

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

Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 9:30-11:30am  
Marina Training Center, 299 12<sup>th</sup> St., Marina, CA 93933

Present: Irma Eclavea (NIDO), Maria Benitez (NIDO), David Kilburn (ASN), Elena Ramirez (ASN), Kris Gottlieb (ASN), David Perez (ASN), Kristy Michie (MCHD), Angela Cook (MCHD), Veronica Arteaga (MCHD), Stacie Simmons (Off Main Clinic), Gary Rodriguez (CSUMB), Sarah de Grazia (CSUMB), Lori Osorio (SJ PAETC), Andrea Solano (Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency), Kristina Baker (CATS), Anna Rick (CRLA), Amanda Mihalko (MCHD)

### Welcome and Introductions

#### I. Agency and Clinic Updates

- Updates from participants (agency/staff changes, projects of interest, trainings, questions for the group)
- NIDO: Irma Eclavea shared that their ADAP Coordinator is back in the office. There is a Medical Assistant position open. Currently NIDO is serving 290 clients, 7 new to NIDO (5 new diagnosis and 2 transfers from other clinics). In addition, NIDO has seen an increase in infectious disease clients, serving 600. Peer support groups are happening, and the peer support worker has been able to attend community health fairs recently.
- ASN: David Kilburn, Executive Director, thanked the MCHPG community for their support and understanding as they quickly developed contracts, opened offices, and started HIV support work in the community. Kris Gottlieb, Communication and Development Director, is ASN media contact. Elena Ramirez, Housing and Client Services Manager, reported that ASN has hired two new staff for Monterey County offices and have one additional vacancy.
- MCHD – Welcome to Angela Cook, new Supervising Public Health Nurse for the Communicable Diseases Unit, and Veronica Arteaga, Public Health Associate from the CDC, who will be working on TB projects this year and HIV related projects beginning fall 2016. Kristy Michie, Program Manager, shared that free flu clinics are still ongoing. In addition, Kristy discussed the shift in TB Controller (contract still being negotiated), and the increased TB caseload being seen at NIDO Clinic. Amanda Mihalko, HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator, thanked everyone for their patience as she transitions back to work from maternity leave. Amanda recently traveled to San Diego for the in person CPG meeting, will be working with student groups at CSUMB for World AIDS Day activities, and has had a number of budget and reports due to the state in October and in the coming month.
- Community Human Services
  - i. C.A.T.S. (Counseling and Therapeutic Services) – Kristina Baker shared information about the C.A.T.S. Program, which provides therapy services for LGBTQ and individuals living with HIV/AIDS in our community. The C.A.T.S. census is currently low, and that referrals can be made for

services in both English and Spanish speaking clients. Please contact Kristina at 831-757-7915 x002 for details and to schedule an appointment.

- ii. Off Main Clinic – Stacie Simmons shared that Off Main Clinic has seen growth and at this time there are 200 clients being seen by the clinic.
- CSUMB – Sarah DiGrazio, Health Educator, shared that CSUMB has 22 peer educators work with students on topics such as sexual assault awareness, alcohol and drug use with students. Gary Rodriguez shared that CSUMB current enrollment is more than 7,100 students. The Campus Health Center is run by Doctors on Duty, which also serves as a community clinic.
- San Jose AIDS Education Treatment Center: Lori Osorio shared that the PAETC has started its new contract cycle and will be working on a number of projects including trainings for providers, PrEP and HIV messaging on social media.

## II. Announcements

- Covered California Open Enrollment – November 1-January 31
  - i. ASN accepting referrals and is able to assist HIV+ individuals with finding and enrolling into a health plan.
- EpiCenter LGBTQ Thanksgiving Kickoff Celebration – 11/19 at 5:30
- [AB 959](#) – LGBT Disparities Reduction ACT passed (collection of sexual orientation and gender identity info)
- [AB 329](#) – Pupil Instruction: Sexual Health Education passed
- World AIDS Day, December 1<sup>st</sup> - ideas?
  - i. CSUMB NAACP Student Committee is presenting a panel discussion from 6-7:30pm. Gary Rodriguez shared that the College of Health Sciences and Human Services is also tabling (11-1pm) and hosting a speech by Dr. DiClemente at 2pm on campus ([Dr. DiClemente bio](#)). Additional details to come.
  - ii. Gary Rodriguez also shared that Father John Perez has World AIDS Day Banners and additional World AIDS Day material.
  - iii. Anna Rick spoke about the need to include language translation into World AIDS Day Planning.

## III. Surveillance

- Kristy Michie, Monterey County Health Department Epidemiologist and Communicable Disease Program Manager, shared surveillance numbers with the group. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, there have been 25 new cases, 11 first diagnosed as stage 3, as well as 2 reported deaths (aware that death records need updated information from medical providers). Currently 657 people living with HIV, average age is 49. Among these individuals 273 (42%) have a reported HIV associated lab.
- Request to see numbers by age group and to see community viral load.
  - i. NIDO reports seeing new cases in the 25-40 age range.
- State transition to Electronic Lab Reporting which will help keep stats up to date.

- Other STD news – Kristy Michie shared Increase in syphilis, especially early syphilis. Providers also doing an HIV test with positive syphilis diagnosis.
  - i. Andrea Solano shared that syphilis rates in Santa Cruz County have remained steady.

#### IV. Prevention

- SAPT Contract – ASN
  - i. Awaiting approval from Monterey County Board of Supervisors, rescheduled to December meeting. This funding will provide the opportunity for continued high risk HIV and HCV testing at Recovery Centers and County Jail.
  - ii. David Kilburn shared that ASN is working with a CSUMB student who has an interest in HepC education.
- Update of Provider Outreach for Routine Testing project
- State Office of AIDS Demo Project – Supplies Only
  - i. HIV, HCV Test Kits
  - ii. Syringe Exchange Supplies
- Upcoming HIV/HCV certified test counselor training
  - i. David Kilburn shared that ASN will be hosting a 5 day, certified test counselor training provided by Alliance Health Project. If agencies or organizations have staff that need trained, please contact David for additional information about dates, travel arrangements, etc.
    - 1. NIDO requested to have the availability of a bi-lingual trainer available for the training.
  - ii. Andrea Solano shared that Santa Cruz County is hosting a training the November 17 to November 20 in Watsonville, currently a waitlist.
- Syringe Exchange Update
  - i. Currently no authorized syringe exchange program in Monterey County. RFP is next step.
- AB 521 Vetoed (Bill requiring every hospital, if it otherwise draws blood from a patient and the patient is admitted to the hospital from the ER, to offer to test that blood for HIV with the patient's consent.)
- PrEP Update
  - i. Monterey County Health Department working to contact additional medical providers who may be willing to discuss providing PrEP, in addition to Dr. Strand and Dr. Saglio.
  - ii. ASN reported being able to assist individuals navigate payment assistance.
  - iii. In Santa Cruz County, SCAP provided an in-service for potential community providers.
  - iv. Lori Osorio, requested information about how many people may be receiving PrEP already in Monterey County and if there are additional practices providing PrEP that we are unaware of.

#### V. Care, ADAP, and ACA

- Ryan White Part B, Fiscal Audit Results

- i. No findings! Great work and kudos to NIDO, OPIS, and MCHD staff for assistance.
- OA Ryan White Waiver Update (follow up from April 2015)
  - i. Waiver was denied by HRSA. OA gathering more information from HRSA and will reapply. An additional letter of support may be needed in the future.
- Ryan White Part B Augmentation for FY 15/16
  - i. Additional allocation for ASN to provide wrap around services, including Housing (providing support where HOPWA funds end, work with homeless clients into emergency hotel stays), Non-Medical Case Management, Transportation (gas vouchers), and Food Assistance (food cards).
- ADAP and OA-HIPP changes
- ACA/Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal and service gaps – successes, opportunities for funding the uninsured, challenges, specific questions?
  - i. ASN staff discussed success in San Luis Obispo County of helping individuals get enrolled in ‘off exchange’ plans, which can help individuals gain access to specialty services and care out of their area.
  - ii. Kristy Michie discussed an HCV Service Gap, specifically the HCV Linkage to Care challenge in Monterey County due to a low level of medical staff and clinics providing HCV care for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured.

## VI. HOPWA

- Review of Services
  - i. Elena Ramirez from ASN shared that ASN provides short term rental assistance working with qualified clients toward a long term housing plan. HOPWA funds cover clients’ portion and their dependent children. CCHAS former clients housed in Casa de Paz have been relocated and clients from Calm Waters have transitioned to a different program.

## VII. Planning Groups, Coalitions, Alliances updates

- California Planning Group update
  - i. Amanda Mihalko traveled to San Diego for the second in person CPG meeting. The group worked on continuing to brainstorm and discuss information that will be included in the upcoming State Wide Needs Assessment which will help inform the revised California Integrated Plan. Presentations from Office of AIDS staff included messages about the importance of strengthening data to care initiatives and projects, as well as an increased look at integrating funding streams to provide the best HIV prevention, treatment, and services for local communities.
- California HIV Alliance update
  - i. David Kilburn is a co-chair of the CA HIV Alliance, and expressed that his goal is to represent rural areas that may have different needs from urban areas. He is grateful to be at the table and hear the issues that are brought up and provide a different perspective. Recent topics of interest

are funding for prevention, potential ADAP changes (drug discount and rebates).

- Others?
  - i. Amanda Mihalko shared that some local health jurisdictions are moving toward a planning group structure that includes broader sexual health topics, sexual health educators, and STD related surveillance, treatment, and prevention information. Group asked to think about idea, and to share any existing pertinent groups/coalitions with Amanda.
    1. Gary Rodriguez shared that he was previously involved in a larger sexual and reproductive health coalition in Santa Cruz County.

#### VIII. Open Forum/Discussion

- Lori Osorio from SJ PAETC shared that she has been working with a Facebook employee to develop a platform to collaborate and share information related to PrEP.