

Minutes – San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force

April 11, 2016

In Attendance:

Mercedes Azcarate
Jim Banta
Dan Berrner
Misha Cohen
Jay Fournier
Ray Goldstein
Pauli Gray
Theresa Hughes
Robin Roth
Janice Strassheim

Absent Members:

Shirley Barger
Peter Dale

Guests:

John Begert
Brian Gonzalez

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

- John Becker – Walgreen’s Regional Account Manager, Virology
- HCV testing performed at Syringe Access Services - 117 6th Street @Mission
 - Tuesdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 - Fridays 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
 - Saturdays 4:00 pm - 8:00pm

Approved minutes of 3/14/16

Reports

San Francisco Hepatitis C Elimination Initiative – Katie Burke

- Workgroup meetings – all invited but let Katie know ahead of time
 - Testing and Linkage
 - May 6th 1:00-2:30 (every first Friday)
 - 25 Van Ness, 5th floor Conference Room
 - Research/Surveillance
 - May 12th 3:00-4:30 (every 2nd Thursday)
 - 25 Van Ness, Room 701
 - Treatment Access
 - May 13th 1:00-2:30 (every 2nd Friday)
 - SFGH Ward 84 Conference Room
 - Prevention and Education
 - May 19th, 1:00-2:30 (every 3rd Thursday)
 - 25 Van Ness, Room 650
- All working groups are open to TF members
- Initiative will have a website
- Community launch event being planned for summer

- Suggested that Elimination Initiative's Steering Committee include at least one person from the SFHCTF
- Send initiative name suggestions to Katie

Updates on SFHCTF (google groups, website, structure, positions)

- SFHCTF Facebook page discussion regarding posting policy and procedure; Misha Cohen will take over administration of page
- Shirley following up with Teresa Hughes and Colleen regarding Summit requests
- Discussion regarding "restructuring" of TF including:
 - Shirley to step down as co-chair in August, 2016
 - Elections of replacement co-chair in July, 2016
 - Need for both a permanent treasurer and secretary
- Google Groups for SFHCTF business, including:
 - General information
 - Announcements
 - ?
- Robin to call David Campos stating SFHCTF support for safe injection site and/or "wet house"

Hep on the Hill – Dan

Reported that over 100 advocates from 27 states participated in the 2016 Hepatitis on the Hill event in Washington, DC March 6-8. Participants received advocacy training, met with officials from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) and conducted over 100 educational Hill visits with staffers of key Members of Congress!

Hepatitis on the Hill, sponsored by the Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership, Hep B United, and the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable provides a platform for constituents and individuals living with hepatitis B or C to meet with their Congressional offices and advocate for resources to meet the needs of people impacted by hepatitis. The event included training on the appropriations process, how to effectively communicate the impacted hepatitis has on lives, and the current state of hepatitis prevention, testing and access to care. Specific requests for Congressional action, included:

- Increasing funding for the CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis to respond to hepatitis B and C across the nation
- Supporting the use of federal funds for syringe services programs

Policy Reports

Letters of Support have been sent from SFHCTF for:

- AB 2179 (more accessible training for HCV testing)
- AB 2495 (allow harm reduction programs like supervised consumption services) The bill would exempt a person from the criminal sanctions above while he or she is operating an adult public health or medical intervention program authorized by a state or local health department.

- Federal Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act (CARA) – the legislation would:
 - Expand the availability of naloxone—which can counter the effects of a heroin or opioid overdose—to law enforcement agencies and other first responders
 - Improve prescription drug monitoring programs to help states monitor and track prescription drug diversion “and to help at-risk individuals access services,” because inefficiencies and loopholes in the current programs allow many individuals to game the system and obtain more drugs than they should
 - Shift resources towards identifying and treating incarcerated people who are suffering from addiction, rather than just punishment as is often the case currently
 - Prohibit the Department of Education from including questions about the conviction of an applicant for the possession or sale of illegal drugs on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) financial aid form

- 4/18 CA budget hearings – Shirley will speak for CalHep funding requests Given the severity of the epidemic in human suffering and healthcare costs, Project Inform and the California Hepatitis Alliance (CalHEP) request \$1,900,000 General Fund in FY 16-17 for:
 - \$100,000 for CDPH to purchase and distribute HBV vaccine to local health jurisdictions to vaccinate high risk adults
 - \$600,000 for CDPH to purchase HCV rapid test kits to distribute to community-based testing programs
 - \$500,000 for CDPH to certify non-medical personnel to perform rapid HCV and HIV Testing in community-based settings
 - \$200,000 to the CDPH Office of AIDS for technical assistance to local governments and to increase the number of syringe exchange and disposal programs throughout California and the number of jurisdictions in which syringe exchange and disposal programs are authorized
 - \$500,000 to establish an Interagency Task Force to address HCV, HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and drug user health.

Possible future activities:

- Hepatitis Awareness Month in May & Hepatitis Testing Day May 19
- Need volunteer to join NVHR call on 4/21 @ noon to hear ideas

- Asian Heritage Street Celebration - 5/21
- Preventive Cancer Foundation event, w/ Project Inform/CalHEP, to raise awareness about HBV/HCV & liver cancer, HPV & cervical cancer

- Update on HCV testing with Walgreen's and Mission Wellness
 - Walgreen's to supply testing supplies
 - Organizations to provide testers
 - Testing done at Mission Wellness
 - Testing Day – May 9th volunteers:
 - Dan
 - Mercedes
 - Jay
 - Brian

Adjourn