



## Hepatitis C Task Force for Los Angeles County Meeting – January 16, 2008

*Attendees: Israel Amrani, Marrisa Axelrod, Pamina Bagchi, Cinderella Barrios-Cernik, Lauren Burwell, Armand (Army) Cachero, Deon Claiborne, Robert Miodovski, Monique Collins, Omar Hernandez, Danny Jenkins, Jane Maynard, Rachel Naylor, Pierre Nsilu, John Palomo, Paul Prosser, Meghan Ralston, Brian Risley, Eve Rubell, Shahan Suzmeyan,*

### I. Introductions

A. Attendees were introduced and new members were welcomed.

### II. Old Business

A. SAMHSA Update – Danny reported that the grant was submitted on 10/31/2007; it will be reviewed next month; response will arrive within six to eight weeks. The grant request is for funding to cover expenses of the 2008 C-Retreat and Hep C Summit. SPA 2 Resource Pocket Guide (grant deliverable) has been completed and has been submitted for printing.

#### B. 2007 Summit Debrief:

1. 370 registrants; 289 in attendance, not including volunteers; Summit conference was at capacity – 300
2. Great speakers at the beginning of the event; breakouts and panelist time got “squished” – information could not be absorbed; maybe too much put on the Agenda; lunch line flowed much better (less than 20 minutes)
3. Location and food were great
4. Timing of Summit coincided well with the announcement of LA County’s Adult Hepatitis Coordinator, Pierre W. Nsilu
5. CME and Registration area was congested; consider pre-registering CME participants (information to be included on Registration Form); provide printout of CME participants to CME providers for efficient distribution of certificates
6. Concern that offering CEUs draws participants that may not otherwise attend
7. Suggestion of using signs on holders tall enough to be seen to indicate the registration lines (registration lines separated by first letter of last name)
8. Noise from lobby filtered into conference area
9. Power outage during Dr. Raj’s presentation created a bit of disorientation, but the event coordinator worked diligently to minimize the effects of the outage
10. Comments regarding Martin Delaney were polarized: loved/hated the man, but the content of his presentation was appreciated
11. Suggestion to establish an M.C. to make all introductions; limit speaker/presenter bios to one page
12. Coordinate contact with Media; request HCTF-LAC phone number and website be included in all press releases; NBC-4 (good coverage of the Summit on the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. newscasts), CBS, Univision, Chinese Channel were at Summit

13. Recommendation to make better use of multimedia: use of videos aimed at drawing focus to the event, one-page speaker bios, the topic to be presented, to introduce the panelists (tell their story/vignettes, to loop messages)
14. Possibly incorporating artwork/performance arts/music from HCV+ consumers to humanize the disease
15. Recommendation to have at least one conference coordinator for Summit 2008, in addition to the Summit committee
16. Evaluation summary results to be distributed to membership via email distribution list
17. Research conflicts to solidify next year's Summit date in November 2008
18. California Endowment waiting for next year's Summit date; HCTF-LAC deposit can be held indefinitely for future use of the facility

**C. HCTF-LAC Budget Update: Eve reported \$13,200 revenue; \$12,700 expenses; Roche has contributed \$3,750 to fund the C-Retreat. Eve especially thanked Army for all his hard work at helping to organize the table sponsors. Brian coordinated the acquisition of over \$7,000.00 between Pfizer, Roche and APLA, as well as helping Army secure a grant from Tibotec. Brian also pointed out that CalHEP and Stephen Simon, of the AIDS Coordinators Office, City of Los Angeles, were two major contributors to the Summit.**

### III. New Business

- A. Barbara Crofford suggested that the C-Retreat be held in Long Beach at St. Mary's. The C-Retreat model consists of Education, Support groups and Experiential exercises, with at least three processing, support groups. Danny reported that six participants in HCTF-LAC's first C-Retreat, held in September 2007, attended the Summit in November. Comments included: C-Retreat to encourage more "consumers" participate in the Summit; Anonymity may be an issue for some consumers; regional C-Retreats may reduce this anxiety; suggested locations: Pasadena, the Valleys, as well as Long Beach. Any HCTF-LAC member, who is interested, is encouraged to participate on the C-Retreat Planning Committee, which will meet at 12:30 p.m., prior to the General Meeting, on February 20, 2008. Already on board are: Army Cachero, Danny Jenkins, Pierre Nsilu and Shahan Suzmeyan.
- B. At November's Summit, CalHEP made a formal presentation and extended an invitation for membership. The organization's goal is to put legislation in place for viral hepatitis. The goal can be reached more effectively by coordinating efforts of Northern and Southern California organizations. CalHEP is requesting a Southern "district" committee head and representatives, some of which are members of the HCTF-LAC, to address LA County issues. After a vote, the motion was passed to get involved. On board are: Meghan Ralston, Army Cachero, Brian Risley and Danny Jenkins. A legislative visit and meeting are scheduled in Northern California for 03/12/2008.
- C. HCTF-LAC Goals and Objectives for 2008: HIVLA Guide to incorporate the HCTF-LAC Resource Guide. The theme of addressing the Goals and Objectives is "Streamline."

#### IV. Presentation

Bob Miodovski, Senior Health Educator, and Pamina Bagchi, TB Coalition, LA Co. Dept. of Public Health announced that March is World TB Day. A three-hour conference has been scheduled for 03/15/2008 at the African American Museum. Topics will include: National and local TB 101; how agencies are addressing issues as well as special populations (African American, Latinos, Asians, Homeless); mental health specialists are needed – Suggestions are: Mickey Robbins (APLA MH) and Jonathan Lynch (Didi Hirsch, MHTF) – to address aging and co-occurring disorders. Registration begins at 8 a.m., the conference begins at 9 a.m. There is an upcoming one-hour training in Exposition Park TBA.

#### V. Announcements

- A. Deon presented January 2008's Clinical Trials list, announcing a couple of new studies.
- B. Army – Treatment Advocacy position (part time) at APAIT, also referred all members to thebody.com for posting calendar events.
- C. Pierre – announced that Dr. Kim Farley likes HCTF-LAC's work; requesting that the Task Force take a leadership role in the Coalition to collaborate with other existing local Hep organizations (Hep B Task Force); doing so, would broaden the definition of the Task Force's scope of work to viral hepatitis, with a focus on HCV; **This issue will come up as an item for which a vote will take place at our next meeting in February.**
- D. 02/06/2008 – Cinderella HIV-DATF advocacy meeting to address budget cuts. The meeting will be at Precious Blood Church from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- E. 02/24/2008 – Meghan announced that there is a need for individuals who are syringe-acquired HCV+ and HIV+ to share their stories at an event from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Continuing Education credits to be provided.

*Mark your calendar for next month's meetings:*

**Wednesday, February 20, 2008**

***C-Retreat Planning Meeting***

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

***General Task Force Meeting***

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

2330 Beverly Blvd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90057

***Street parking available***