

## SF Hepatitis C Task Force

Minutes of 6/13/2016

### **In Attendance:**

Mercedes Azcarate  
Dan Berrner  
Shirley Barger  
Jay Fournier  
Pauli Gray  
Robin Roth

### **Absent Members:**

Jim Banta  
Misha Cohen  
Peter Dale  
Ray Goldstein  
Janice Strassheim

### **Guests:**

Katie Burk  
Orlando Chavez  
Jason Norelli

### **Welcome, Introductions, Announcements**

Guests Orlando Chavez and Jason Norelli from Glide attended. Orlando and Jason were recently hired by Glide as Healthcare Systems Navigators concentrating on hep C. They are doing outreach in the community, including visiting SROs and shelters. The goal is to get more individuals to test and link to care. Glide is participating in a linkage to care demonstration project; Orlando stressed that the effort needs support of the entire community. Orlando and Jason also will be certified as phlebotomists, which will allow them to do hep C confirmatory tests and hep B testing.

Syringe Access Services at SF AIDS Foundation has an open position for a Hepatitis C Wellness Coordinator. This person will work with Pauli on getting PWIDs tested, linked to care, readied and coached for treatment, and generally supported.

There was not a quorum at the time to approve May's minutes, but additional members reviewed and accepted the minutes after the meeting. May's minutes have been approved.

### **Reports**

Mercedes reported on National Hep C Testing Day with Mission Wellness Pharmacy. Six TF members (Robin, Dan, Janice, Jay, Mercedes, Shirley) and one volunteer (Mike Daly from CCSF Hepatitis ABCs class) participated on the afternoon of May 19. It was a success--21 people were tested that afternoon, the highest daily number up to that time. Mission Wellness has tested over 100 baby boomers; only a couple were positive. Some of the people tested didn't know that there are new effective medicines for HCV. DPH funding is extended into the fall, so free testing continues at MW. There was discussion about the TF perhaps doing another outreach at MW, but no firm plan was made. A page about the May 19 event is on the TF website ([sfhepc.org](http://sfhepc.org)).

Robin recently did a couple of interviews: a radio interview on KPOO on April 5, and a television interview on Comcast's "Freedom is a Constant Struggle" on May 19. Both interviews are available on the Activities page of the website.

Shirley reported that the SF Community Providers have decided to continue their meetings although the Elimination Initiative is launching. Several participants expressed interest in continuing as is for a now, appreciating the informality and the diverse roles of attendees (people from pharmacies, CBOs and advocacy groups attend as well as doctors and nurses).

Robin reported that CalHEP is honoring several people with awards. Shirley is receiving the Sherri Ziegler Community Service award, Rachel McLean has won the Government Champion award, a medical provider has been chosen for a new award for Medical Champion, and the individuals who started CalHEP will be honored with the Founders Award. A luncheon and awards ceremony will be held in Sacramento on August 9.

### **Upcoming Events**

The TF will do outreach at Juneteenth again this year. The date is June 18, and the TF table will be in the Health Pavilion on Fillmore Street at O'Farrell. Glide will set up a tent for testing beside the table. TF volunteers are Jim, Dan, Mercedes, Robin and Shirley. Robin is also checking with previous students who may be able to help out.

World Hepatitis Day is July 28, and there are plans to celebrate the day in SF. A press conference will start at 9:30 am at City Hall with several speakers from the hep B and C communities, including TF member Janice and Dr. Annie Leutkemeyer (UCSF/SF General). Dr. Leutkemeyer will announce the Elimination Initiative. It is hoped that free hep B and C testing will be available for a time that day at 101 Grove. At 8:30 pm, City Hall will be lit in alternating colors representing hep B (jade) and hep C (red and yellow). Arcadi Kolchak of SF Hep B Free has done a good deal of work on setting up the activities along with the organization Prevent Cancer. There was discussion about whether some flyers should be placed in buildings around Civic Center prior to WHD to alert people to free testing at 101 Grove on 7/28.

### **Discussions**

Katie reported on the progress of the SF Hep C Elimination Initiative (EI). The four workgroups are meeting regularly and attendees are working on what should be done and what will be needed to achieve those goals. The workgroups are:  
*Testing and Linkage*: every first Friday 1:00-2:30, 25 Van Ness, 5th floor conference room

*Research/Surveillance*: every 2nd Thursday 3:00-4:30, 25 Van Ness, room 210

*Treatment Access*: every 2nd Friday 1:00-2:30, SFGH Ward 84 conference room

*Prevention & Education*: every 3rd Thursday 1:00-2:30, 25 Van Ness, room 650

The soft launch of the EI will be on World Hepatitis Day. Work is still being done to answer the questions what do we need going forward, and what can we do now? Some funding may be available from the SF Cancer Initiative (UCSF Cancer Institute). It will take three or four more months of planning the work to really get going.

A discussion on implications for the TF as the EI gets going was resumed. Robin proposed that the TF could cut down on face-to-face meetings, perhaps alternating monthly between face-to-face and phone-in. The co-chairs have also been fielding questions from individuals and organizations regarding screening, linkage to care and treatment. Katie recommended that organizations be referred to her and individuals to HELP-4-HEP.

Obtaining funding was brought up. There was agreement that placing a Donate button on the website would be worthwhile, along with applying for grants. Pauli proposed establishing a Speakers Bureau that could supply speakers knowledgeable about hepatitis C to speak to meetings, groups, schools. As the EI stirs up awareness about hepatitis C, this may be a good time to start such a service. The TF could develop slides and structure for presentations. Pauli is interested in working on this project.

Shirley is stepping down as co-chair and a new co-chair will be chosen at the July meeting. Shirley will continue as treasurer for now. There was agreement to have no more than two-co-chairs, and both positions will be voted on next meeting. Robin nominated Dan to run for co-chair (all were in favor) and Pauli nominated Robin (all were in favor).

Members were reminded to provide short bios and photos for the website. These should be sent to Shirley at [sbargersfca@yahoo.com](mailto:sbargersfca@yahoo.com).

**Adjourned at 7:30.**