

## Maryland governor beefs up AIDS drug funding

Responding to a request for emergency funding by Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Gov. Parris Glendening, whose brother died from AIDS-related complications, announced a \$1 million increase in state funding for Maryland's AIDS Drug Assistance Program, according to a report in *The Washington Blade*.

The allocation covers a funding shortfall caused when the Food and Drug Administration approved several new and expensive AIDS treatments. A waiting list for the treatments formed as MADAP's clients began seeking funds to pay for them. MADAP serves clients who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford adequate health insurance. The emergency funding eliminated the waiting list.

This marks the first time that Maryland will use state funds to directly purchase AIDS treatments. Previously, the state's funding only covered administrative costs. MADAP also receives federal Ryan White CARE Act funds.

## Bay area youth meet at HIV summit

On May 10, 700 young people from the San Francisco Bay area met in San Francisco for a day of AIDS/HIV education and empowerment and the opportunity to tell local public policy-makers how AIDS and HIV have affected their lives. Representatives from the San Francisco Mayor's Office, the Board of Supervisors and California state government met with the youth.

HIV infection of young people continues to accelerate in the United States. It is estimated that in San Francisco alone, 4,000 young people are HIV positive.

## Crixivan users can get discount

Cash-paying clients who find it difficult to pay for the newly approved AIDS protease inhibitor Crixivan may get some financial relief if they participate in a discount drug card program offered by Community Prescription Service.

An \$18 annual payment for the card allows participants to purchase medications at a discount from over 30,000 participating pharmacies, including Stadtlanders Pharmacy. Card users will save approximately 20 percent on purchases of Crixivan from Stadtlanders.

Stadtlanders will assist its cash-paying clients by taking the application for the CPS card at the pharmacy. Individuals can apply for the card directly by calling CPS at 1-800-842-0502.

Stadtlanders also will retroactively credit the accounts of individuals who paid cash for Crixivan prior to April 29, if clients provide Stadtlanders with their CPS card number by May 29.

## Olympic Games will include a gay and lesbian visitor center

Gay and lesbian visitors to this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga., will find a friendly



place waiting to greet them. A gay and lesbian Visitor's Center will be open June to September to welcome gay and lesbian tourists to Atlanta. In addition to the Olympics, the center will greet Atlanta visitors during the Paralympics, the National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta Pride, Hotlanta River Expo and Black Gay Pride.

The center, the first of its kind in an Olympic host city, will serve as a resource and communications hub. It will offer hospitality services; informational and educational exhibits and programming; and music, dance and theatrical performances.

## Portland at high risk for *Cryptosporidium* outbreak

The National Association of People with AIDS released a report May 2 on testing and reporting practices for *Cryptosporidium* among 31 of the country's metropolitan water districts. A microscopic parasite, *Cryptosporidium* can cause severe health problems, especially among people with compromised immune systems. The report found that over 30 million people in 28 cities are at risk for health problems resulting from an outbreak of the parasite in their drinking water.

During an April 1993 outbreak in Milwaukee, Wis., more than 400,000 residents became ill, approximately 4,500 were hospitalized, and 110 people died from drinking the water.

Six of the 31 cities surveyed by NAPWA are at extremely high risk of a major health crisis from a *Cryptosporidium* outbreak: those cities are Atlanta; Dallas; Minneapolis; Newark, N.J.; St. Petersburg, Fla.; and Washington, D.C. Residents of those cities who have weakened immune systems should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Guidelines on *Cryptosporidium*. Those guidelines recommend boiling tap water, drinking bottled water, and/or using specified National Sanitation Foundation-approved under-the-sink or direct-faucet filters.

Cities found to be at high risk are: Baltimore; Boston; Chicago; Cleveland; Denver; Detroit; Houston; Kansas City, Mo.; Los Angeles; Miami; New Haven, Conn.; New Orleans; New York; Philadelphia; Phoenix; Portland, Ore.; Raleigh, N.C.; Sacramento; San Diego; San Francisco; St. Louis; and West Palm Beach, Fla.

People at particular risk are those with AIDS or HIV, the elderly, infants, transplant recipients and individuals undergoing chemotherapy.

## CDC issues lesbian HIV report

The first federal government report on lesbian HIV issues was released in April by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The report, titled *Report on Lesbian HIV Issues Meeting*, reflects current knowledge of the impact of HIV on women who have sex with women, and provides direction to the CDC on developing research and prevention initiatives.

The report, which stems from a policy meeting held at the CDC in April 1995, is divided into sections on surveillance, communications/publications, research, and further meetings, and includes 25 recommendations.

A copy can be ordered by calling the CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse at 1-800-458-5231.

Compiled by Kristine Chatwood

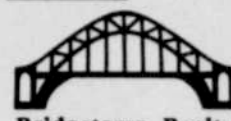
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