

## **HIV CARE BRANCH AND ADAP SECTION BRANCH UPDATE**

June, 2006

### **HIV CARE BRANCH**

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#### **AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES)**

On behalf of the ARIES partners (San Bernardino/Riverside and San Diego EMA, and the State of Texas), the HIV Care Branch is pleased to announce the upcoming implementation of ARIES, an internet-based client case management and information system that will consolidate and streamline data reporting processes for nine programs administered through the Branch. Additionally, ARIES will meet the data collection and federal reporting needs for providers receiving funds through the RWCA Titles I, III and IV and HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA).

The training and pilot at select sites throughout the state will begin on July 1, with a phased rollout to providers beginning in October, 2006. For further information, please contact your program representative or Denise Absher at [dabsher@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:dabsher@dhs.ca.gov), Elizabeth Brannon-Patel at [ebrannon@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:ebrannon@dhs.ca.gov), or Susan Sabatier at [ssabatie@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:ssabatie@dhs.ca.gov).

### **CARE SECTION**

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#### **HIV Care Consortia/Care Services Program (CSP)**

The CSP application guidelines and forms for Fiscal Year 2006-07 have been posted on the OA website. CSP staff is continuing to conduct on-site contract monitoring and to provide technical assistance to fiscal agents.

#### **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA)**

The HOPWA program is in the process of submitting the Consolidated Annual Plan to Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A draft has been published for public comment. The HOPWA allocation for year 2006 was announced on the HUD website. OA announced the formula allocation to the eligible counties through a Request for Applications that was issued the second week of April, 2006. HUD has issued new reporting elements which must be implemented beginning July 1, 2006. In May 2006, OA HOPWA Staff received training on the reporting forms from AIDS Housing Washington. OA staff will provide training to sponsors in July 2006. Locations and dates will be announced soon.

#### **Residential AIDS Licensed Facilities Program (RALF)**

In June, the Residential AIDS Licensed Facilities Program will announce the 2006-2007 funding for approved residential care facilities for the chronically ill (RCFCIs).

## **COMMUNITY BASED CARE SECTION**

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### **Semi Annual Project Director's Meeting**

The semi-annual Project Director's Meeting (PD Meeting) was held Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14th and 15th in Napa. Seventy-six Project Directors or their representatives attended the meeting. A major issue that was discussed was the changes related to the implementation of Medicare Part D; that the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) will no longer be covering share of cost for dual eligibles. Another important session was regarding implementation of the AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES) and general data collection.

### **Medi-Cal AIDS Waiver (MCWP) Program**

**Waiver Renewal:** The process of applying for the five-year renewal of the Medi-Cal AIDS Waiver for case management is continuing. The current Waiver expires at the end of calendar year 2006. The timeline for the process has the application due to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Baltimore by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2006. In May, the CBC Section sent a final draft to Medi-Cal Policy Division (MCPD) for final review.

**CMS 372 Report:** This is an annual report to CMS that includes Waiver statistics (enrollment, service usage, cost neutrality, etc.) as well as reporting on monitoring activities and significant findings by the CBC Section. This report is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

**Evidentiary Report:** This report to CMS is an assessment of the Waiver for the current five-year authorized period and examines six basic "assurances" or important principles of the MCWP. It was submitted to CMS in September 2005 and they responded with three pages of questions. OA sent a draft of our responses back to MCPD and also discussed these responses with CMS. The final report was sent to CMS on April 17, 2006.

**Medi-Cal Billing Codes:** Program reviewed the alternative codes provided by Office of HIPAA Compliance (OHC). Program made decisions on best choice of codes and forwarded the selections to OHC on April 18 2006. OHC is working with the Payment Systems Division to identify if any of the selected codes are currently being used by Medi-Cal. Once the results have been retrieved and analyzed, OHC will send the result and final proposed strategy for initiation of the policy, fiscal, and system/operational impact assessment.

### **Disease Management (DM) Pilot for HIV**

After it was decided this past year that HIV would not be a part of the Disease Management I pilot, there is discussion about a new Disease Management pilot specifically for HIV. This program would test the efficacy of a managed care program for fee-for-service HIV/AIDS clients. The CBC Section and other OA staff met with representatives from the MediCal Benefits Branch (MBB) to discuss questions and concerns regarding such a pilot. The services offered under this proposed pilot are not beyond what is currently offered under the MCWP and if a person is in a case management program, such as MCWP, they will not be eligible for this new DM program. An RFP will be going out soon, with a stakeholders meeting planned by Medi-Cal to gather input regarding the best model to use, geographic focus, etc. OA sent a mailing list of HIV program contacts to MBB.

### CMP/MCWP Annual Conference

Planning has begun for the 2006 Statewide Conference which will be held in Concord, CA in October. Attendees include Project Directors, Nurse and Social Work Case Managers, Case Aides, and other CMP/MCWP staff. The conference steering committee, made up of various CMP/MCWP staff from projects around the state and CBC staff, held its first meeting in March and is already well on its way to identifying sponsors, planning breakout sessions, and gathering give-away items. The steering committee will be meeting and holding conference calls several more times prior to the actual conference.

### Program Operations Manual (POM) and Joint AIDS Case Management Protocols (JACMP)

The POM is a manual that describes and explains the overall program operations of the CMP/MCWP. This manual is utilized mostly by Project Directors. The JACMP is a manual that describes the day-to-day case management standards for the CMP/MCWP, and is utilized mostly by nurse and social work case managers, case aides, and other CMP/MCWP staff. As of April 4, 2006, these two manuals are now officially available to providers and contractors on the OA Website.

### **EARLY INTERVENTION SECTION (EIS)**

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#### Bridge Project

A kick-off meeting was held in San Diego on May 17, 2006 for the ten Bridge Project sites that will be participating in a new study. The study is intended to provide more information about the health and psychosocial status of HIV-infected persons who knew or suspected for some time that they were infected, but lacked access to the health care system.

#### Early Intervention Program (EIP)

An initial meeting involving the participants in the EIP pilot evaluation was held at OA on Friday, March 3, 2006. The participating projects are those located in the City of Long Beach, Orange County, Riverside County, and Santa Clara County.

#### Statewide Treatment Education Training Request for Applications (RFA)

An RFA for the Statewide Treatment Education Training Program, for Fiscal Years 2006-2009, was distributed to all interested parties on March 21, 2006. This announcement was also posted on the Office of AIDS website under "funding opportunities." The due date for a non-binding Letter of Intent to apply was 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2006. One of the seven agencies that sent a letter of intent submitted a set of ten questions regarding the RFA. The responses to these questions were mailed to all of the applicant agencies on April 26, 2006. The proposal submission deadline was 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15, 2006.

#### Therapeutic Monitoring Program

Applications were mailed on March 21, 2006 to local health jurisdictions and EIP projects to estimate the number of viral load and resistance test vouchers needed for use in Fiscal Year 2006-2007. TMP staff supplied additional FY 2005-2006 vouchers to the jurisdictions that requested them.

## **AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ADAP) SECTION**

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## **AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNIT**

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### **ADAP and Medicare Part D**

The deadline for enrollment in Medicare Part D was May 15, 2006. Recent data shows that most ADAP clients with Medicare have either selected a Medicare Part D Plan and applied for the Low Income Subsidy as required, or provided ADAP with proof that their private health insurance is comparable to what Medicare Part D plans offer ('creditable coverage'). The process has been complicated and difficult for clients, case managers, and OA ADAP staff, but every effort has been made to ensure clients can maintain their prescription regimens during the transition. For the most part, everyone has been very cooperative and understanding as individual problems are resolved. Approximately 22% of our ADAP population is now using Medicare drug coverage. ADAP can be used to cover most of a client's out-of-pocket costs associated with Medicare Part D.

### **New Drugs Added to Formulary**

Both brands of pegylated interferon have now been added to the ADAP formulary. Pegylated interferon is used to treat hepatitis C. This availability will maximize treatment options for co-infected ADAP clients.

All available antiretrovirals are included on the ADAP formulary, as well as other drugs used to prevent or treat opportunistic infections. Treating co-infections such as hepatitis C (when appropriate) helps prevent progression of HIV disease in many patients.