



Hepatitis C Task Force for Los Angeles County Meeting – March 19, 2008

Attendees: Armand (Army) Cachero, Deon Claiborne, Monique Collins, Barbara Crofford, Omar Hernandez, Danny Jenkins, Pierre Nsilu, John Palomo, Meghan Ralston, Brian Risley, Shahan Suzmeyan and David Treviño

- I. **Introductions: Attendees made their introductions.**
- II. **Old Business**
 - A. **01/16/2008 minutes read and approved.**
 - B. **2008 C-Retreat Planning Debrief – Danny and Barbara**
 1. **2008 C-Retreats – The first C Retreat for 2008 will be held at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Long Beach on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The C Retreat will be open to approximately 60 participants who are mono and coinfecting with HCV. The C Retreat Planning Committee has discussed with Pasadena Public Health about doing a C Retreat there in July. Another C Retreat in 2008 may take place in Los Angeles in September. C Retreat costs, per event, have been budgeted for up to \$1,000.00.**
 2. **A grant has been submitted to Tibotec to help fund the event.**
 3. **The Long Beach C Retreat will have lunch provided by Pfizer; GlaxoSmithKline, who will pay an honorarium for a clinician to present the Hep C 101 segment of the C-Retreat, will possibly donate breakfast. (Update: Dr. Daar is unavailable to present on May 10.) End of day raffle will be used as an incentive for participants to remain for the full day event.**
 4. **Participants and staff: 60 estimated participants per event; 8 peer support groups, each led by two co-facilitators (Facilitators will not be required to facilitate support groups at each event); 9 technical support volunteers.**
 5. **The Facilitator Training for the Long Beach C-Retreat will be held at 11:30 a.m. (SHARP) – 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 16, 2008, prior to HCTF-LAC monthly meeting – lunch provided by GlaxoSmithKline/Dagmar Adamec; All facilitators are required to participate in these trainings (only once for 2008 trainings).**
 6. **Presenters at the C Retreat to provide copies of their handouts; Each HCTF-LAC member agency is requested to contribute support (i.e. planning, printing materials, participant packet preparation, etc.)**
 - C. **The CalHEP’s collaboration with California Task Forces, including our Hep C Task Force, representing SoCAL, included an advocacy training; lunch with keynote speaker, Christopher Lawford; and legislative visits in Sacramento on March 12. Advocacy Teams were formed to make afternoon legislator office visits. The Advocacy Teams met with assemblypersons and state senators, or their top policy aides, to discuss hepatitis issues and health crisis that are partly the result of the large state budget deficit. The Teams advocated for two bills: Assemblywoman Fiona Ma’s AB 158 – Medi-Cal benefits for non-disabled persons with chronic hepatitis B [*specifically affects Asian Americans, whose mortality rate is seven times higher than whites – CDC*]; the other bill, AB 2664, sponsored by LA’s Assemblyman Dymally, asks the State Department of Public Health to develop an implemental plan for viral hepatitis. Once the bill goes to the floor, more advocacy is needed with our respective assemblypersons/senators to vote in favor of it. Co-chair Brian Risley reiterated that we, the Task Force, should honor the commitment made at the 07 Summit to become working members of CalHEP. Brian is going to follow up with Martha Saly regarding what that entails from the Task Force membership, and if transportation will be provided to CalHEP’s biannual meetings.**
- III. **New Business**
 - A. **A working draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LAC Public Health and the HCTF-LAC, serving the partnership of the Hepatitis Coalition was reviewed and discussed. The 2007 HCTF’s goals are almost the same as those for the Hep Coalition, as drafted by LAC Department of Public Health. This includes advocating for a Hepatitis Coordinator. As part of**

the Hepatitis Coalition, DPH and the Task Force will collaborate on shared goals and share resources, including the TF member agency resources, as needed. The only correction noted on the MOU draft is to make sure that reference to the Task Force read as Hepatitis C Task Force for Los Angeles County. The MOU was accepted, with this change, at the Task Force meeting. The final draft will be presented at the April monthly meeting.

- B. Task Force members reviewed the proposed agenda for the upcoming (date TBD) meeting of the LAC Hepatitis Coalition. Meeting time was adjusted to begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. It was suggested that there be five, and not six, breakout groups in drafting a countywide Prevention Plan. The first of the two bi-annual meetings is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2008. The second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008.
- C. In the review of the 2007 HCTF's goals, so that we can draft this document for 2008, member Meghan Ralston commented on "prevention" as one goal needing more attention, as well as advocacy (Danny Jenkins) and additional funding for those infected with HCV who cannot afford treatment. Brian Risley suggested that the Task Force's Strategic Plan that was developed in 2006 be put on our website.
- D. Resource guides need to be printed for this year's C-Retreat and Summit. Brian agreed to print 300; Jill Rotenberg will be contacted to request 200 copies.

IV. Announcements

- A. 04/04/2008 – APAIT's Silent Auction/Fund Raiser at Gallery Verde in Hollywood 1332 Citrus Ave, #5, Los Angeles, CA 90028.
- B. 04/12 – 04/13/2008 – NBC / Telemundo Health and Fitness Expo (Convention Center). Volunteers were recruited at the March meeting and the table sponsors are set.
- C. 05/16/2008 – Beacons of H.O.P.E. and American Recovery Center are hosting their 2nd Annual Hepatitis Awareness Day. We still need some volunteers for this event.
- D. Deon Claiborne – announced UCLA CARE Center's April clinical trials. In addition, she announced that she is leaving LA in late June to get her Ph.D. The vacancy for her position will be posted shortly.
- E. Meghan Ralston announced the Syringe Exchange/Purchase Program. See separate email for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual Hepatitis C Summit
The Center for Health Communities – California Endowment
Friday, 11/21/2008

Mark your calendar for next month's meetings:

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

C-Retreat Facilitator Training

11:30 a.m. (**Sharp**) – 1:30 p.m.

General Task Force Meeting

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Presentation – [Non-Violent Offender Rehabilitation Act](#)

Margaret Dooley-Sammuli, Drug Policy Alliance

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Street parking available