

DHWDC-HAPIS Update

NOVEMBER 2009

National News

FY2010 Funding

To date, three of the twelve FY2010 appropriations bills have been signed into law. The federal government is funded under a Continuing Resolution through December 18. The FY2010 Labor-HHS-Education bill is likely to be wrapped up in an Omnibus package to be considered after health reform passes the House and Senate, likely near the end of the year. Therefore, final funding levels for FY2010 HIV and viral hepatitis programs will not be immediately available.

One of the outstanding issues for the Labor-HHS-Education bill is the removal of the federal funding ban on needle exchange programs, including addressing the language in the House bill establishing strict limits on where they can be located.

Ryan White Extension

The House and Senate passed the "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009" (S 1793/ HR 3792) to extend the Ryan White Program for another four years. In the House vote, nine Members voted against the bill. The bill was signed by the President on October 30. The bill includes many of the priority changes for which the AIDS community advocated.

National HIV/AIDS Strategy

The White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) website now includes updated information on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS), including a blog on ONAP's "Call to Action" to encourage community dialog on the "strategic steps" needed to address the domestic epidemic. The Events page provides links and details of each of the fourteen Community Discussions, along with videos and photographs from each of the events.

ONAP has also tasked the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to conduct three workshops on HIV screening and access to care as part of the data gathering for the NHAS. This is not a regular IOM study; instead, the IOM is naming a fifteen-member committee to conduct these workshops focused on select questions. The panel will develop "consensus conclusions" to share with ONAP. The process is expected to take a year, beginning with the first meeting in December.

Health Reform

Since all five committees of jurisdiction have passed versions of health reform legislation, the House and Senate leadership are in the process of developing merged bills for consideration in their respective chambers. It is highly likely that the House and Senate bills will look very different. Once the bills pass the House and Senate, conference between the two chambers will begin.

ADAP Crisis Task Force

The ADAP Crisis Task Force (ACTF) held its fall negotiation meeting in St. Louis on October 16 and met with representatives of Bristol-Myers Squibb, Abbott Laboratories, and Schering-Plough. The discussions were successful and the agreements with all three companies will be extended beyond December 31, 2009. Details of the agreements are being finalized and, upon completion, notification will be sent to all AIDS directors and ADAP coordinators.

Hoffman-LaRoche has merged with Genentech and will be known as Genentech in the U.S. The company is in the process of reorganizing and did not attend the ACTF fall meeting, but has expressed a desire to meet at a later date to discuss extension of their agreement.

Comments on Future Expanded Testing Initiative FOA

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) recently submitted comments and recommendations to the CDC Prevention Program Branch in response to a request for feedback on the future funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for Expanded and Integrated Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Testing for Populations Disproportionately Affected by HIV, Primarily African Americans. NASTAD highlighted and reinforced many of the sentiments that have been expressed by health department staff during CDC site visits, expanded testing meetings and most recently, the regional feedback calls hosted by CDC. Particular emphasis was given to the role and importance of engaging health departments and recognizing their responsibility for leading local responses to the HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis epidemics in the U.S. NASTAD strongly urged CDC to ensure that health department perspectives and recommendations for improving testing programs be incorporated into the new FOA.

Revised Guidelines for HIV CTR in Non-Health-Care Settings Meeting Summary

In June 2009, CDC sponsored a Consultation on Revised Guidelines for HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral (CTR) in Non-Health-Care Settings. The summary report from this meeting is now available online. The report highlights the recommendations from the consultation as well as current plans for the future.

Ethiopia

In the partnership between Michigan and Amhara, the Michigan team has completed an adaptation of the SISTA evidence-based HIV prevention intervention for use in Amhara to address HIV among high risk women. The team travels to Amhara in November to pilot the adaptation and train trainers for roll-out across the region.

Office of Inspector General FY2010 Work Plan

The Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has issued their FY2010 Work Plan, which includes the following items of interest:

-Review of Medicaid Reimbursement to 340B Entities: OIG will review state Medicaid reimbursements under the 340B Drug Pricing Program and determine whether 340B entities have billed Medicaid their actual acquisition costs and, if not, how much Medicaid could save if all 340B entities were to bill Medicaid their actual acquisition costs. OIG will also determine the cost to Medicaid if 340B entities were reimbursed for all Medicaid drug purchases at the standard Medicaid reimbursement rates.

-High-Cost HIV/AIDS Drugs: OIG will review Medicaid payments for HIV/AIDS drugs to determine the amount Medicaid could save by using centralized purchasing and dispensing programs. During recent audits of ADAP, OIG identified one state that had purchased all ADAP drugs through a single contracted wholesale drug company and dispensed the drugs to ADAP-eligible participants through state-contracted pharmacies. OIG preliminary analysis indicates that this centralized approach produced significant savings.

-Ryan White CARE Act Payer of Last Resort Provision: OIG will review states' compliance with the payer of last resort requirement in the administration of ADAP funds. A previous OIG report indicated that a significant percentage of payments made for ADAP medications in one state should have been paid by parties other than the ADAP.

-Oversight of the Ryan White Core Medical Services Requirement: OIG will review HRSA's oversight of the core medical services requirement of the Ryan White Program. OIG will also determine the extent to which grantees spent Ryan White funds on core medical services.

-Community Health Centers Adoption of Recommendations for Human Immunodeficiency Virus Testing in Health Care Settings: OIG will review the extent to which health care providers in community health centers are aware of and have adopted CDC's recommendations for HIV testing in health care settings. OIG will also review activities CDC has undertaken to encourage community health centers to adopt CDC's HIV guidelines.

AIDSLEX: Advancing the Rights of People Living with and Vulnerable to HIV

The AIDS and Law Exchange (AIDSLEX) is a tool for activists, community organizations, researchers, policy-makers, journalists, health workers, and anyone who seeks quick and easy access to a wide range of resources about HIV, human rights, and the law. The ultimate goal of AIDSLEX is to contribute to a global effort to protect and promote the human rights of people living with or vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. Visit <http://www.aidslex.org/> for more information.

MICHIGAN NEWS

RYAN WHITE SPNS GRANT

The Continuum of Care (COC) Unit applied for and received a Ryan White "Special Projects of National Significance," or SPNS, grant for Part D capacity building. The onetime only grant began on September 1, and provides \$81,755 to enhance CAREWare reporting through the development of a "Dashboard" reporting structure. The Dashboard structure is highly visual and will make it easier for providers who use CAREWare to customize reports for use in needs assessment and program monitoring and reporting. The grant funds are being contracted to AJ Boggs and the MDCH Project Director is Don Calhoun. AJ Boggs will be facilitating a series of focus groups to solicit input from affected providers.

2010 DIVISION TRAINING CALENDAR

The 2010 Division Training Calendar is being finalized and will be available online soon. Questions regarding the calendar can be directed to Julie Babb at (313) 241-5903.

TESTING IN STD CLINICS

To date, CPU staff have assisted the STD clinics in the counties of Genesee (effective May 2009), Wayne (effective June 2009), Kalamazoo (effective October 2009) and Ingham (effective November 2009) to implement HIV testing as a standard of care. We will be working closely with additional health departments in the coming months to fully implement HIV testing as a standard of care in STD clinics. We expect that all 16 of the high HIV prevalence local health departments will implement HIV testing as a standard of care, using rapid HIV testing, by the end of 2010. For additional information contact Jeanine Hernandez at hernandezjea@michigan.gov.

HIV MEDIA CAMPAIGN MINI GRANTS

Ten agencies were awarded \$5,000 each by the Michigan Department of Community Health to implement awareness campaigns in conjunction with the federal Act Against AIDS/ 9½ Minutes campaign. These agencies include: AIDS Partnership Michigan, Central Michigan District Health Department, Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, Gospel Against AIDS, The Hearth Home, Horizons Project/Wayne State University, Ingham County Health Department,

Michigan AIDS Coalition, Thomas Judd Care Center, and Washtenaw County Public Health Department. Activities are scheduled through the end of 2009.

World AIDS Day December 1

The Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control (DHWDC) is compiling information on World AIDS Day events from local health departments and community-based organizations. Information on those events will be available on the above website after November 29. Please contact Belinda Chandler at chandlerbel@michigan.gov for questions regarding upcoming events. A Plan of Action is attached.