

## LA County Hepatitis C Task Force Meeting – April 19, 2006

*Attendees: Cinderella Barrios-Cernik, Paul Crowley, Eve Rubell, Brian Risley, Danny Jenkins, Deon Claiborne, Jim Zimmerman, David Hirsh, Leticia Ponzarizni, Pamela Hupton, Miguel Jauegui*

- I. Introductions
  - a. Members were introduced and new members were welcomed.
  
- II. Old Minutes
  - a. Substantial revisions were made to the March 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. Minutes approved and seconded.
  - b. Website updates are coming along and should be up soon. It was requested that an agency link section be added. As well, a link to studies. Deon will send this information to MARRISA.
  - c. Member agencies are encouraged to add the Task Force link to their agency home pages- [www.hepctaskforcecla.org](http://www.hepctaskforcecla.org).
  - d. Cinderella reported on the 5<sup>th</sup> CA Intercounty Task Force Conference that was held on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Riverside. The event had a full agenda including an awards dinner where Alberto Mendoza received an award for outstanding service to the citizens of California for consistent legislative action in health care reform for people with Hepatitis.
  
- III. New Business
  - a. Roche will be providing Hepatitis C Test Kits to member agencies to provide pre and post-test counseling along with follow up or referrals. If your agency is interested in providing HCV testing please let MARRISA know as she will coordinate this task.
  - b. HCV Disparities Conference will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. DPA is paying for some of the task force members and others from Southern California to go. If you are interested please contact Alberto Mendoza at [amendoza@drugpolicy.org](mailto:amendoza@drugpolicy.org).
  - c. Planning: In June we will have the annual elections for the 2 co-chair positions and for secretary. If you are interested in becoming a co-chair or the secretary please email MARRISA at [maxelrod@hhcla.org](mailto:maxelrod@hhcla.org). Also we will start planning the Summit in June.
  - d. Planning: The Summit will be held in November due to the Drug and Alcohol Task Force conference on Hepatitis C and Drug Use being held in October. We need to decide on a topic/focus for this year's Summit.
  - e. Dr. Chernoff is the new Department of Health Services acting director. Deon will draft a letter asking him to meet with task force representatives to discuss Hepatitis C.
  - f. Task Force Check-In
    1. Vet-to-Vet: Paul informed us that they have Hepatitis C support groups at four different locations: the VA, Westside residential facility, Haven and ATU.
    2. Cri-Help: David informed us that they have HIV and HCV education for clients and client testing through Valley Community Clinic's mobile testing unit and that they are starting Hepatitis C support groups at both of their facilities.
    3. ADPA: Cinderella provides information to drug and alcohol programs.
    4. Homeless Health Care Los Angeles: Eve informed us that the Catalyst Foundation is providing free treatment for HCV at HHCLA on Mondays. Also the Training and Education Department provides trainings on a large array of health related topics, including Hepatitis. The free Hepatitis trainings are for staff of social service agencies.

5. APLA: Brian informed us that they are working at the policy level and at the treatment and education level in addressing HIV & coinfection issues. Brian's Treatment Program provides HIV 101 trainings and a Hepatitis C/HIV co-infection training, requiring that 15 people minimum attend the training.
  6. El Proyecto del Barrio: Miguel informed us that they are providing HIV and Hepatitis C presentations in Spanish to clients, staff, schools, etc. They also have a tattoo removal program.
  7. LA Mission: Leticia informed us that they are providing HIV and HCV testing, prevention and education.
  8. Americorp located at the LA Mission: Pamela Hupton informed us that they have case managers that provide assistance for the homeless in a program called Help for the Homeless.
  9. UCLA Care Center: Deon informed us that they are conducting clinical trials with an HIV focus, but also have trials on HIV/HCV co-infection for people who are naive to HCV treatment or people who were on HCV treatment but did not achieve a sustained viral response. Also a new study is coming up for co-infected individuals who have never been on treatment for HCV or HIV. The study will attempt to determine which should be treated first, HIV disease or HCV disease.
- g. APLA requested a letter of support from the task force for a grant to do statewide treatment-education trainings to service providers and clinicians. This would include education on HIV/HCV coinfection and treatment.

#### IV. Announcements

- a. Liver Transplantation Forum with American Liver Foundation for HCTF monthly meeting on May 17, 2006—Location TBA
- b. John Kirby from Tarzana Treatment Centers will present at the June 21<sup>st</sup> HCTF meeting on the San Fernando Valley Substance Use and HIV/HCV Initiative.
- c. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, The Drug and Alcohol task Force is sponsoring, "What's new in HIV vaccines and microbicides" at The Precious Blood Church, 135 Occidental from 9:00-11:30am. For more information please contact [hivdatfla@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hivdatfla@yahoogroups.com)

#### I. Adjourn

[www.HepCTaskForceLA.org](http://www.HepCTaskForceLA.org)

**The next Task Force meeting is a special Lunch Forum on Liver Transplantation with an MD and a transplant recipient: Wednesday May 17, 2006 from  
Note special time: 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
Location to be announced  
213.381.0515**