State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

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TO: AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES) Users, HIV Care Program (HCP) Subrecipients, Medi-Cal Waiver Program (MCWP) Project Directors, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Project Sponsors, and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Prorgram (RWHAP) Part A Project Directors

SUBJECT: New Data System to Replace ARIES in 2023

The California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS (OA) is excited to announce that a new, custom-designed data system will replace ARIES in fall 2023.

Background

ARIES was cutting edge when it rolled out in 2006. It allowed clients to share their data between their providers and facilitated providers' ability to coordinate care and comply with federal data reporting. ARIES supported numerous programs such as RWHAP (all parts), HOPWA, MCWP, and most recently Part A's Ending the Epidemics (EHE). In 2021, 1,450 ARIES users in 211 agencies served 33,581 clients throughout California.

ARIES has lasted longer than most systems, but it has become difficult to maintain, and its user interface and features are dated. The time has come to implement a new system.

Future System

OA has contracted with Deloitte to design and program the new system, migrate legacy data, and train end users. Deloitte is the same company that successfully developed – and continues to maintain – the AIDS Drug Assistance Program's (ADAP) ADAP Enrollment System (AES). The new data system will utilize the applicable AES infrastructure to lower risk and reduce project development time.

The new system will continue to support the programs that currently use ARIES. Additional benefits for administrative agencies and providers include such things as:

Better User Experience	**More Efficient Data Collection**	**Easier to Utilize Your Data**
• More intuitive, easier to navigate screens • More robust technical support for users to learn the system	• Reduce duplicate entry with simpler process to import your EMR data • Access to selected ADAP and lab data to help coordinate care	• Easier to design your own reports to analyze data, monitor programs, and improve client outcomes • Generate the RSR, CAPER, and other federal reports

What to Expect

First and foremost, **continue to use ARIES**. OA will ensure ARIES is ready for providers to submit their Ryan White Service Reports (RSR) in March 2023 and their HOPWA Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER) in July 2023. OA will give detailed instructions on how to prepare for migration to the new system and when to stop using ARIES.

OA will provide regular updates on our progress in designing the new system. These Data System Notices will be e-mailed to ARIES end users and posted at www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cid/doa/pages/oa_hiv_data_systems.aspx. In 2023, OA will also reach out to administrative agencies and providers to discuss agency and contract set up in the new system, data migration, training, and other activities.

We will also establish a user engagement group in the coming weeks which represent a diversity of agency and user types. The group will advise OA and Deloitte on their business flows, provide feedback on screens, and perform user acceptance testing.

In the coming months, OA will also set up a mechanism to allow end users and other stakeholders to ask questions, raise concerns, and share feedback later this fall. Look for information about this in future Data System Notices.

We understand this type of change can be difficult, but we want to assure you ARIES will continue to serve providers until the new system is fully deployed. Although creating a new system is ambitious, the end result will be increased efficiency and ease for administrative agencies and providers, and ultimately, improved collaboration and care for your clients.

Sincerely,

Marisa Ramos, PhD
Office of AIDS , Chief
Center for Infectious Diseases
California Department of Public Health