

Program Liaison Fact Sheet

Program Liaison Mission Statement

To assist local health departments in developing and maintaining effective tuberculosis (TB) control programs by providing technical assistance.

Background

California continues to report the greatest number of cases to the nation's total TB morbidity. The majority of the cases occur among populations born outside of the United States and among disadvantaged populations. While most cases occur in the larger urban areas, rural and smaller communities also experience significant challenges in managing sudden outbreaks or cases of multi-drug resistant disease. Tuberculosis control in California is complex because of the size, diversity, and mobility of the population.

California has 61 local health jurisdictions (LHJs), each with independent authority and responsibility for TB prevention and control. Local health jurisdictions vary significantly in their population, geography, TB morbidity, organizational structure, staffing patterns, and funding sources. As a result, each LHJ has unique challenges in efforts to control TB.

TBCB Program Liaison Role

The program liaison (PL) role has been established for nearly a decade to facilitate communication between individuals working at the state and local level to enhance TB control efforts. A PL is assigned to work with each LHJ within in a region of counties in California.

Primary Responsibilities of the Program Liaison with LHJs

Facilitates communication between the TBCB and LHJs

- Serves as a frontline source of communication between the local and state TB programs
- Facilitate local health department staff understanding and implementation of changes in TB guidelines, new programs, state legislation, and policies
- Conducts periodic site visits to learn about individual program needs and assist the LHJ in meeting these needs
- Participates in regional TB meetings

Provides consultation and technical assistance to LHJs

- Provides phone consultation on patient case management, contact investigation, and programmatic concerns
- Refers LHJ program staff to available resource and training centers
- Assists in outbreak investigations or expanded contact investigations
- Assists in local staff trainings
- Together with other TBCB staff, facilitate continuity of care for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees, review and approve requests for reimbursement of civil detentions and placement into regional civil detention sites and isolation facilities

Facilitates and assists with local program evaluation and improvement activities

- Implementation of the Tuberculosis Indicators Project (TIP), or other program evaluation activities using state and local data, including development and implementation of action plans
- Participation in local strategic planning or management team meetings
- Consultation on quality improvement activities such as case conferencing to ensure implementation of practice standards for TB case management and contact investigation

Supports the appropriate use of TBCB funds provided to LHJs

- Reviews requests for funding to ensure that funds are allocated to priority activities in TB control

- Informs key decision makers at the state and national levels about the changing needs and challenges of TB control at the local level

Provides consultation and oversight of TB control efforts in correctional facilities including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities

- Assists with the coordination and oversight of TB control efforts within correctional facilities through consultation, facilitating communication and providing technical assistance to local health jurisdictions, correctional facilities, CDPH and other state agencies
- Works with LHJs, federal agencies and Cure TB to facilitate medical holds and stays of removal for TB patients held in ICE custody to ensure continuity of care prior to deportation