



## Hepatitis C Task Force for Los Angeles County Meeting – May 21, 2008

*Attendees: Dagmar Adamec, Rick Alsop, Israel Amrani, Leona Anderson, MARRISA Axelrod, Lauren Burwell, Mark Casanova, Deon Claiborne, Jasper Do, Susan Hathaway, Deirdre Heimer, Omar Hernandez, Danny Jenkins, Aparna Kollipara, John Palomo, Leticia Ponzarizni, Paul Prosser, Brian Risley, Shahan Suzmeyan, David Treviño and Kristen Wasserstrom*

- I. **Introductions:** Attendees made their introductions, and new members were welcomed.
- II. **Old Business**
  - A. 04/16/2008 minutes were read and approved.
  - B. **May 10, 2008 C-Retreat debriefing – Danny Jenkins**
    1. Danny gave a brief overview of the C Retreat and its purpose to combine education and peer support and processing for participants infected and affected by hepatitis C.
    2. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive; Dr. Poordad's presentation provided valuable information and was well received; Dr. Poordad's associates provided information regarding clinical trials
    3. Some of the feedback from John Palomo, who is preparing to host Pasadena's C Retreat in July, included: no co-infection information and processing groups needed their own room. John also wanted to see more people in attendance, more emotional connection between the participants within his support group, possibly a shorter day and healthier snacks. Paul Prosser reported that one of his clients (a hard-to-please type) stated that it was an extremely positive experience.
    4. John P. reported he did learn from the May C Retreat, which will help him in planning for the C Retreat in Pasadena and is presently searching for a location site. He reported that he has met with obstacles, mainly regarding funding for the event. A July date needs to be set. Everyone is asked to review their calendars, so that the Pasadena C Retreat does not conflict with POS Life and other events.
    5. Some possible Retreat sites were suggested including ADS Services Center, the Huntington Hospital and one of the Pasadena Public Parks, which has a meeting facility.
  - C. **Goals & Objectives Review:**
    1. The deliverables are now internal; the deliverable goals and objectives have been satisfied for SAMHSA and California Endowment grant purposes.
    2. Brian suggested that the updating of the goals and objectives for 2008 might include "future thinking;" what goals and objectives might the Task Force want to accomplish in 2009 and into 2010 with regard to advocacy and presentations.
    3. MARRISA Axelrod, who developed the Task Force's initial Positive Pack, will review the materials and update the pack.
    4. A review of all Task Force materials should be undertaken; all appropriate resources should be accessed to compile a list of comprehensive information; the Task Force website should update its links to other relevant websites; the hepatitis C Public Health issue should be addressed aggressively through education and legislation via the Viral Hepatitis Coalition, the Summit and Public Service Announcements (putting a face to hepatitis C); hosting C Retreats at least biannually as well as regionally; the possibility of having Christopher Lawford make a presentation to the City Board of Supervisors was also suggested.
    5. The relationship with CalHEP, as well as the Task Force's involvement with the Viral Hepatitis Coalition, should be reflected in the revised documents.
- III. **New Business**
  - A. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the LAC Viral Hepatitis Coalition and the HCTF has been agreed upon at April's monthly meeting, with minor changes; however, the distribution of the final draft of the MOU has been postponed until June's meeting, as Pierre Nsilu was unavailable at May's meeting.
  - B. 15<sup>th</sup> CROI, Boston, MA – Part of the Treatment Update webcast, in which Brian Risley was a panel member, was presented at the May meeting. The other panelists included: Raymond Chung, MD, Dir. of Hepatology, Boston General Hospital and Elizabeth Highleyman, Writer/Health Educator Jules Levin, of NATAP, facilitated the panel discussion.

IV. Announcements

- A. June 17 – 19, 2008 – APLA Treatment Education Training, California Endowment (for CMs, Treatment/Health Educators, Mental Health Professional, etc.)
- B. 07/16/2008 – 1<sup>st</sup> biannual Viral Hepatitis Coalition Meeting
- C. Deon Claiborne – announced UCLA CARE Center's current clinical trials, and that she is leaving her post to attend a Ph.D. program out-of-state.
- D. MARRISA AXELROD is looking for a nursing position, specifically with hepatitis C emphasis.

# ***SAVE THE DATE***

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

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

***Wednesday, June 18, 2008***

**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**2330 Beverly Blvd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90057**

***Street parking available***