15-21, as well as individuals in the 25-44 age group. The percentage of Hispanic (any race) comprise 50% of PLWA, and the 2015 new HIV reports were 66% Hispanic (any race). Over a quarter of individuals diagnosed in 2015 had no identified or reported risk.

- Discussion about how schools are teaching information about HIV was brought up, and Elena Pantoja shared that the new state guidelines require that HIV be taught within Sexual Education. Some schools receive support from Planned Parenthood and Monterey County Health Department for sexual health classes, while others complete the work with current teachers.
- Kristy reported that she is hoping to work on a local continuum of care for our county to share with the group.

### III. Prevention

- Joint Partner Services Training with Santa Cruz County
  - February 24 and 25, 2016 held in Watsonville
  - Successful training held in Santa Cruz County with representatives from MCHD, NIDO, ASN, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, and Santa Cruz AIDS Project.
- Update from Recent HIV Test Counselor Training in SLO, January 2016
  - David Kilburn, Executive Director at ASN reported that there were 16 people trained at the HIV test Counselor training held in January. There may be an additional training held in the future. NIDO requested to be alerted so that staff can be trained.
- Update from Prevention Workshop in Berkeley – January 31-February 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Amanda Mihalko and Kristy Michie both attended the workshop in Berkeley. The biggest takeaways from the 2 ½ days were PrEP expansion and the benefits and challenges for both consumers and providers, data to care efforts and using surveillance data to support prevention efforts, and continued focus on social determinants of health and health disparities experienced by PLWA. Many of the interventions shared were implemented in urban areas, and would require smaller jurisdictions to problem solve and get creative to use parts of interventions locally.
- Update from National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, December 2015
  - Elena Pantoja travelled to the National HIV Prevention Conference with MCHPG member Emiko Torres. She shared several resources with the group including information about Baltimore's Condom Distribution Program, AltaMed PrEP materials (<http://altamed.org/prep>) and Act Against AIDS Initiative: Start Talking, Stop HIV Campaign ([ActAgainstAIDS@cdc.gov](http://ActAgainstAIDS@cdc.gov)). Act Against AIDS offers free co-branding on materials. She also

shared information about an intervention in Los Angeles where the health department works with night clubs to pay the entry fee for individuals who take a rapid HIV test.

- Elena also shared her experience learning about the 1 minute HIV test and a sample was available for people to see. The test is FDA approved.
- PrEP – [PrEP Resources on MCHD Website](#)
  - ASN PrEP Update – Jonathan Presley, ASN Test Counselor, shared that ASN has been doing advocacy work with health care providers and community members, gathering information about what questions individuals have, who is interested, and exploring what providers may be prescribing. Currently building capacity for support for clients navigating patient assistance programs. David Kilburn let group know that ASN can support individuals in the process of enrolling with the Gilead Patient Assistance program, as well as guiding people who may be interested in PrEP to Covered CA health care plans that may best serve their needs as they begin PrEP.
  - Monterey County will be posting provider information on ‘Please PrEP Me’.
- Syringe Exchange Update
  - Kristy Michie shared that Monterey County Counsel determined that an RFP was needed to move forward with choosing an agency to administer an authorized Syringe Exchange Program. The paperwork for this has been submitted and the RFP will be out for a bid in the coming months. There are currently syringe exchange supplies that have been supplied by the state through a demonstration project, and these can be accessed by the agency that becomes the authorized Syringe Exchange Program.
- El Canto Del Colibri Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion
  - Kristina Baker and Amanda Mihalko shared their experience working with the Monterey County LGBT Collaborative that hosted a documentary screening of El Canto Del Colibri at the Maya Cinemas in Salinas on February 5<sup>th</sup> to a crowd of 400+. A panel discussion focusing on the theme of family acceptance of LGBT youth was held afterward with the filmmaker Marcos Castro-Bojorquez, a family featured in the film, a local family, and Trans Activist Bambi Salcedo. The collaborative is hoping to use this momentum to organize an LGBT Film Festival.

#### IV: Care and ACA

- Ryan White Part B, Contractor Visit, January 12, 2016
  - Positive visit with Jackie Wilson, OA Care Operations Advisor. Emphasis placed on spending out allocations and strict adherence to 10% cap on administration fees.

- Ryan White Service Reports (RSR) are due to the State Office of AIDS. A reminder to all individuals working with ARIES data that every piece of documentation is important and helps build a strong foundation for reports.
- Additional Service Categories within Monterey County
  - The Office of AIDS Care Branch had additional Ryan White Part B funds for the remainder of FY 15/16 and for FY 16/17. These funds are time limited. MCHD is subcontracting with ASN to expand service categories using these additional funds to include the following categories: Medical Transportation, Food Bank and Home Delivered Meals, Health Care Premium Assistant and Health Care Coverage Assistance, Case Management, and Housing Services.
    - David Kilburn shared that the Housing Services category is being utilized to support homeless clients with active case management to remain in care and currently there are 10 clients being housed through this service category. This has also required ASN to negotiate rates with hotels and that experience has been both positive and challenging.
- Health Care Premium Assistance and Health Care Coverage Assistance by ASN
  - Planning Group members requested an overview of the service category Health Care Premium Assistance and Health care Coverage Assistance. Elena Ramirez from ASN gave an overview of eligibility for assistance and the steps taken to enroll people in health care coverage plans, including individuals living with HIV and AIDS who are undocumented. She also explained the application process for OA HIPP and how this service category helps with payments before other programs issue checks. At this time there is no formal referral process, but interested individuals will need to become a client with ASN and show proof of diagnosis. ASN staff will work with referring agencies to support the assistance needed of clients.

#### V: Planning Groups, Coalitions, Alliances updates

- California Planning Group update – next mtg 4/11-12 in Sacramento
  - Stay tuned for State Wide Needs Assessment information.
- California HIV Alliance update
  - Formalizing Budget proposals to include 4.8 million in state general fund for home care (including registered nurses and social workers to assist people staying in their homes if they become unwell). 1 million to create an interagency task force for HIV/HCV/STDs and drug user health. 1 million for PrEP affordability program for people

living below 500% of the FPL. Discussion about federal and rebate funds for ADAP and OA HIPP to include co-pay assistance for employer based coverage.

- CA Hepatitis Alliance (Cal Hep)
  - Joint budget request with CA HIV Alliance update. Request for \$100,000 for Hepatitis B vaccine, and \$270,000 to certify people for HCV testing.
- Others?
  - ASN was awarded an HCV Testing and Linkage to Care Grant, currently on hold as the scoring of grant award is being evaluated. Several new HCV positives were recently found during Recovery Center testing.

#### VI. Open Forum/discussion

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 2016.