

California Department of Public Health
Office of AIDS

Ryan White/Low Income Health Program Transition Conference Call
February 24, 2012
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Target audiences:

- Legacy Low Income Health Program (LIHP) County Ryan White (RW) Part B AIDS Directors, RW Part B Project Coordinators, AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Coordinators.
- Implemented Non-Legacy LIHP RW Part B AIDS Directors, RW Part B Project Coordinators, ADAP Coordinators (CMSP, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz)
- California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) LIHP Staff.
- Legacy and Implemented Non-Legacy County LIHP Administrators.

Agenda/Minutes

1. Welcome.
2. Roll Call.
3. Purpose, Format, and Scheduling of These Calls:
 - An open forum to allow the Office of AIDS (OA) to communicate updates;
 - DHCS to provide clarifications; and
 - Target audiences to ask questions, share processes, and create a learning exchange.
4. OA Announcements
 - a. Summary of OA Activities to Date.

Because we have such a diverse group of stakeholders on this call, I would like to take a moment to summarize for you some of what has transpired from OA, RW perspective since the implementation of LIHP in the Legacy Counties last summer.

As I am sure most of you know, last summer there was some uncertainty as to whether or not RW clients had to be transitioned to LIHP if they qualified. OA worked with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to obtain their guidance on this issue and learned that in fact the payer of last resort requirement applies to LIHP and, therefore, LIHP eligible clients had to be transitioned to LIHP. HRSA confirmed this in their [August 9th letter](#).

In recognizing the need to balance continuity of care issues with HRSA requirements, OA sent out guidance to RW Part B Contractors and ADAP Coordinators in the Legacy counties that asked for LIHP screening plans. The Legacy counties were to submit plans that included an assessment of LIHP provider network adequacy and a start date for implementing LIHP screening. The plans were due November 15, 2011.

OA held conference calls with the RW Part B Contractors and ADAP Coordinators in each of the Legacy counties in November 2011 to discuss their screening plans and then again earlier this month to confirm the status of screening implementation and to discuss any problems or concerns. We also placed calls this month to four of the Non-Legacy counties that implemented LIHP in January 2012 to gain an understanding of their LIHP programs and the status of screening RW clients for LIHP in those counties.

In December 2011, OA sent an [ADAP Management Memo](#) out to all counties to provide guidance on the requirement to and process for notifying Ramsell (our Pharmacy Benefits Manager) of when a client had become enrolled in LIHP. In the meantime, we have been working with Ramsell to finalize the changes that needed to be made to their ADAP client enrollment and recertification system and ADAP Enrollment Worker training to document LIHP screening and enrollment. As of March 1, 2012, Ramsell will incorporate LIHP into their standard Enrollment Worker training sessions. In addition, OA will be conducting Enrollment Worker training regarding the changes to Ramsell's system during the week of March 5, 2012.

We have implemented a monthly RW/LIHP Transition conference call, starting with today's call, to allow for an exchange of information.

In addition, throughout all of this, we have been collaborating with our colleagues in DHCS as we all strive to facilitate a smooth and thoughtful transition of RW clients into LIHP.

b. Implementation of ADAP's LIHP Screening Process

Effective March 1, 2012, ADAP will begin implementation of mandatory LIHP Eligibility Screening as part of the electronic ADAP enrollment/recertification process in the eight Legacy LIHP counties that have already begun LIHP screening (Contra Costa, Kern, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Ventura). This process is necessary to assure ADAP meets the payer-of-last resort mandate. New enrollment and recertification forms that include LIHP screening questions will appear on the Ramsell ADAP enrollment website only when accessed by these eight counties. When other local health jurisdictions implement LIHP screening of RW clients, and OA has confirmed their readiness, the new forms will appear on the Ramsell screens accessed by

those counties. This coordinated, LHJ-by-LHJ process is necessary to assure persons living with HIV/AIDS who transition from RW/ADAP services to LIHP do not experience disruption in care and treatment.

An informational notice of this change will be sent to ADAP Enrollment Workers, ADAP Coordinators, RW Part B Contractors, Local Health Jurisdiction AIDS Directors and County LIHP Administrators in the eight immediately affected counties prior to the March 1, 2012 implementation date. It will also be sent at a later date prior to implementation in all other counties.

c. ADAP's Technical Assistance Calls to Identify Clients Enrolled in LIHP

On December 22, 2011, [ADAP Management Memo 2011-06](#) was sent to all ADAP Coordinators and Enrollment Workers, informing them of an interim process for reporting individual ADAP clients whose enrollment in LIHP becomes known to the Enrollment Workers. In order to assure compliance with the ADAP payer of last resort requirement, any clients identified as enrolled in LIHP are to have their ADAP eligibility terminated. Subsequent to the issuance of that memo, ADAP began working with the Legacy counties that are currently screening RW clients for LIHP to facilitate the updating of Ramsell's database of ADAP clients. This project began in Ventura and San Diego Counties where the ADAP Coordinators of those counties worked directly with ADAP staff to comprehensively identify all ADAP clients who were currently enrolled in LIHP and to develop a process for updating the ADAP client eligibility database accordingly.

ADAP staff will soon begin contacting ADAP Coordinators in the remaining Legacy counties that are screening ADAP clients for LIHP including Contra Costa, Kern, Orange, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara, to assess the local feasibility of identifying *all* ADAP clients who were enrolled in LIHP prior to the March 1, 2012 implementation of the changes made to Ramsell's website.

5. Stakeholder Questions.

6. Next Call.

The RW and LIHP conference calls occur on the third Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m. The next call will be held on March 20, 2012.

7. Close.