



The Network

MAY 2015

15

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The ASN is Expanding Into Monterey

On Tuesday, May 26th, the ASN's board made the final decision to expand basic services into Monterey County. Needless to say, this is both an exciting and arduous time for us here at the ASN.

This was not a decision that was made lightly, and our clients and community here in SLO county remain an utmost priority. In fact, it is the trust and support of our community that gives us the strength and ability to do this.

Here is some background information behind this move. Monterey County's only AIDS service provider (for housing and insurance benefit programs) will be closing their doors as of June 30th, creating a perilous lapse in care for hundreds of people who rely on these services for their homes, medications, healthcare, and other support.

The ASN was recently approached by the Monterey County Public Health Department to salvage these collapsing programs, particularly HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS), OAHIPP (Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment Program), and ADAP (AIDS Drugs Assistance Program).

HOPWA services include rental & utility assistance, case management, and, in

Monterey County, tenant based rental assistance, much like SLO's section 8 program, as well as other services. These make up the bulk of what we will be taking over in Monterey.

We at the ASN feel strongly that this is the right thing to do so that those living in Monterey won't suffer a lapse in care, even though it will be a challenge at first.

We believe that the ASN is very strong as a model AIDS Service Organization, and our long term goal is to create a replica of that model in Monterey, including much needed Hep C services.

In Monterey as in SLO, we will strive to improve the quality of life and independence of its clients by providing support on an individual level.

Our vision is new to Monterey, and our hope is to serve both counties with distinction.



“SOMETIMES IN LIFE THERE IS THAT MOMENT WHEN IT'S POSSIBLE TO MAKE A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE MOMENTS!”

— Elizabeth Glaser

The ASN is **HIRING** for our AIDS MediCal Waiver Program!

- **Nurse Case Manager-** Must be an RN
- **Social Worker Case Manager-** Must be an MFT/LCSW (actively supervised interns ok)

Part Time / Flexible Schedule

www.asn.org for more info!

FREE HIV Testing at ASN

The ASN offers FREE confidential HIV testing every week!

Come and see us!

WEDNESDAYS:
1pm to 4:pm

FRIDAYS:
11am to 3pm



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@ASNSLO

It's Time to Talk to Your Doc About PrEP



PrEP IS A NEW HIV PREVENTION METHOD IN WHICH PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE HIV INFECTION TAKE A PILL DAILY TO REDUCE THEIR RISK OF BECOMING INFECTED.

“One in 6 people in the United States who have HIV do not know they are infected.”

PrEP stands for pre-exposure prophylaxis. What that means is that taking a daily dose of PrEP can greatly reduce the chance of HIV infection for people who don't have HIV. In fact, it is incredibly important that PrEP only be taken by someone who does not have HIV.

If you are interested in getting started on PrEP to reduce your chance of contracting HIV, the first step is to contact either your healthcare provider, or get in touch with another medical profession who can prescribe this medication and work with you in this journey.

Here are some tips to get you started.

First, do some research on PrEP if you haven't already.

There's a lot of information out there, but we recommend

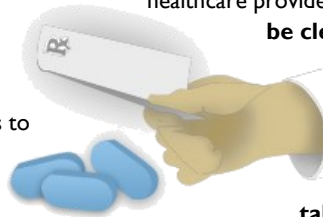
projectInform.org to get you started. It's always good to be prepared when headed to the doc's office.

Next, consider your day to day life and what challenges you might face in taking a pill everyday and sticking to it. Would it be easy to get into the routine?

Also, make a list of your current medications and other pertinent information that might be useful when talking about PrEP.

When you meet with your healthcare provider of choice,

be clear about your intentions, and try not to be shy when talking about your sex life. Don't worry about being judged. You are taking care of yourself, and that is most important.



PrEP CAN ONLY BE PRESCRIBED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND MUST BE TAKEN AS DIRECTED TO WORK.



Truvada as PrEP is 99% effective at preventing HIV when taken daily

And if you really feel uncomfortable talking to this particular provider, try another who you might click better with. You have to feel comfortable to ask questions and be upfront about your needs and realities.

PrEP is an incredible new tool in the HIV prevention toolbox, but is still meant to be used with other safer sex practices, like condoms and communication.

Here are four local providers who have expressed interest to the ASN about being PrEP providers for our community!

Dr. Denise Taylor, MD
Community Health Centers
805-269-1500

Dr. Ann Bollay, MD
Community Health Centers
805-269-1500

Buffy Ramirez, FNP
Public Health Clinic Services
805-781-5576

Dr. Donella Jenkins, MD
Healthworks
805-542-0900

Your support and the support of local community members and businesses are vital to our continuing ability to provide comprehensive services to our growing number of clients. There are many ways that you can make a generous donation!

- **Money:** ALL MONEY DONATED TO THE ASN IS TAX DEDUCTABLE & REMAINS IN THIS COMMUNITY to help SLO County residents in their struggle with HIV/AIDS and Hep C.
- **Time:** One of the most important ways the SLO community supports the ASN is through the gift of time. Our volunteer program offers opportunities to directly assist clients and help keep the agency streamlined.
- **Food:** ASN's Food Panty is always in need of the basics. If you would like to hold a food drive, or donate food directly, we have a list of suggestions for you!

You will make a difference! Contact us, or visit ASN.org, for more details!

**You Can
Make a
Difference!**

AIDS/LifeCycle is Coming Through SLO County!

7 days. 545 miles. End AIDS.

That's the goal for everyone making the long trek between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

This ride is "a 545 mile bike ride created to raise money and awareness for the HIV and AIDS services of the Los Angeles LGBT Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation" (aidslifecycle.org).

The AIDS/LifeCycle is one of the most

important annual events in the country that supports people affected by HIV and AIDS.

This inspiring event will be passing through SLO County on Wed., June 3rd. The AIDS Support Network will be at their lunch stop at Cuesta College selling meals and cheering on the riders.

Volunteers Needed!

Everyone says this is the fundraiser/volunteer event of the year! Don't miss out on the fun!

We're looking for volunteers to help us plate lunches, run lunches to cashier, sell lunches, and cheer on the riders!

Shifts are 10:30a-1pm and 12:30-3pm.



Call the office today to sign up for a shift ... you won't regret it!



Drive Thru BBQ Still a SLO Favorite!

Thank you, thank you, thank you San Luis for your continued support! Yes, we know how amazing the BBQ is from Old San Luis BBQ, and we know that the quality and taste of their food sells itself, but we appreciate you buying it at our fundraiser and supporting the ASN's Food Pantry.

In fact, we sold out, which means next

time, we'll be sure have more to sell! Special thanks go to Matt, Claire, and Lauren, the hugely generous owner and staff over at [Old San Luis BBQ](#) for the absolutely delicious and HUGE portions of tri-tip, corn, baked beans, and garlic bread in each meal.

And a very special thank you goes out to



our incredible volunteers, without whom this event would not have been possible, or as much fun!

We'll see you again next time!

The ASN Housing staff are actively recruiting landlords interested in learning more about the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

We have several clients who are seeking rentals willing to accept these Housing Choice Vouchers.



For more information, please call 805-781-3660 and speak with Elena.



The San Luis Obispo County AIDS Support Network remains the sole community-based, non-profit organization in this county that provides supportive services to residents living with HIV disease & AIDS, and their families and friends.

The SLO Hep C Project is dedicated to meeting the needs of people living with hepatitis C and increasing public awareness through educational outreach in SLO County.

The agency strives to improve the quality of life and independence of its clients by providing support on an individual basis.

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 12158
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Physical Address:
1320 Nipomo St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: 805-781-3660
800-491-9141
Fax: 805-781-3664

Learn more at ASN.org & SLOHepC.org

Upcoming Events & Opportunities!

We are proud to offer our community a wide variety of **volunteer opportunities**. You're sure to find one that's perfect for you!

Front Desk Volunteer:

Our front desk volunteers are the back bone of the office. They direct phone calls, greet incoming clients, help with distributing food from our pantry, and overall help to keep us sane! We love, LOVE, our front desk volunteers!

AIDS LifeCycle BBQ

June 3rd

Cuesta College Track

Shift Times:

10:30-1p & 12:30-3p

We'll be selling lunch during the lunch stop at Cuesta

College for riders participating in the AIDS Lifecycle. We're looking for help serving lunch, selling lunches, and promoting the event, & encouraging riders! **Contact us for more details!**



Upcoming Events:

SAVE THE DATE! November 7th, 2015

Saturday, Nov. 7th is the 24th Annual Walk for Life!

*It's not too early to start planning your team, getting your strategies ready for fundraising, or even asking your family, friends, or organization if they'll match what you raise to double your goal! **Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information as we get closer to November!***

SLO Pride 2015

Sunday, July 12th

Want to experience Pride in a whole new way? Come to the festival this year as an ASN volunteer!

Take part in helping to educating our community about HIV and PrEP! We could also use your help to set up and take down our booth.

Call us for more details about this awesome opportunity!

For more information, visit www.ASN.org