



June 29, 2007

Dear Syphilis Elimination Coordinators:

This is the 7th in our series of quarterly *Dear Syphilis Elimination Coordinators* letters. It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the 2nd quarter of this year and more than half-way through 2007. We wish all of you a safe and happy 4th of July!

The SEE Coordinators Webinar Series Launched

On May 23, 2007, CDC hosted the first web-based seminar for state and local Syphilis Elimination Coordinators. The topic was “*Using the SEE Evidence-based Action Plan Guidance.*” Beginning in FY 2008, CDC will require SE programs to use an evidence-based action plan format to describe their SE interventions following the new guidance. The interactive *webinar* featured the rationale for the use and benefits of an evidence-based action plan, requirements and framework, and provided examples. The evidence-based action plans will be required with the FY 2008 CSPA applications for all activities conducted by the state or local health departments and by community-based organizations that receive SE funding. More than 30 SEE coordinators and colleagues participated in the session, and a recording of the seminar is available for a limited time at:



www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc.view. The subject line is: *Evidence-based Action Plan Guidance* and the recording code is: **2B2FCW**. You are also encouraged to contact Karen Hoover at: khoover@cdc.gov with questions or concerns about evidence-based action plan guidance.

The New Syphilis Elimination Funding Formula

Beginning in FY 2008, a project area is designated an HMA if it has reported in a calendar year either greater than 100 P&S syphilis cases or a case rate greater than or equal to 2.2 per 100,000 population. In FY 2008, there will be 32 HMAs and nine post-HMAs. Beginning in FY 2008, SE funding will be based on the combined total reported P&S syphilis cases for the previous two years (i.e., 2008 funding is based on the total of P&S syphilis cases reported in 2005 and provisional data from 2006). All HMA project areas will receive a base of \$150,000 and a proportion of the remaining available funds based on the percent of reported P&S cases for all HMAs for the two prior years for which data are available. Project areas that no longer meet the criteria for HMA status will receive base funding for an additional two years during the “post-HMA” transition period. For FY 2008, the first year of the new formula, project areas that have not met the HMA criteria for more than two years will be given one year of transitional funding, consisting of either 50% of their FY 2007 funding or \$150,000, whichever is higher. For more information regarding the new SEE formula please visit:

www.cdc.gov/stopsyphilis/ and see the posting *Syphilis Elimination Funding 2008*.

75-35-10 CDC Commemorates the USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee

CDC recently commemorated three significant and important anniversaries for the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Syphilis Study at Tuskegee. This year marks the 75th year anniversary of the beginning of the USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee, the 35th year anniversary of the end of the study, and the 10th year since President Clinton apologized to the study participants on behalf of the federal government. CDC’s commemoration featured a moving presentation by Carmen Head, Director of School Health Programs, Society for Public Health Education, who is a granddaughter of one of the study participants. Ms. Head recounted the study’s history and challenged attendees to transform the negative legacy to one that improves the health of communities. A panel of distinguished speakers included Dr. Bryan Lindsey of CDC; Dr. Vanessa Northington Gamble, Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care; Dr. Bill Jenkins, Morehouse College and former Program Manager of the Tuskegee Health Benefit Program at CDC; and Dr. Dixie Snider, Consultant to the Office of Chief Science Officer and former Chief Science Officer at CDC. For more information on the USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Tuskegee/>.

Consultation to Address STD Disparities in African American Communities

On June 5-6, CDC held the *Consultation to Address STD Disparities in African American Communities*. Representatives from the professional areas of clergy, civic organizations, policy, academia, private healthcare, medical organizations, advocacy, corrections, and substance abuse convened in Atlanta to address the disproportionate burden of bacterial STDs in African American communities. The consultation meeting included a review of the epidemiology of bacterial STDs, several discussions and presentations about the social determinants and health impact of disparities, and the development of future action steps for CDC and meeting participants. On-going sub-committees of external and internal (CDC) consultants will continue collaborative post-meeting activities to formulate and implement the strategies developed at the consultation. The long-term objectives of this initiative are the development of a strategy by CDC's Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) for addressing STD disparities among African Americans and the establishment of an STD disparities steering committee to advise CDC DSTDP. For more information about this important consultation effort please contact Deidra Parrish at: dparrish@cdc.gov.

Announcing the Availability of New Resources

CDC-Developed Resources

- ***The New STD/HIV Interview Record Form***
In an effort to determine updated risk-related variables and decrease duplication of effort and paperwork, CDC collaborated with colleagues at state and local health departments to revise the interview record form. Please contact your local or state STD program manager for the new interview record and accompanying guidance.
- ***A New Manual: "Practical Use of Program Evaluation among Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Programs"***
This manual provides step-by-step guidance on how to design and implement a program evaluation. Its goal is to build the evaluation capacity of STD programs so that they can internally monitor their program activities, understand what is working or not, and improve their efforts. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/Program/pupesthd.htm>.
- ***Updated Recommended Treatment Regimens for Gonococcal Infections and Associated Conditions***
In April 2007, CDC announced that fluoroquinolones are no longer recommended for the treatment of gonorrhea in the United States. This document details updated recommended options for the treatment of gonorrhea. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2006/updated-regimens.htm>

Other Important Resources also Available

- **Peer-to-Peer Support and Technical Assistance: A New SEE Coordinators Listserv**
Sponsored by: William Burleson, SEE Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health
If you needed a good syphilis brochure for MSM, where would you look? If you were thinking about doing outreach via sexually-oriented websites, but didn't know which ones to pursue, who would you ask? Now you can easily ask your Syphilis Elimination Coordinator colleagues from across the country via a new yahoo group-listserv for Syphilis Elimination Coordinators organized and maintained by Bill Burleson from the Minnesota Department of Health. The goal is to share information, resources, and new approaches that have proven effective and learn about those that have not. With the diversity of syphilis programming that exists across the country as well as the regional variation in populations at risk for syphilis, this is an opportunity to tap into each other's expertise and experience. You do not need to have a yahoo email address to participate. Simply e-mail your desire to join the listserv to Bill Burleson at: william.burleson@health.state.mn.us, and you will be invited to join and receive emails to the address of your choosing.
- ***Kaiser Health Disparities Report: A Weekly Look at Race, Ethnicity and Health***
Kaisernetwork.org provides online reports with summaries of news stories, links to the original articles, and a fully searchable archive. http://www.kaisernetwork.org/Daily_reports/rep_disparities.cfm#
- ***Society for Public Health Education's (SOPHE) Emergency Preparedness and Response Webinar Series***
SOPHE invites interested persons to participate in their next web-based seminar, "Reaching Out to Vulnerable Populations During Public Health Emergencies." The seminar is scheduled for Thursday, July 19 from 2:00-3:30 PM EDT. Registration is free. For more information visit the website: <https://sophe.webex.com/sophe/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=711295303>.

- ***Developing Better Non-English Materials: Understanding the Limits of Translation***
This report developed by Hablamos Juntos (Spanish for We Speak Together) provides lessons learned and barriers faced by health care organizations in producing useful translated text and in evaluating those products for quality.
http://www.hablamosjuntos.org/resource_guide_portal/pdf/Brief-NonEngl-Final.pdf
- ***Coalitions and Partnerships in Community Health***
This book by Frances Dunn Butterfloss details how to build durable coalitions to improve community and public health.
<http://www.josseybass.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0787987859.html>

And in the Literature

- ***MMWR - Symptomatic Early Neurosyphilis Among HIV-Positive Men Who Have Sex with Men --- Four Cities, United States, January 2002--June 2004***
CDC conducted a review of possible neurosyphilis cases to describe the clinical course of symptomatic early neurosyphilis and to better characterize the risk for this illness among HIV-infected MSM. The review included health department records from four U.S. cities (Los Angeles, California; San Diego, California; Chicago, Illinois; and New York, New York) for the period January 2002--June 2004. This report describes the results of that review, which identified 49 HIV-positive MSM with symptomatic early neurosyphilis during that 30-month period.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5625a1.htm>
- ***Costs and Consequences of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Recommendations for Opt-Out HIV Testing***
In this article [2007 PLoS Med 4(6)], David Holtgrave describes his cost-effectiveness and scenario analysis conducted to compare opt-out HIV testing vs. targeted counseling and testing to estimate the cost and public health impact of each testing strategy to determine the best method for reaching people with undiagnosed HIV. You can find this article at: www.plos.org which is a website sponsored by a non-profit organization of scientists and physicians committed to making the world's scientific and medical literature a freely available public resource.

Remember to visit the Syphilis Elimination website at (www.cdc.gov/stopsyphilis). And 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

