

Memorandum

To: Chairman Imbasciani and Members of the ICOC
From: Geoffrey Lomax Dr.PH – Medical Affairs and Policy
Re: Update on Community Care Centers of Excellence Program Development
Date: May 15, 2023

Background

Proposition-14 directs CIRM to establish the Community Care Centers of Excellence (CCCE) Program to promote access, across the state, to clinical trials and treatments and cures arising from funded research.¹ As described in CIRM's 5-year strategic plan, the CCCE program is intended to expand clinical research, increase patient access to therapies and grow the regenerative medicine workforce.² Consistent with CIRM's Request for Application (RFA) development procedures research, a needs assessment, and stakeholder engagement is being performed to inform the creation of a program concept plan. This memo summarizes activities to date.

Listening Sessions

Three listening sessions have been conducted: (1) Fresno | Clovis 10/26/22, (2) Inland Empire 1/19/23 and (3) Coachella Valley 3/7/23. Each session included CIRM leadership, ICOC members, CIRM awardees (Alpha Clinics and training programs) and community participants. CIRM contracted with a local non-profit organization with expertise in health needs assessment and community engagement to recruit session participants for the Coachella Valley session. Community participants included health care providers, community-based organizations, elected officials, and patient advocates. Ten to fifteen community participants attended each session.

Key Informant and Participant Interviews

CIRM has also performed a series of interviews with listening session participants and other key informants. Listening session participants elaborated on points raised at the sessions. Key informants, such as Bridges program affiliates and the Alpha Clinics, have allowed CIRM to consider needs and opportunities in the northern region of California. In addition, they have connected CIRM to individuals and organizations with an interest in the CCCE program.

Conferences, Symposia and CIRM Clinical Programs

The CIRM team has attended conference sessions describing the development of clinical research infrastructure for gene therapies in community care settings. In addition, CIRM's Clinical Advisory Panels (CAPs) provide insight into issues and solutions in CGT trials. These sources have been particularly informative in understanding patient education and navigation frameworks and understanding financial support needs in clinical trials.

Board & Work Group Interactions

The CIRM team provided progress updates to both the AAWG and the Communication Subcommittee. The team is currently working on compiling summary information in preparation for the 6/22/23 statewide planning workshop in Sacramento. The Sacramento workshop will mark the completion of the needs assessment phase of the planning process. A draft concept plan will be created for consideration by the AAWG, Science Subcommittee and ICOC in quarters three – four 2023.

¹ https://www.cirm.ca.gov/sites/default/files/files/about_cirm/Prop-14-full-text.pdf

² Theme 2: Deliver Real World Solutions CIRM Strategic Plan
<https://www.cirm.ca.gov/sites/default/files/files/agenda/CIRM%20Final%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf>