



September 28, 2007

Dear Syphilis Elimination Coordinators:

This letter is the 8th in the continuing series of letters to state and local health department members of our Syphilis Elimination Coordinators' network. As the seasons change and we approach the end of 2007, we hope this newsletter finds you all well and provides you with useful information.



Progress on Syphilis Elimination (SE) Evidence-based Action Plans

We are particularly excited to receive the SEE Evidence-based Action Plans with the FY 2008 Comprehensive STD Prevention Systems continuation grant applications. The new SE action plan format is revision of the SE monitoring plan, and is a requirement for all activities conducted by the state and local health departments and by community-based organizations that receive SE funding. In addition to the regular grant application review conducted by the Division of STD Prevention Program and Training Branch program consultants, a subcommittee of the SE Implementation and Monitoring Group (IMG) is reviewing each of the SE Action Plans and feedback from this review will be provided to SE project areas. For more information about the Syphilis Elimination Evidence-based Action Plans please visit the Syphilis Elimination website at www.cdc.gov/stopsyphilis/SEEEvidence-basedGuidance.pdf.



We are also pleased to announce the upcoming Evidence-based Action Plan workshop for the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) 2007 11th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The workshop will be held on October 2nd from 2:45 PM to 4:15 PM during one of the pre-meeting sessions. The workshop is designed to review the evidence-based action plan guidance and provide technical assistance through the presentation of individual plans by colleagues from state and local programs. We look forward to seeing many of you next week!

External Consultation on Program Collaboration and Service Integration Meeting for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

August 20-22, the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention hosted the Consultation on Program Collaboration and Service Integration. Many of you are involved in implementing integrated sexual health promotion activities. The purpose of the consultation meeting was to develop a vision and objectives for program collaboration and service integration (PCSI) efforts in the areas of HIV, STDs, TB, and viral hepatitis. During this meeting, participants shared ideas about how PCSI could help affected populations and how to overcome potential barriers to PCSI. Key action steps that evolved included the development of a policy framework to facilitate dialogue on strengths and weaknesses, funding opportunities for PCSI efforts, and a focus on integrated surveillance, integrated funding, and integrated staff training and skills development. The final report from the Consultation and other resources on PCSI will be made available online shortly.

Announcing the Availability of New and Existing Resources

CDC-Developed Resources

- ***Return on Investment: Impact of STD Prevention Efforts***
Harrell Chesson, Tom Gift, and Amy Pulver have contributed to three recent CDC studies that show how federally-funded efforts to prevent STDs have dramatically reduced STDs and their associated health costs.
<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/STDPvention/>
- ***Advancing the Nation's Health: A Guide to Public Health Research Needs, 2006-2015***
This critical resource outlines research areas that should be addressed during the next decade by CDC and its partners in response to current and future needs and events. The research guide will serve as an essential resource for defining a more focused CDC health protection research agenda of research priorities. It will also serve as a tool to identify critical research needed to achieve our Health Protection Goals in four interrelated areas: healthy people across all stages of life; healthy places and communities; preparedness against infectious, occupational, environmental and terrorist threats; and improved global health. In addition, it will help CDC and its partners identify knowledge gaps and foster collaborations to achieve even greater health impact. <http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/PHResearch/cdcra>
- ***2006 PDA version STD Treatment Guidelines***
This point-of care tool includes the complete 2006 STD Treatment Guidelines. Please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/PDA/default.htm> to download.
- ***CDC STD Training Resource***
For complete descriptions of classes and educational resources, please visit the CDC STD training website.
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/training/>

Other Important Resources also Available

- ***An Update and Review of the Diagnosis and Management of Syphilis***
The Region II STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (PTC), in partnership with the New York City Department of Health Bureau of STD Control has released this source of clinical guidance for practitioners. This module covers the natural history of syphilis and key steps in the prevention, diagnosis, and management of syphilis. These guidelines are primarily based upon the 2002 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sexually Transmitted Disease Treatment Guidelines. To order a copy of this publication, please send requests to NYCPTC@health.nyc.gov. A Category 1 Continuing Medical Education Credit for physicians is available.
- ***Additional STD Training Resources***
For complete descriptions of classes and educational resources, please visit the NNPTC website.
www.stdhivpreventiontraining.org
- ***Upcoming STD Conferences***
Please visit <http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/locates/LocateConf.asp?SearchType=Advanced> for information about conferences, seminars, and many other gatherings of professionals working in HIV/AIDS, STD, and TB prevention, treatment, and support.

As always, should you have any further questions or suggestions we are eager to hear from you. Please contact Jo Valentine directly at (404) 639-8366 or via electronic mail at jvalentine@cdc.gov.

The CDC Syphilis Elimination Effort Coordinating Team