

LA County Hepatitis C Task Force Meeting – January 19, 2005

Attendees: Eve Rubell, Leslie Ruddock, Brian Risley, Cynthia Fairfax, Joray Cubilles, Joey Aguilar, Cinderella Barrios-Cernik, Tihana Skaricic, Peter B. Starks, Darrell Lind, Israel Amrani, Terry C. Knudson, Ricki Rosales, MARRISA Axelrod, Dynan Cardona, Gary J. Barbagallo

- 1) Introductions/Minutes
 - a) Members were introduced
 - b) Minutes were approved from the December meeting.

- 2) Old Business
 - a) The Personal Health component of the Health Department was contacted about Hepatitis C. During the conversation the physician stated that they do test if the patient appears to have symptoms, but they do not perform general testing in the Health Centers. The HIV clinics do perform testing.
 - b) A conference call will be held this evening, January 19, 2005 by Alberto. The call is concerning the visit to Sacramento to discuss Hepatitis C with various representatives. If any of you want to be involved call Alberto and inform him. The visits are scheduled for February 2, 2005.
 - c) We reapplied to The California Endowment for a grant, and it was approved. We applied last year, but this time it is for a planning process. We need a strategic planner who can assist in building the Task Force. We are also submitting a proposal for funding and applying for two more grants. Eve and Darryl have offered to work on writing the grant proposal. Darryl wrote a consumer guide for Hepatitis C that was distributed at the last meeting.

- 3) New Business
 - a) The Co-chair position for the Hepatitis C Task Force was vacant, and the question was put to the floor if anyone was interested in being elected to this position. Marissa had emailed everyone informing them that the position was open. There was a discussion about the number of members and the numbers needed to vote. Whether a quorum was needed or a third. It was stated that if there is doubt Robert's Rules of Order could be used as the guideline. After much discussion it was decided that Brian Risley would make an excellent Co-chair. A motion was made to appoint Brian Risley as Co-Chair. There was a second. The vote was unanimous for Brian Risley to be interim Co-chair of the Task Force until the next election.
 - b) Dyhan Cardona was introduced during the meeting. She is an employee of Homeless Healthcare and works with the needle exchange program.
 - c) Goals and Objectives of Subcommittees
 - d) Leslie Ruddock stated there is a need for the different committees to review and revise their goals and objectives for 2005. Small discussion groups were formed for each committee to review and discuss the purpose and goal of that particular committee. After the discussion session ended each committee Chairperson gave a short overview of what had been discussed in the breakout. The decision is to have Eve and Leslie emailed by the committee Chairs with the goals and objectives that had been discussed in the breakout. Eve was designated to email goals and objectives to advocacy group. Everyone else can email this information to Eve or Leslie, and they will summarize and distribute.
 - (1) The Chairpersons for these committees are:
 - (a) Cinderella Barrios-Cernik – Care and Support Committee

- (b) Eve Rubell – Prevention, Surveillance and Treatment Committee
 - (c) Donna Gracon – Policy, Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee.
- e) The question put to the floor was concerning a Webmaster.
- i) It was stated that Mark Casanova of Homeless Health Care L.A. would be approached about a Webmaster to maintain the Hepatitis C Taskforce website. Brian Risley will also check with APLA about a possible Webmaster. The maintenance of the webpage should be done quarterly and by a Webmaster. A tentative decision was made that the Webmaster should post the agenda and minutes.
 - ii) MARRISA said she would find out how many hits the existing page is getting.
 - iii) The discussion concluded that this would be a good place for the Hepatitis C Resource Guide.
 - iv) Identified goals and objectives should be updated by June 30, 2005; Hepatitis C Resource Guide should be updated by June 30, 2005 along with Standards of Care.
 - v) Brian stated that the fact sheet was thorough and comprehensive. We should look at it to determine if new information should be added. Tihana stated anything could be added to the summary. It was also stated that the fact sheet should be added to the directory of the Resource Guide or part of the summary.
 - vi) A suggestion was made that the fact sheet should be posted on the website.
- f) There will be a legislative breakfast in April or June. Start planning now for the legislative breakfast.
- g) Staph infections are on the rise. To attend meeting see MARRISA.
- h) The State of California Hepatitis C Task Force Conference will be held at Lake Tahoe.
- i) Marketing
- i) Hepatitis C Resource Guide should be distributed to other agencies. We will look into advertising on bus posters. APLA gets discount on True Clear Channel.
- 4) Adjourn

The next Task Force meeting will be on February 17, 2005 from 1:30p.m. – 3:30p.m.
At: 2330 Beverly Blvd., L.A., CA 90057 213-744-0724