

SF Hepatitis C Task Force

Minutes of 3/14/2016

In Attendance:

Mercedes Azcarate
Jim Banta
Shirley Barger
Peter Dale
Jay Fournier
Ray Goldstein
Pauli Gray
Theresa Hughes
Robin Roth

Absent Members:

Dan Berner
Misha Cohen
Janice Strassheim

Guests:

Colleen Brannon
Brian Gonzalez

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Brian attended after an absence. He reported that he is back on HCV treatment and is doing well. He wants to fight stigma and do outreach to others.

Peter has a new job working for the Peer Wellness Center at 1282 Market Street, SF. The Center has peer counselors and wellness staff experienced in mental health recovery. Congratulations, Peter!

Mercedes mentioned that Mission Wellness Pharmacy is thinking about passing out bags of accessories for PWID through syringe access programs. More education on cookers, cottons, water, etc. is needed to keep people from becoming infected or reinfected.

Mercedes also reported that Maria Lopez of Mission Wellness Pharmacy and Liseli Mulala of St. Luke's Walgreens are starting testing for hepatitis C this Saturday, 3/19. These efforts will address people in the community--particularly Latinos and African-Americans--who are not apt to seek out testing through clinics, but would feel comfortable with their pharmacists. UCSF and DPH are involved, with Betty Dong (pharmacist at UCSF) and Maria overseeing. Mission Wellness will test 6 days a week and St. Luke's Walgreen's will test 5. This is a 3-month pilot targeting 200 to be tested.

(Update after meeting: Walgreen's has not been able to start testing as planned; they've run into problems with the CLIA waver.)

Approved minutes of 2/8/16.

New Task Force brochures were passed around. It was also announced that the new sfhepc.org website has a page for members' pictures and bios, so please send them to sfhepctf@gmail.com.

Monika Chinai of the Luminus Group is considering putting on Town Halls for communities with high HCV rates to provide education and testing. Monika, who has done liver-related education and events before, would fund the Town Halls

through grants. She may want to work with the Task Force on this. She has considered tailoring a program for Hispanics. This is still in a very early stage.

Upcoming Activities

An international protest will take place in several locations on 4/1. The purpose is to protest pricing that prevents access to life-saving drugs. The local protest will be at Gilead in Foster City. OASIS clinic will be there. It was decided that those of the TF who wish to go may do so as individuals, but not as the group. People will be emailed details and can make their own decisions.

The Asian Heritage Street Celebration takes place at Civic Center on May 21. Shirley reported that the AHSC was considerably smaller last year, but may be a big larger this year. It still won't match its previous size and services. No testing for viral hepatitis was available last year. The cost may also be prohibitive, as the TF has little money. Shirley will check into a discounted or free booth space.

Debrief on Hepatitis C Summit 3/10/16

All agreed that the Summit was a raging success! Theresa reported that in reviewing the evaluations, around 80% are 5's and 4's. Presenters, panelists, and break-outs were all rated highly. Paul Harkin and Pauli were especially popular.

174 registered and 145 attended. 95%-98% were San Francisco based. Multiple attendees came from DPH, UCSF and SF Jail. Although the mezzanine had been set up for networking, it was not used much, but people found their own locations to network.

Names and emails of attendees will not be available; they must be kept private. But Theresa and Colleen will request that presenters share their slides, which will be posted to a web site. Organizations who sent attendees can be provided.

Dr. Annie Luetkemeyer is a top leader in the Hepatitis C Elimination Initiative. The Steering Committee is now expanding out, and work groups will begin meeting in April.

Adjourned at 7:30.