

## LA County Hepatitis C Task Force Meeting – October 19, 2005

*Attendees: Israel Amrani, Gary Barbagallo, Tracey Cumberland, Donna Gracon, Patti Huff, Kashari Jones, Alberto Mendoza, Brian Risley, Kelly Zirbes, David Hirsh, Gail Collins, Tom Donohoe, Alex Wilson, Maria Bannister-Khalife, Yazmin Trujillo, James May*

- I. Introductions/Minutes
  - a. Members were introduced
  - b. September minutes were approved with some changes
  - c. Homeless Health Care Los Angeles was thanked for the refreshments.
  
- II. Old Business
  - a. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hepatitis C Summit will be held on November 17 at the Radisson Wilshire Hotel. The event will be held in the Grand Ballroom to accommodate a larger amount of people than last year.
  - b. We want to thank Brian Risley for arranging the speakers and working with the hotel.
  - c. We would also like to acknowledge Donna Gracon for all the work she has done arranging speakers and printing our beautiful invitations.
    - i. Donna will print more invitations and send them to MARRISA.
  - d. Justin Burke of APLA will be working with Drug Policy Alliance to develop a generic press release that will be able to go on any agency's letterhead.
  - e. We are still waiting on confirmation from some of the panel members and are open to recommendations.
    - i. Tom Donohoe recommended that we contact Sherri Lewis, a co-infected woman, on their speaker's bureau. Information will be sent to her.
  - f. The afternoon session will include Dr. Sammy Saab, Maryanne Rowerdink, Darrell Lind, an APLA client and Tom Sterns (a transplant recipient who received HCV treatment).
  - g. Information tables are available and request forms should be sent to MARRISA Axelrod at [maxelrod@hhcla.org](mailto:maxelrod@hhcla.org). Task Force members and sponsors will not be charged for informational tables, but outside agencies will be charged a \$100 fee. These tables will be accessible throughout the entire event.
  
- III. New Business
  - a. A sign up sheet will be sent out via email requesting Task Force members to sign up for day of the event tasks. Thank you to those Task Force members that have already signed up.
  
- IV. Special Presentation
  - a. Maria Bannister-Khalife- Market Development Manager, Hepatology for Roche Pharmacy was introduced.
    - i. Maria Bannister Khalife gave a wonderful presentation informing the Task Force of the work that Roche is doing with agencies and communities throughout Los Angeles.
    - ii. Roche is working to create opportunities and initiatives to find patients who do not know they have HCV.
    - iii. They are working with CBO's and HIV agencies to create pilots in HCV awareness, mobilizing patients, getting people screened and into support groups or faith based programs.

- iv. Ms. Bannister Khalife has offered whatever help we need, that she will do her best to help us.
- v. Roche will be giving us Home Access test kits.
- vi. Roche also has the bruises campaign going on right now. This campaign is currently in New York, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The posters represent 3 ethnic backgrounds and run on billboards, in newspapers and magazines. Posters can be ordered by calling 866.437.2768. (You must specify which ethnic background you are interested in receiving).



## V. Announcements

- a. James \_\_\_\_\_ from DPA in Sacramento informed us of bills that were vetoed and passed.
  - i. A bill was vetoed to use HIV money for needle exchange.
  - ii. A bill was approved for counties to organize needle exchange without a state of emergency every 12 days; now every year.
  - iii. A bill was approved to voluntarily have HCV screening in jail.
- b. DPA is having their 2005 International Drug Policy Reform Conference on November 10-12, 2005 in Long Beach, CA.
- c. Donna Gracon has confirmed Peter Anderson for the Summit. Again thank you Donna.
- d. Donna also brought information on the Roche Latino Study that is being conducted by Peter Anderson's office. For more information, please call 323.224.5555.
- e. For more information on free Hepatitis B screening for Asian Americans please call American Liver Foundation at 310.670.4624
- f. There will be a Case Management training offering free CEU's for nurses on 10/21/05.
- g. There will be an HIV Medication Resistance Forum in November hosted by APLA.
- h. Hepatitis C Awareness is having their Hepatitis C Awareness 2 on Saturday October 22, 2005 at The Brigg in Huntington Beach, featuring a DJ from 6-8pm and Live Bands from 8pm-12am. For more information please go to [www.hepcaware.org](http://www.hepcaware.org).
- i. Next month's meeting will be used to put together material for the Summit.

## VI. Adjourn

The next Task Force meeting will be on November 16, 2005 from  
 1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m. at  
 2330 Beverly Blvd., LA, CA 90057 213.381.0515