



January 14, 2010

Dear Syphilis Elimination Coordinators:

Happy New Year! The SEE Coordination Team sends each of you best wishes and thanks for another a great year! We hope you find these updates and resources helpful for your SE and STD prevention activities.

### 2010 National STD Prevention Conference



The high priority issues for the [National Meeting in Atlanta](#) include how today's economic crisis demands new considerations in approaching all aspects of public health, including STD prevention, and how STDs continue to have substantial population impact. With the ongoing challenges of our fragmented health care system, racial disparities in disease rates, and the societal resistance to openly discussing sexual health, it is necessary to both strengthen existing efforts and find new approaches to reduce the burden of STDs. The 2010 National STD Prevention Conference will provide a critical opportunity to listen, learn, and challenge ourselves to develop these much-needed responses. [Online registration for the conference is now available](#). Early bird registration deadline is January 15.

### Betty Apt Retiring

It is with warmest wishes that we announce the retirement of Betty Apt from CDC after 22 years of outstanding federal service in program evaluation. From February 2000 through 2009, she served as an evaluation specialist in the Health Services Research and Evaluation Branch of the Division of STD Prevention. While here, Betty provided program evaluation technical assistance and training to the Division and grantees, helped design and provided oversight for evaluation projects. She was one of the authors of the manual [Practical Use of Program Evaluation among Sexually Transmitted Disease \(STD\) Programs](#). Betty was extremely committed to the SE effort and led the SE-Evidenced-based Action Planning (SE-EBAP) process, including organizing the reviews, preparing a summary of review findings, and coordinating the technical assistance based on the findings from the reviews. By skillfully and effectively implementing the SE-EBAP process and ensuring the provision of technical assistance to state and local health departments, DSTDP, as well as the Division's state and local health department partners, and affected communities greatly benefitted from her dedication and expertise. In addition to the EBAPs, Betty was an active member of the SE Implementation and Monitoring Group for many years and was an integral part of all key activities. We will surely miss Betty and wish her the best as she begins the next chapter of her extraordinary life!

### The National Campaign to Eliminate Syphilis from the United States: "The Way Forward"

The SEE Implementation and Monitoring Group (IMG), in consultation with senior Division of STD Prevention staff, is continuing to examine the progress made under the 2006 *National Plan to Eliminate Syphilis from the United States*. The IMG has had several meetings to discuss how we go forward with Syphilis Elimination in the context of numerous changes and challenges, including new partnerships, program integration, health care reform, disparities, and limited resources. It is important to promote the existing tools and assist programs with using these tools more effectively (i.e., EBAPs). Several consultations will take place in 2010 that should allow for further discussions about core practices for STD prevention and control including the Syphilis Elimination Effort. The Division of STD Prevention is committed to enhancing efforts to assist state and local programs share their successes and promising interventions.

### CDC-Developed Resources & Updates

### [White Paper on Program Collaboration and Service Integration](#)

The 2009 NCHHSTP White Paper on Program Collaboration and Service Integration (PCSI) provides NCHHSTP's strategic vision and policy for PCSI, defines a framework for conceptualizing PCSI, outlines key measures to monitor and evaluate progress, and explains the role of internal and external stakeholders to help accomplish relevant goals.

### [CDC Guidance on Shortage of Erythromycin \(0.5%\) Ophthalmic Ointment - September 2009 \(Update December 9, 2009\)](#)

According to FDA, erythromycin ophthalmic ointment (1 gram tube) is currently available to meet the historical demand for this product. The current rate of production is expected to continue into the first quarter of 2010. However, it is important at this time for customers to limit their order to quantities that meet their immediate needs. The production rate is expected to further increase after the first quarter of 2010 to a level that allows customers to build inventory. See the [FDA Drug Shortage website](#) for additional information.

### [New Exhibit - VD: Values, Rights, Public Health](#)

*VD: Values, Rights, Public Health* opens at the CDC Global Health Odyssey Museum on February 16, 2010 and runs through May 28, 2010. The exhibit chronicles the social and cultural history of sexually transmitted diseases in the United States beginning in the 20th century. Through compelling posters, photographs, documents, and relevant historic objects, this exhibit examines the response to what was once considered one of America's most urgent challenges—particularly prior to the development and widespread use of antibiotics in the second half of the 20th century. The exhibit also demonstrates how language and graphics used by public health leaders reflect the history of the times and reveals how rhetoric underscores community values. The exhibit is available to travel after May 2010. Join the Watsonian Society and the American Social Health Association (ASHA) for a reception and special viewing of the exhibit during this year's National STD Prevention Conference on Tuesday, March 9 from 6:45 - 9:00 pm.

As always, should you have any further questions or suggestions we are eager to hear from you. Please contact Jo Valentine at (404) 639-8366 or via electronic mail at [jvalentine@cdc.gov](mailto:jvalentine@cdc.gov) or Lauren Green at (404) 639-1877 or via electronic mail at [cvj3@cdc.gov](mailto:cvj3@cdc.gov).

The CDC Syphilis Elimination Effort Coordinating Team

