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June 2010

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From the Director

Introducing the Bay Area Network For Positive Health (BANPH)

On May 14, 2010, the White House Office of National AIDS Strategy and the National AIDS Fund, announced that the Bay Area Network for Positive Health (BANPH), which includes the Alameda County Public Health Department – Office of AIDS Administration (OAA), is one of only five collaborations in the country (the others are New York City, Chicago, Louisiana and North Carolina) to receive funding through the National AIDS Fund's competitive process. Recognizing that HIV treatment is prevention, BANPH is focused exclusively on reducing the number of HIV + individuals who are out of care in Alameda and San Francisco Counties. BANPH is an unprecedented regional effort to find and link to care the estimated 8,000 HIV+ individuals who have fallen out of care in the Bay Area. In year one of the effort, BANPH will identify and link to care 600 HIV+ individuals lost to care in the Alameda and San Francisco Counties.

On April 1, 2010, BANPH began a three month planning phase with \$140,000 from the National AIDS Fund. Implementation will commence next month with \$500,000 over the next 3-5 years. While the planning phase is still under development, one pilot program will focus on linkage of African American MSMs and will include two African American faith-based organizations in Oakland and Berkeley. Another element will continue a recent successful effort funded by the Alameda County's Office of AIDS Administration. In that pilot program, Women Organized to Resist Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD) and the East Bay AIDS Center (EBAC) successfully initiated the "Phoenix" project designed to link HIV+ African American and Latina women lost to care back to an HIV service provider. By March, 2010, Phoenix had already identified 25 HIV+ women and successfully reconnected 17 of them to care services. Phoenix is ongoing and will serve as a model for BANPH's activities directed to HIV+ women. Details of other BANPH activities targeting youth of color and incarcerated individuals will follow as the



planning group's efforts continue to develop.

In December 2009, at the same time as BANPH's application was being submitted, OAA initiated a new effort to re-engage HIV+ individuals who were lost to care in Alameda County. Using state MAI funds from the State Office of AIDS, OAA funded Tri-City and AIDS Project East Bay to identify and reconnect HIV+ people of color to care. OAA's ongoing effort augments and compliments the overall BANPH effort.

The National AIDS Fund is a Washington D.C. based foundation that funds innovative efforts to address the domestic HIV epidemic. Dr. Cynthia Gómez, Ph.D., is BANPH's lead coordinator. She is a founding director of San Francisco State University's Health Equity Initiatives and leads efforts to address health disparities to promote health equity across the United States. Dr. Gómez is a leading HIV prevention scientist and has served as co-Director of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS). Dr. Gómez is also a pioneer in research on cultural determinants of sexual behaviors, gender dynamics, and programs for people living with HIV. She has served on several national committees, including the CDC's HIV and STD Advisory Council, and is a National AIDS Fund board of trustee. She has also served as a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS under two Administrations.

OAA is pleased to work with Dr. Gómez and the BANPH coalition of regional community stakeholders including WORLD, CenterForce, Street Level Health, Tapestry Ministries, East Bay Church of Religious Science, Health Initiatives For Youth, SFPD, the Forensic AIDS Project, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and UCSF's Center of Excellence.

The 2010 Community Needs Assessment

The Alameda County Public Health Department Office of AIDS Administration has contracted with Harder+Company Community Research to conduct the 2010 HIV Needs Assessment of Special Populations in the Oakland Transitional Grant Area (TGA).

The purpose of the needs assessment is to determine the service needs of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLW HIV/AIDS) in Alameda County and Contra Costa County, with a focus on:

African-American Men who have sex with men
Latino Men who have sex with men
Women of Color
Male-to-Female Transgender individuals or Transgender Women?
Youth, ages 13-24
&
Injection Drug Users

We want opinions and input from PLW HIV/AIDS on your thoughts about the services that you currently receive as well as additional service needs that are not currently met. Eligible HIV+ participants will receive an incentive in appreciation for their time.

Harder+Company will be requesting your assistance and support for:

- recruiting eligible participants for the needs assessment,
- posting and distributing flyers, informing staff and clients about the needs assessment,
- hiring community interviewers, and/or
- securing space at your organization to conduct interviews or focus groups.

Thank you, in advance, for your help in planning the 2010 HIV Needs Assessment. If you have any questions regarding the needs assessment, please contact either Alejandra Portillo at Harder+Company Community Research at 415-522-5400 or Tom Mosmiller at the Office of AIDS Administration at 510.268.7646.

New Media Grant

The Office of AIDS Administration received a \$9,000 grant to incorporate the use of new media as an HIV prevention tool. The grant will be used to update the OAA's website to a comprehensive resource of HIV/AIDS information for



individuals seeking information, services and resources that are specific to Alameda County. The OAA was one of 12 organizations who were awarded nationally.

Community Viral Loads

Current research is looking into possible links between community HIV viral loads and rates of HIV infection. Viral loads are determined through laboratory tests that estimate the amount of HIV virus in a person's body. Community viral loads (CVL), therefore, are the total cumulative or average viral loads of HIV+ individuals in a given community. CVL can be broken down by geography as well as race, age, and any other category available from viral load laboratory reports. This way, communities can see if a certain population has higher CVLs, and therefore may not be accessing Anti-retroviral therapy (ART)

Evidence currently suggests that the lower a viral load in a given community, the lower the rate of new cases in that community. This is an expansion on the concept that if an HIV pregnant mother is on ART, and her viral load is subsequently suppressed, the chances of transmission to the fetus are lessened.

Based on preliminary findings, the San Francisco

Department of Public Health has recommended initiating treatment for anyone who is HIV positive regardless of his or her viral load or CD4 count. While some feel there is no definitive data to support this practice, the possibility of prioritizing viral load suppression as a prevention method may mean major changes to the future of HIV prevention.



While there will always be a need for behavior change as a model for prevention work, medical interventions such as viral load suppression through assuring ART engagement for HIV positive clients as well as pre-exposure prophylactic treatment for those who are negative, known as PrEP, may be the wave of the future.

Developing and maintaining viral load information is costly and work intensive, therefore currently limited to jurisdictions with large caseloads with funding to maintain up to date data. However, viral load analyses could become a vital tool in assessing the care and prevention needs in a given community.

Partner Services

The State Office of AIDS continues to encourage the use of Partner Counseling & Referral Services (PCRS) as a viable yet underutilized HIV prevention method. Partner disclosure services could greatly aid in identifying individuals who have unknowingly been exposed to HIV. The program provides individualized support and coaching for HIV positive individuals seeking assistance and guidance in disclosing their HIV status to their sexual and or needle sharing partners. It also provides the opportunity for their

partners to be HIV tested and to develop greater opportunities for the HIV positive individual and their partners to negotiate safer sexual practices.

If you or someone within your organization was unable to attend the recent PCRS training please contact Duran Rutledge 510.268.7649 or duran.rutledge@acgov.org. The State has offered to provide training, if we are able to secure a cohort of 10 – 15 individuals to attend the 3 day training.

No More ADAP for HIV+ County Jail Inmates?

The Governor's budget proposes to transfer its cost of HIV medications from the State AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to Alameda County on July 1st. The OAA estimates the shifting cost to Alameda County to be approximately \$600,000 per year to provide care for approximately 50 HIV+ inmates on a regular basis. Thus far, all indications are that the State Legislature will approve this proposal.

OAA staff testified before the Board's Public Safety Committee on the ADAP issue on May 3, 2010.

The Office of AIDS Administration and the Sheriff's Department will make a presentation to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' Health Committee on ADAP coverage on June 14th at 9:00 AM. at 1221 Oak Street in Oakland.

If the State budget is not finalized until after the July 1st start of the new fiscal year, there is uncertainty as to whether or not State funds will continue to be utilized to pay for HIV medications for inmates currently in custody.

The Sheriff's Department is pursuing, a negotiated addendum with the Alameda County General Services Agency for additional funds for Prison Health Services to cover the costs of these HIV medications. The proposed budget addendum requires the approval of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

The Health Committee meeting on June 14th is open to the public for comment



The 23rd Annual East Bay HIV Update

Friday • June 18, 2010
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Samuel Merritt College of Nursing
Health Education Center,
Fontaine Auditorium
400 Hawthorne Avenue,
Oakland, CA 94609

REGISTER AT www.eastbayaetc.org
For more information call East Bay AETC
at 510/835-3700, ext. 115 or
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center,
Research & Education Institute at
510/204-2423

Lectures:

Controversies in HIV Treatment: Debate 2010
Disparities in HIV Care
HIV Funding—State of the State
HIV Screening: Test, Treat and Retain

Workshops Include:

HIV Medications for Non-Prescribers
Youth & HIV: Coping with Shame & Stigma
From Disease Education to Health Education
Better as One: Problem Solving Interagency
Collaboration
Vicodin Wars: Pain Medications & HIV Care
HIV Health Education & Self Management
Women & HIV, Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Making Health Care Reform Work for People with
HIV/AIDS

Home and Community-Based Health Care Services

Community Care Services, Inc. (CCS) is a Home Care agency, licensed by the state of California. They have been providing home care to clients living with HIV/AIDS since 1983, and have served Ryan White clients since 1997.

They assist clients with all the activities of daily living such as meal preparation, bathing, assistance with medication and accompany them to doctors visits when necessary.

Clients receive an initial assessment before they are admitted into care. They are required to have a letter of diagnosis and a prescription for home care from their physician. Based upon the doctor's recommendation clients are provided between 12 and 20 hours of service per week. The physician is updated every 60 days regarding the clients progress with the treatment plan.

We believe that in order to provide excellent service, it is essential that clients be involved in their care. All clients receive a satisfaction survey and all of their comments are reviewed. Concerns are addressed immediately. Over the past 19 years, client suggestions and requests have resulted in services that accommodate specific needs such as offering a choice of care givers, and a preference for the days and hours of service



Spotlight on OAA Intern

Sana Ali

Sana was born in Atlanta, Georgia and moved to Oakland, California until the 5th grade. She then returned to Atlanta where she graduated high school and earned a BA degree from Georgia State University in Psychology. Sana returned to Oakland to pursue a Masters Degree in Social Work from Cal State East Bay.

She began her internship with the Office of AIDS Administration during her senior year and was a tremendous help to OAA. She assisted with Community Planning Council administrative duties, grant writing, funding allocations to direct services, agency site visits, scope of work development, proposal reviews and other special projects. Sana



completed her internship on Friday, May 14, 2010. She will participate in a graduation ceremony to receive her MSW this month. Sana plans to go on vacation after graduation before she seeks employment in Washington, D.C. to work for an agency that assists African American female youth with developing life skills, realizing academic achievements, and embracing their "girl power". It is Sana's life goal to design and implement a program that supports low income African American girls. We are going to miss Sana very much and wish her many successes in her life.

CCPC Priority Setting and Allocations

The Community Collaborative Planning Council (CCPC) is currently in the process of prioritizing services and allocating funds to service categories.

The process takes several months and the council seeks community input on how the funds should be used to serve the community.

This year, the process started in May with presentations on service utilization data. Below is the schedule of meetings and work that will be done at those meetings towards completing the allocation.

The June and July meetings will also serve as Town Hall Meetings to elicit community input.

All meetings include time for anyone from the public to make comments to the planning body on the process, experience with services, recommendations and anything else related to the business of the planning council.

Wednesday June 23, 2010

2:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Chabot Room, Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Avenue
Castro Valley C

- Epidemiology Data Presentation
- Fiscal Report from Office of AIDS Administration
- Comprehensive Plan

Wednesday July 28, 2010

2:00 PM to 8:00 PM

West Oakland Senior Center
1724 Adeline Street
Oakland, Ca

- 2010 Community Needs Assessment
- Special Populations
- Priorities and Allocations from:
 - ◇ People Living with AIDS Committee
 - ◇ Quality Data and Services Planning Committee
 - ◇ Office of AIDS Administration

Wednesday August 18, 2010

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Elihu Harris State Building
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, Ca.

- Contra Costa Priority Settings and Allocations
- Content Analysis of Public Comments from January 2010 through July 2010
- Core and Support Service Prioritizations
- Funding Allocations
- Contingency Planning

For more information visit the CCPC website at www.hivccpc.org
or call Patricia Sweetwine at (510) 326-3476

OAA Contracted Service Providers

Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services

Alameda County Medical Center
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
AIDS Project of the East Bay
Bay Area Consortium for Quality Hlth Care
East Bay AIDS Center (EBAC)
Lifelong Medical Care
Tri-City Health Center

Case Management-Medical

Alameda County Medical Center
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
AIDS Project of the East Bay
Ark of Refuge, Inc.
Catholic Charities of the East Bay
Children's Hospital
East Bay AIDS Center (EBAC)
East Oalkand Community Project
Lifelong Medical Care
Resources for Cummunity Development
Tri-City Health Center

Child Care Services

Family Suport Services of the Bay Area
La Clinica de la Raza

Emergency Financial Asst-Food Vouchers

AIDS Project of the East Bay
Tri -City Health Center

Emergency Financial Asst-Utillties

AIDS Project of the East Bay
Tri -City Health Center

Food-Congregate Meals

Allen Temple Development Corp.

Food-Home-delivered Meals

Project Open Hand

Food-Pantry/Grocery Bags

Project Open Hand

Home and Community-based Health Services

APEB/Community Care Services

Housing-Emergency Assistance

EBAC

AIDS Project of the East Bay
Tri -City Health Center

Legal Services

East Bay Community Law Center

Mental Health Services

Alameda County Medical Center
Children's Hospital
East Bay Comm. Recovery Project
La Clinica de la Raza
Pacific Center
Providence House
Tri -City Health Center

Oral Health Care

Almeda Health Consortium

Linguistic Service

LanguageLine

Psychosocial Support Services

AIDS Project of the East Bay
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
La Clinica de la Raza
Tri -City Health Center
Volunteers of America

Substance Abuse Services

Alameda County Medical Center
Catholic Charities of the East Bay
East Bay Comm. Recovery Project
East Oalkand Community Project

Medical Transportation Services

CAL-PEP
Tri -City Health Center
OAA In-house

HIV Testing and Prevention Services

Alameda County Medical Center
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
AIDS Project of the East Bay
City of Berkeley
CAL-PEP
East Bay AIDS Center (EBAC)
HEPPAC
La Clinica de la Raza
Tri -City Health Center

Harm Reduction Services

HEPPAC
Tri-City Health Center

If you need information on how to contact any of these agencies, please call the Office of AIDS Administration main number at (510) 268-7630.

Article or Announcement Submissions

The Office of AIDS Administration encourages community members to submit articles relevant to HIV/AIDS in Alameda County

- Approximately 250 words (one double spaced page)
- Include contact information
- Submit by email only
- Submit as word document or in the body of email
- Due to space constraints, not all submitted articles will be published.
- For more specific guidelines, contact Daniela Torres at Daniela.Torres@acgov.org

**For a subscription to the OAA Quarterly Newsletter,
please send email to Daniela.Torres@acgov.org**



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