
Public Health Advisory Board

September 15, 2015

Board of Supervisors
County of Sacramento
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email

STD/HIV Program Report

Dear Chairman Serna and Supervisors:

At its meeting on August 5, 2015, the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) voted unanimously to call to your attention the STD/HIV Program Report to the Board of Supervisors, which we are informed is to be presented to you today by the Public Health Division. Addressing the County's disproportionate level of STD infections is an identified priority of the PHAB.

We start by acknowledging that there is some good news:

- The County's chlamydia, HIV and AIDS rates have decreased in the last 3-4 years.
- You have already taken important, positive action in the new Budget, allocating available grant funds toward additional staffing in this area.
- The Public Health Division leads the ongoing STD Stakeholder Group, bringing together key stakeholders to coordinate and strengthen their work on STD issues.

Yet, there is still much to do:

- Sacramento continues to rank in the top 10 counties for incidence of chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV.
- Chlamydia and gonorrhea rates remain significantly above the statewide averages.
- The syphilis rate is increasing.
- Chlamydia and gonorrhea, both of which carry risk of infertility, are at alarming rates among female ages 15-24, six and four times the overall County rate, respectively.
- Disparities in rates exist by race/ethnicity and residential zip code, apparently related in part to disparities in access to health care.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases threaten our community with debilitating and costly consequences, varying by disease – infertility, complications in pregnancy, transmission to a woman's newborn child, stillbirth, debilitating chronic disease, cancer, liver failure, death. But STDs have in common that they often have no signs or symptoms. The combination of severe consequences and frequent lack of symptoms makes the work of the Division of Public Health in the prevention, detection and treatment of STDs critical.

We urge your continued attention and support of your staff's efforts in this area.

/s/ **Morgan Staines**

Morgan Staines, Chair
Public Health Advisory Board

cc: Sherri Heller, EdD
Olivia Kasirye, MD
PHAB membership