

# KERN COUNTY CONGENITAL SYPHILIS ELIMINATION SUMMIT AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

8:00 - 8:30	Registration + Networking	Salon A
8:30 - 8:45	Welcome Remarks	Salon A
8:45 - 9:05	<b>Congenital Syphilis in California</b> Ashley Dockter, MPH, California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch  This presentation will review congenital syphilis trends in California, highlight best practices in congenital syphilis prevention and response, and identify key resources for the public and health care providers that can support response efforts.	Salon A
9:05 - 9:30	<b>Congenital Syphilis + the Public Health Response in Kern County</b> Kimberly Hernandez, MPH, CPH, Kern County Public Health Services Department  In this session, participants will gain an understanding of the changing epidemiology of syphilis in Kern County. Participants will also be able to identify ways to partner with the Kern County Public Health Services Department to help reduce congenital syphilis in the county.	Salon A
9:30 - 10:30	<b>How Can We Eliminate Congenital Syphilis in the Context of a Broken Reproductive Health Care System?</b> Dominika Seidman, MD, MAS, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital + University of California, San Francisco  In this session, Dr. Seidman will discuss how congenital syphilis cases demonstrate a broken reproductive health care system that does not meet the needs of people affected by trauma. This session will explore what is known and unknown about the care experiences of people facing significant barriers to pregnancy care, and how syphilis screening and treatment fits into this context. Strategies for identifying pregnant women who are unstably housed or homeless who present in diverse clinical settings, and approaches to providing pregnant women patient-centered, trauma informed, same-day services will also be discussed.	Salon A
10:30 - 10:45	BREAK	
10:45 - 11:45	<b>Syphilis in Pregnancy + Congenital Syphilis</b> Rosalyn Plotzker, MD, MPH, California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch  Over the last several years, California has experienced steep increases in congenital syphilis rates, and syphilis rates among pregnant patients. This session will review the epidemiology and pathophysiology of syphilis during pregnancy and the vertical transmission of congenital syphilis. Current prevention and intervention strategies for reducing syphilis infection during pregnancy and reducing congenital syphilis cases will be shared.	Salon A
11:45 - 12:45	LUNCH	
12:45 - 2:00	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	

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- 12:45 - 2:00 CONT. **Breakout Session A - Foundations of Harm Reduction** Salon A  
Jenna Haywood, MA + Savannah O'Neill, MSW, Harm Reduction Coalition
- Attendees will learn about the philosophy of harm reduction, the six guiding principles of harm reduction, and how to put the principles into action in their region to reduce drug-related harm. The session will explore why people hold certain beliefs about drugs and who uses drugs, how that impacts their practices, and how to shift to center the needs of people who use drugs including the value of person-centered priority setting.
- Breakout Session B - Health Education, Advocacy, Recovery, + Treatment: Reducing Stigma + Barriers During Pregnancy** Salon B  
Sarah Lack, MSN, RN, PHN, Kern County Public Health Services Department
- In this session, attendees will participate in a discussion where they will learn how Public Health Nursing supports pregnant women to reduce congenital syphilis. Participants will be able to identify how to reduce barriers and stigma related to substance use during pregnancy.
- Breakout Session C - Pregnancy Intention + Contraceptive Counseling for Persons Diagnosed with Syphilis: A Strategy for Reducing Congenital Syphilis** Salon C  
Crystal Cedillo, Essential Access Health
- One strategy for reducing congenital syphilis is to discuss pregnancy intention with persons diagnosed with and at risk for getting syphilis. This skill-building session will include role plays to practice assessing pregnancy intention and providing streamlined contraceptive counseling with a visual aid. Session participants will also brainstorm opportunities for asking pregnancy plans and providing birth control options education and referrals to family planning services for persons diagnosed with syphilis and their sexual partners.
- 2:00 - 2:15 **BREAK**
- 2:15 - 3:30 **Panel Discussion - Engaging with Populations Most at Need: Local Services and Referrals** Salon A  
Facilitator: Michelle Davis, Kern County Public Health Services Department
- Panelists:  
Natasha Felkins, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte  
Deborah Murr, RN, HCM, Kern Health Systems  
Shantell Waldo, Kern County Public Health Services Department
- In this interactive session, you will have the opportunity to learn about local efforts in Kern County that are being implemented to respond to syphilis and congenital syphilis. Community leaders will share strategies they are using for community prevention, disease control and navigating health plans to assist with congenital syphilis prevention and control.
- 3:30 - 4:00 **Closing: Resource Sharing + Networking**

This event is supported by funds from the Kaiser Kern Community Benefit Program and is presented in partnership by:

