

SF Hepatitis C Task Force

Minutes of 1/11/2016

In Attendance:

Shirley Barger
Dan Berrner
Peter Dale
Jay Fournier
Ray Goldstein
Pauli Gray
Theresa Hughes
Robin Roth

Absent Members:

Jim Banta
Misha Cohen

Guests:

Mercedes Azcarate
Colleen Brannon
Katie Burk
Janice Strassheim
Maya Yoshida-Cervantes

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Janice has been successful at getting Harvoni! After being rejected three times by Blue Shield, she contacted the Department of Managed Care. Within 30 days, they approved her treatment.

Maya with the SF Jail treatment project says that they will know in March whether Santa Clara Jail will also participate. Each jail will treat 50 inmates, but if Santa Clara cannot take part, then SF may treat 100.

Approved minutes of 10/19/15 and 12/14/15.

Reports

Robin reported on the protest rally on 1/11 outside the J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference at the Westin St. Francis across from Union Square. The conference featured pharmaceutical companies with high earnings. Janice and Robin attended, as did people from OASIS Clinic, the Peace and Freedom Party, the Labor Council, and the ANSWER Coalition. About three dozen attended, and they were able to stay in front of the hotel so that attendees would see the protest.

Presentation

Katie presented an update on SFDPH grants and plans. SFDPH applied for a grant from CA Department of Public Health, which was funded in the Governor's budget this year to support demonstration projects addressing HCV. (Project Inform successfully advocated for this funding.) SFDPH has received preliminary approval for parts of their proposal, which involve linkages to care, care coordination and treatment (goals 2 and 3 as determined by CDPH). Funding is through June 2018. This means several new programs for San Francisco.

Hepatitis C Summit 3/10/16

Theresa and Colleen reported and led discussion on the Summit. Invitations to register will go out on Friday or Monday via EventBrite. Around 350 names are on the list, but some may be removed before the mailing.

There were questions about handling CEUs. Jay, who has some experience with this, explained that whoever is providing the CEUs has a protocol to follow, and sign-in/sign-out will go to them. There is no online action needed.

We will invite Dr. Diane Sylvestre to accept an award in recognition of her pioneering work.

Each breakout session will need a facilitator and a note taker. Veronica from ALF can provide interns for note taking. There is also reception and sign-up. A volunteer training will be provided.

Mercedes and Paul Harkin will determine which CBOs will have tables, with 2 per table.

The list of attendees can go out to participants a couple of weeks after the event.

Robin suggested that one outcome of the Summit would be a list of SF resources.

Priority Planning

Currently the main priority is to produce the Summit. We'll also see what comes from the Summit; there may be new initiatives, partnerships, etc.

The TF can work with SFDPH to expand activities. Toward the end of the year, we should decide what we need to ask for in the next budget cycle.

Pauli brought up the need for navigators for people seeking or in care. The TF basically advocates rather than providing direct services--but it can help agencies get what they need to provide services.

The proposed priorities for 2016 were adopted as is.

Adjourned at 7:30.