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November 26, 2012

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: John Viernes, Jr., Director
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: **HEALTH CARE REFORM READINESS RESOURCES FOR STAKEHOLDERS**

In preparing for the challenges and opportunities facing the substance use disorders (SUD) field with the advent of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) continues to offer various resources for its stakeholders under its Health Care Reform (HCR) Readiness Initiative. The following describes activities currently underway for the balance of Fiscal Year 2012-13.

Phase 1 – Awareness – February 2011 to September 2011
During this initial phase, SAPC conducted stakeholder briefings to establish basic awareness of the provisions of ACA and timeframes for implementation of these provisions. In addition, several stakeholder workgroups were established on Capacity Building, Financing, Information Technology, Medical Necessity Definition, Mobilization of the Recovery Community, Partnerships with Primary Health Care, and Workforce Development. SAPC also established a page on its website devoted to HCR updates and resources.

Phase 2 – Capacity Building – October 2011 to June 2013
Since a Phase 2 kickoff meeting in October 2011, SAPC has been involved with its stakeholders in conducting activities to build the capacity of community-based SUD programs and persons in recovery to successfully adapt to the changes and opportunities presented by health care reform at the State and national levels. The services of the California Alcohol and Drug Policy Institute (ADPI) were engaged to provide consultation and direct training and technical assistance for SAPC and its contracted SUD programs.

In Phase 2, particular emphasis was placed on assisting small and medium-size programs to prepare for the coming changes. Beginning in October 2012, ADPI and SAPC initiated a series of regional training sessions for its contracted providers that promoted organizational capacity building and building regional service networks and business partnerships among small and medium-sized programs. These trainings continue through December 2012.

Beginning in January 2013 and continuing through December 2013, ADPI and SAPC will conduct a combination of webinars and in-person seminars focusing on specific topics for program development that were identified during the initial training sessions. Announcements on these training events and additional resource materials will be posted on the SAPC website and regularly sent electronically to parties on its HCR Readiness mailing list and to all contracted programs.

Meanwhile, SAPC continues to concurrently assist persons in recovery to mobilize as a potent constituency and to empower themselves as knowledgeable consumers of health care services. SAPC's Recovery Liaison staff will continue to work with this workgroup on an on-going basis. SAPC will also closely monitor the progress of the State education and outreach activities under the Covered California health insurance exchange and make sure that persons in recovery and their families are included in these efforts.

In conclusion, I encourage you and your colleagues to take full advantage of these training and technical assistance activities as we prepare for the advent of national health care reform in 2014. We also welcome your feedback on ways to improve our efforts and on ideas for additional ways we can be supportive of our community partners and stakeholders. Please direct your ideas and input to Wayne Sugita, Deputy Director, at wsugita@ph.lacounty.gov or Linda Dyer, Director of Government Relations, at ldyer@ph.lacounty.gov. You can also reach them by phone at (626) 299-4571 or write to them at SAPC headquarters. The SAPC website address is http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/index.htm.

JV:wks
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c: Cynthia A. Harding
Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs