

## LA County Hepatitis C Task Force Meeting – March 16, 2005

*Attendees: Juan F. Muniz, Heidi Behm, Tracy Cumberland, Roberto Garcia, Darrell Lind, Tracy Jordan, Cynthia Fairfax, Tihana Skaricic, Sofia Torres, Peter B. Starks, Ricki Rosales, Russell Ybarra, Tommy Wyatt, Brian Risley, Joray Cubillo, Mario Castillo, Pat Alexander, Alberto Mendoza, Terry Knudson, Dyhan Cardona, Patti Huff, Gary J. Barbagalla, MARRISA Axelrod, Beth Powers, Leticia Ponzanzni, Eve Rubell, Tavia Hopkins*

### 1) Introductions

- a) All of the attendees introduced themselves and gave the name of their agency. An MRSA presentation will be given by Heidi Behm, PHN and Gladys Fernandez, PHN

### 2) Old Business

- a) Minutes for February 16, 2005 were approved.

### 3) New Business

- a) Brian Risley read a letter of resignation that was submitted by Leslie Ruddock Task Force co-chair. The resignation was effective immediately.
- b) Eve Rubell announced the part-time Administrative Assistant position for the Hepatitis C Task Force for Los Angeles County.
- c) The discussion of the subcommittee goals has been tabled until further notice.
- d) A motion was made from the floor to elect Eve Rubell as temporary co chair until the elections in June and there was a second and third to the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- e) In observance of National Organ Donation month, our April task force meeting will be a special event on organ donation and hepatitis C to be held at Drug Policy Alliance. Parking is available. Dr. Rojter, a hepatitis and liver transplant specialist, and a transplant recipient will be speaking. Donna Gracon will also talk about the new organ donation registry. The address of Drug Policy Alliance is 610 S. Ardmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90005, and the phone number is 213-201-4785. The event will be on the first floor in the conference room.
- f) NBC Health Fair Expo has invited the Hepatitis C Task Force to their Health Fair that will be held on August 13 and 14, 2005 from 10am to 5pm. They offer free booths to nonprofits. A discussion ensued about if anything should be given to people that come to the booth. Peter is printing something to give out at the booth. Nothing concrete was decided. Sofia, Peter, Roberto, Tracie, Terry and Brian will organize the event.

- 4) Gladys Fernandez and Heidi Behm, Public Health Nurses, from the Dept. of Health Services did a presentation on Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) "Staph infection". They spoke about the risk factors and passed out handouts. You can call Acute Communicable Disease Control if you think you have an outbreak or have questions about MRSA. The phone number is 213-240-7941.

5) Announcements

- a) A Health Fair is being held on May 14, 2005 in Long Beach from 8:00am to 4pm. Peter, Gary and Terry have volunteered their time to assist at the Task Force booth.
- b) We are considering moving the meeting place to The Drug Policy Alliance conference room located at 610 Ardmore, Los Angeles, CA. The conference room has been pre-reserved for the Task Force meetings.
- c) Tracy Jordan of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department informed us that the L.A. County Jail has a protocol to test for HIV. If the test results are positive then the individual is tested for Hepatitis C.
- d) Tommy Wyatt informed us that the Cambodian New Year's parade would be held April 17, 2005.
- e) On Saturday, April 16, 2005 Drug Policy Alliance will have their grand opening. They will also host a conference in Long Beach on November 10, 11 and 12, 2005.
- f) A breakfast at BAART located at 1926 West Beverly Blvd. will be held on March 18, 2005 at 9:00am for clients.
- g) Brian Risley announced the next HIV Matters: 2005 CROI Community Update, featuring Dr. Eric Daar, Dr. Mark Katz and Dr. Judy Currier. It will be held this evening.
- h) Eve tabled the discussion of the by-laws and the question concerning voting protocols until a later meeting.
- i) Alberto Mendoza announced that plaques would be presented to Assemblyman Paul Koretz and Legislative Aid Bart Broome for their support and assistance in passing the Hepatitis C Resolution the summer of 2004. Plaques will also be presented to Eve Rubell, Leslie Ruddock, Donna Gracon and Alberto Mendoza for their tireless efforts as co chairs of the Task Force.
- j) The other job posting is by Homeless Health Care Los Angeles for a Part-time Bilingual TB/Hepatitis Health Educator.
- k) Senate Bill 19, the California Prescription Program, has been written to make prescription drugs more affordable for the low-income population of California. This bill had been proposed in the past but now enjoys bipartisan support from the Democrats, Republicans and the Governor. A press conference was scheduled for March 16, 2005 at White Memorial Hospital but was moved to another location at the last minute.

7) Adjourn

**The next Task Force meeting will be a presentation on Organ Donation and Hepatitis C  
April 20, 2005 from 1:30p.m. – 3:30p.m.  
601 South Ardmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90005  
213-201-4785**

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION**