



## Hepatitis C Task Force for Los Angeles County Meeting – June 18, 2008

*Attendees: Dagmar Adamec, Israel Amrani, Leona Anderson, Marrisa Axelrod, Mamie Chun, Deon Claiborne, Barbara Crofford, Jasper Do, Carlos Flores, Susan Hathaway, Deirdre Heimer, Omar Hernandez, Danny Jenkins, Aparna Kollipara, Rachel Naylor, Pierre, Nsilu, John Palomo, Leticia Ponzarizni, Paul Prosser, Meghan Ralston, Katy Sirles and David Treviño*

- I. **Introductions:** Attendees made their introductions, and new members were welcomed.
- II. **Old Business**
  - A. 05/21/2008 minutes were read and approved with corrections.
  - B. **Viral Hepatitis Coalition:**
    1. Danny reviewed the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) regarding the Task Force's participation in the Coalition.
    2. The Coalition will allow the Task Force to have more participation on the State level as the "experts" on hepatitis C, among other advantages.
    3. The Task Force will not be eclipsed by the Coalition; the Task Force will remain a separate entity.
  - C. **Recruitment and Leadership:**
    1. Danny explained that the Task Force is in a transition phase; several founding members have moved on, and there is a need to "regroup".
    2. "Where are we going next" with the Task Force?
    3. Danny encouraged existing to a six-month re-commitment and look at strategic leadership.
    4. Task Force members on the roster need to be contacted and encouraged to come back or at least send a replacement, if they were representing an agency.
    5. All organization information needs to include that the Task Force is a non-partisan, non-political community organization, as political groups may deter some individuals from participating.
- III. **New Business**
  - A. **Pasadena C Retreat Planning update**
    1. Date has been set for August 23, 2008 and will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
    2. Location has yet to be determined; Recommendation for a site that is Gold Line accessible.
    3. 8 – 10 facilitators will lead groups, 40 expected participants.
    4. The doctor selected to present at the C Retreat must be able to connect with the participants.
    5. A suggestion was made to make postcards to promote the Retreat as opposed to flyers. Postcards are easier for doctors to place on their sign in counters, easier to distribute, printing costs can be incorporated into grant requests
    6. In-kind donations are needed (food, water, snacks, drinks, etc.). Meghan may have some contacts.
  - B. **Marrisa suggested the need for a Legislative Breakfast to engage city and county government officials to support the Task Force's efforts at education and advocacy.**
    1. March 2009 was suggested as a tentative target to schedule the Breakfast.
    2. The purpose and objectives of the Breakfast need to be outlined – what's been done, what is being done now.
    3. Encourage council members to support and fund with monies already allocated.
    4. Meet at each of the five Supervisorial Districts to make sure all are included.
    5. The Mayor needs to be involved.
    6. We need a Physician spokesman to relate to the city and county government and the community at large that hepatitis C is a real disease within the community and urgent action is needed.
    7. Publicity may include "the face of hepatitis C" photos – several pictures of "everyday" folks, all age ranges, ethnicities, body types, etc.
- IV. **Announcements**
  - A. 07/16/2008 – 1<sup>st</sup> biannual Viral Hepatitis Coalition Meeting – *SEE INFO BELOW*
  - B. Deon – announced UCLA CARE Center's current clinical trials, and that she is leaving her post to attend a Ph.D. program out-of-state. This is Deon's last meeting with the Task Force.

- C. Deirdre – Provided copies of Dr. Poordad’s clinical trials at Cedars-Sinai.
- D. Meghan – announced that access to syringes without prescriptions is doing very well. Pharmacies on board so far include: Long’s, Rite Aid and Walgreens. Visit [www.helpstopaids.com](http://www.helpstopaids.com) or [www.helpstophepc.com](http://www.helpstophepc.com) for more information.
- E. Meghan – announced that the Non-violent Offender Rehabilitation Act (NORA) will be on November’s ballot.

# ***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:  
First Viral Hepatitis Coalition Meeting***

***Wednesday, July 16, 2008***

**12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**600 S. Commonwealth Ave., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Los Angeles, CA 90005**

***Street parking available***

***RSVP REQUIRED***

***to:***

***Monica Moreno @ [momoreno@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:momoreno@ph.lacounty.gov)***