



Medical Monitoring Project

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
 Behavioral and Clinical Surveillance Branch
 Clinical Outcomes Team

Reflections on the 2008 Medical Monitoring Project

Over the past 12 months the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP) has experienced incredible progress. Interviews were conducted and medical records abstracted in all 26 project areas, which provided data on more than 4,000 HIV-infected persons receiving care in 2007.

Many challenges in 2008 were met with many successes. I think our biggest success was our ability to step back and look at what is working well and what needs to change to make MMP more efficient so that we could come together to develop solutions to streamline the project. These efforts should result in the 2009 MMP data being locally and nationally representative, which will be the ultimate success!

Leadership was the theme of World AIDS Day in 2008. It will take the leadership of everyone involved with MMP to continue the success we have achieved so far. Earlier in 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the estimated number of new adolescent and adult HIV infections in the United States in 2006 was 56,300. This number is considerably higher than the previous estimate of 40,000 new infections per year. These new estimates underscore the importance of MMP and the need for population-based data that can be used to identify the interventions, services, and resources needed to prevent new infections, and to provide care and treatment for those living with HIV and AIDS.

A.D. McNaghten
 Clinical Outcomes Team Lead
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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MMP Milestones

2007	Net Trainings (Interviewer, Data Management, Data Warehouse, Facility Attributes, and Abstractor)	4,129 patient interviews completed 3,705 medical records are abstracted	Article on MMP published in PLoS One Journal (June 2007)	First National Advisory Meeting (October 2007)
2008	Abstractor Training (July 2008)	Data Management Training (July 2008)	MMP National Advisory Meeting (October 2008)	

What's New with MMP

MMP Staff News

New staff members have joined the Clinical Outcomes Team. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following personnel:

Mark Freedman, DVM, MPH, Project Officer
Rhonda Harris, Administrative & Program Support
Ping Huang, MS, SAS Programmer
Sandra Stockwell, MSN, MPH, RN, Project Coordinator
Christina Song, PhD, SAS Programmer
Felicia Warren, MPH, CCRC, Project Coordinator
Nolana Woolfork, MPH, Project Coordinator

Presentations

Fagan J, Beer L, Bertolli J. When to visit the doctor: Cultural constructs of health, illness, and HIV medical care among HIV-infected individuals in the United States. Presented at: the American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting; November 2008; San Francisco, California.

Fagan J, Blair J, Soe M, McNaghten AD. HIV-infected individuals who have experienced homelessness: Pilot results from the Medical Monitoring Project. Presented at: the 2008 National Healthcare for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium; June 2008; Phoenix, Arizona.

Soe MM, Flagg EW, McNaghten AD, Sullivan PS. Correlates of SF-12 physical and mental quality of life components among HIV-infected adults receiving care in selected areas in the United States. Presented at: the International AIDS Conference; August 2008; Mexico City, Mexico.

McNaghten AD, Rominger HC, Percy C, Beer L. Medical Monitoring Project: What do HIV/AIDS care nurses need to know? Presented at: the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care Annual Conference, November 2008; Tucson, Arizona.

MMP Project Areas



States	Territory	Cities	
California	New Jersey	Puerto Rico	Chicago
Delaware	New York		Houston
Florida	North Carolina		Los Angeles
Georgia	Oregon		New York City
Illinois	Pennsylvania		Philadelphia
Indiana	Texas		San Francisco
Maryland	South Carolina		
Massachusetts	Virginia		
Michigan	Washington		
Mississippi			

Provider Advisory Board (PAB) Spotlight

Anthony LaRocco, Jr., MD, Virginia

In 1978, I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Columbia University located in New York. In 1982, I completed my Medical Degree at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Currently I am employed by Sentara Norfolk General Hospital as Medical Director and Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) in Norfolk, Virginia as Assistant Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine.

I have been heavily involved with HIV/AIDS since my fellowship training in infectious diseases in the late 1980s. From the beginning, I have felt that HIV is not just another disease but a biological and social phenomenon with profound effects on modern life, including the areas of public health, civil rights, geopolitics and even, by extension, national security. This perspective quite naturally led me to recognize the importance of comprehensive efforts like MMP to study and try to understand the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the individual patient level and the health care delivery system as a whole.

I think the results of the Medical Monitoring Project will have far reaching effects in regard to how our country handles the continuing challenges of HIV. It will likely be greeted with enormous scientific and public health interest largely because of the strict epidemiological sampling methods used in collection of the data.

One fact about me is that I am an avid fisherman and boater on the lower Chesapeake Bay. I am also a big supporter of environmental efforts on the Bay and elsewhere.



“I think the results of the Medical Monitoring Project will have far reaching effects in regard to how our country handles the continuing challenges of HIV.”

*–Anthony LaRocco, Jr., MD
Virginia PAB member*

Community Advisory Board (CAB) Spotlight

Judith Dillard, Texas

Judith Dillard is the lead Community Advisory Board (CAB) member for the Texas Medical Monitoring Project (MMP). She joined the CAB in 2005. Ms. Dillard has a long history of community activism in the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) “metropolitan” of Texas. For more than 10 years, Ms. Dillard has volunteered countless hours on many community advisory boards related to HIV/AIDS issues. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Samaritan House in Fort Worth and as Secretary on the Board of Directors for the New York-based National Prevention Organization, Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project.

Judith’s personal testimony of the trials and tribulations of living with HIV, and being an African American woman, has been a powerful tool to sensitize people to the experiences of consumers of HIV services. For more than 18 years, Ms. Dillard has been living with HIV. Her viral load is undetectable; her CD4 cell count is over 600. Her initial diagnosis with HIV devastated Judith’s life, but through faith, hope, help, and hard work she changed her life and now has the freedom to live with HIV. Despite the many ups and downs in her overall health, this energetic 54-year-old works tirelessly to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, poverty, and homelessness, and to ending the stigma of HIV/AIDS so that others can experience the freedom she enjoys. Her experiences of living with HIV/AIDS are a testament to the importance of consistent quality health care and the important social



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–Judith Dillard, CAB member, Texas

contributions people living with HIV/AIDS can make once they are afforded quality HIV care and services.

Judith has also worked endless hours spreading her message of quality care, treatment, and prevention. On February 28, 2008, Judith traveled as an Ambassador for the City of Fort Worth to its sister-city of Mbabane, Swaziland, Africa, to participate as an “Emissary of Hope” in the “Walk the Nation” HIV/AIDS initiative. The “Walk” lasted more than 10 days and covered over 124 miles, starting at the gate of the Mhlemeni Border on March 2nd and ending at the border of Sicunsa, Swaziland on March 12th, 2008. Participants stopped in rural and isolated areas along the route promoting HIV/AIDS education, empowerment, counseling, and testing. This event stands out as a special moment and fond memory for Judith. She says her involvement in MMP supports her belief that results of the project will help ensure that prevention, care, and treatment are never lost in the continuum of care. Judith most recently traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to attend the 2008 MMP National Advisory meeting. She says she was impressed by the participants’ level of collaboration and their commitment to the success of MMP. She felt that the importance of MMP and its direct implications for people living with HIV/AIDS was well understood by everyone attending the meeting. She could hear in their voices a real dedication to ensure a certain quality of life for all people living with HIV/AIDS and a drive to reduce the transmission of and deaths from HIV/AIDS across the country. Judith’s personal contributions to her community and to the Texas MMP represent a step to realizing these goals.

CAB (continued) Spotlight

Judith Dillard lives in Fort Worth, Texas where she remains a very vocal advocate and a public figure for HIV/AIDS care and prevention. She attends Tarrant County College, where she is working towards a degree in Mental Health.

Spotlight on South Carolina

The Medical Monitoring Project in South Carolina is a part of the HIV/STD Surveillance and Technical Division in the Bureau of Chronic Diseases. Our program staff includes Dr. Wayne Duffus (Principal Investigator), Anand Nagarajan (Program Coordinator/Data Manager), Latoya Pinkney, Gale Davis, and Deborah Dunbar (Interviewer/Abstractors). For the 2007 data collection cycle, we interviewed 201 patients and abstracted 201 charts. For the 2008 data collection cycle, 18 of 19 eligible sampled facilities have agreed to participate in the project. Currently, we are in the interview/abstraction phase of the project. Our Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Provider Advisory Board (PAB) members are very valuable to the success of the project. We work closely with our CAB and PAB members in recruiting providers. They are well known in the HIV/AIDS provider community, and their influence has helped us achieve 100% provider participation in 2007 and 95% participation for 2008.

MMP Staff Spotlight

The Data Entry Company (TDEC), headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, is a leading provider of business process outsourcing solutions to government and commercial clients worldwide. They specialize in data entry, imaging, and records management.

The TDEC data entry team at CDC includes Lorraine McBride (Quality Control Manager), Tonya Millhouse (not pictured), Deborah Reed, Craig Thompson, and Jessie Wiechman (data entry operators). The team is contracted to process and enter all of the 2007 medical record abstraction forms. They verify each form received with the corresponding project area's manifest, enter them into a database, and provide an output file of all variables to CDC. As of December 31, 2008, CDC has received 39,239 medical record abstraction forms. Thus far, all Medical History Forms have been entered, downloaded into SAS files, and transmitted to CDC.

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*–Anand Nagarajan,
MMP Coordinator, South Carolina*



CDC Staff Spotlight

Linda Beer, PhD, CDC MMP Project Officer

Currently, Linda is the MMP Project Officer for New York, New York City, Oregon, and Washington. She also serves as a project officer for Washington State in the Never in Care (NIC) project.

Linda Beer has a PhD in Comparative Sociology from Emory University in Atlanta. After completing her degree, she worked at the Southeast AIDS Training and Education Center (SEATEC) in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at Emory, first as a Research Associate and later as a Research Projects Manager. At SEATEC, she worked on a variety of applied research and evaluation projects related to HIV prevention, care, and education, often collaborating with state and local Ryan White administrators and grantees.

Before joining CDC, Linda worked in the HIV Epidemiology Section at the Georgia Division of Public Health as the Georgia MMP Principal Investigator, helping to implement MMP efforts in Georgia. Beginning in July 2005, she led the MMP team in developing facility sampling frames, creating the Georgia CAB/PAB, marketing MMP across the state, recruiting facilities to participate in MMP, and other activities related to the project. While working for the State of Georgia, Linda and the MMP staff

piloted their local questions at several MMP facilities across the state, which proved valuable for developing questions and improving interview administration.

This was one activity that helped the MMP team survive the unanticipated Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-inspired MMP hiatus of 2006!

Linda joined the Clinical Outcomes Team as an Epidemiologist and Project Officer in September 2007. Although she still misses some of the “hands on” aspects of conducting MMP at the state level, Linda appreciates the opportunity to work with different project areas that being at CDC affords. She feels that her experiences have helped her understand the challenges faced in implementing the project on both the local and national levels. Currently, Linda is the MMP Project Officer for New York, New York City, Oregon and Washington. She also serves as a project officer for Washington in the NIC project. Linda grew up in New York and Miami, is married, and enjoys cooking and music.

Remembering Elizabeth (Beth) Wehrman MMP Illinois CAB Representative 1952–2008

The HIV/AIDS community in Illinois lost a dear friend and passionate advocate with the passing of Elizabeth (Beth) Wehrman on October 14, 2008 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Beth served as Illinois' original Community Advisory Board (CAB) member for the Medical Monitoring Project (MMP).

Beth graduated from St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Lafayette, Indiana in 1973 and received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Marycrest College in Davenport, Iowa in 1986. Beth began her HIV/AIDS work as a volunteer for the Quad Cities AIDS Coalition in 1992. She became the organization's first Executive Director in 1994 and managed the evolution of the group into the AIDS Project Quad Cities, which provides services to persons living with HIV/AIDS in Illinois and Iowa.

In 1997, Beth moved to homeless outreach and services with the John Lewis Coffee Shop and in 1999 incorporated the nonprofit agency LifeGuard, which provides harm/risk reduction counseling, syringe exchange services, and referrals for HIV counseling, testing, and referral, among other services. Although some local media and other opponents of syringe exchange services verbally attacked the "Needle Lady" (as she was referred to by some) for her work, Beth courageously soldiered on, continuing to provide services to those who needed them most.

In addition to her HIV/AIDS work, Beth taught many Emergency Medical Services and Lamaze classes and was the first female volunteer for the City of Le Claire (Iowa) Fire Department. The mother of four daughters, Beth ran the local softball league, taught confirmation classes, helped start the Pleasant Valley Stingrays swim team, and supported her children in all their endeavors. She also loved being "Gamma" to her eight grandchildren.

Beloved and admired for her community service, compassion, and her commitment to being a voice for those less fortunate, Beth will be missed by all who knew her.



MMP Upcoming Events

CAB Quarterly Conference Call

Date for the next CAB call is

June 1, 2009, at 1 pm (EST)

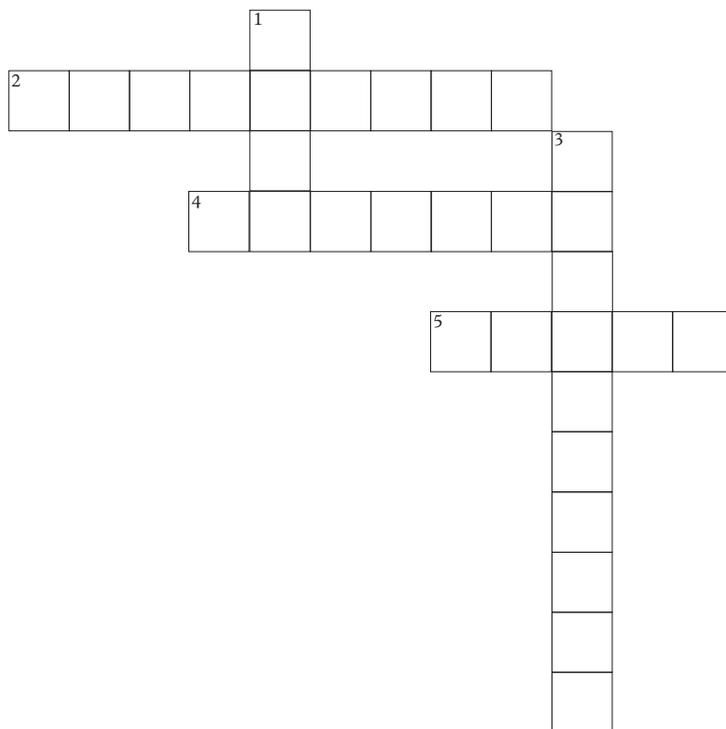
Medical Record Abstraction Training

June 16-18, 2009

Data Management Training

July 28-30, 2009

MMP Crossword Puzzle



Across:

2 - MMP data collection includes _____ and medical record abstraction

4 - Primary focus of MMP

5 - Logo color for MMP

Down:

1 - Manages the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

3 - A.D.'s buzz word for 2009

*The solutions to the crossword puzzle can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/treatment/mmp/index.htm>.

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