



## Eliminate Hepatitis C Task Force

**March 11, 2022**  
**12:00 AM – 1:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom**

### Minutes

**Attendance:** **Patrick Loose**, County of San Diego (Co-Chair), **Robert Lewis**, Family Health Centers of San Diego (Co-Chair), **Mark Beatty**, MD, County of San Diego, **Michelle Darnelle**, Medical Center Pharmacy, **Jim Dunford**, MD, McAlister Institute, **Carrie Farrell**, County of San Diego, **Meghan Johnson**, County of San Diego, **Ankita Kadakia**, MD, County of San Diego, **Natasha Martin**, DPhil, UCSD, **Christian Ramers**, MD, Family Health Centers of San Diego, **Claire Riley**, County of San Diego, **Andrea Tomada**, County of San Diego, **Winston Tilghman**, MD, County of San Diego, **S. Samantha Tweeten**, PhD County of San Diego and **Wilma Wooten**, MD, County of San Diego

**Contract Support Staff:** **Scott Suckow**, Liver Coalition of San Diego and **Ryan Clary**, Clary Strategies.

**The meeting started at 12:04 PM. The purpose of the Task Force was reviewed.**

Purpose: To coordinate the implementation of the plan to eliminate HCV in San Diego County by 2030. With the overarching targets: • 80% decrease of incidence of chronic HCV by 2030, and • 65% reduction of HCV mortality by 2030.

Dr. Natasha Martin reviewed the study “HCV MICROELIMINATION AMONG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN SAN DIEGO: ARE WE ON TRACK?”

Conclusions were:

- San Diego is progressing towards HCV Micro-elimination amount PLWH, but further scale-up across the county to above levels achieved at UCSD in 2021 and monitoring of HCV viremia among PLWH are required to reach the 2030 targets.
- Efforts to identify remaining treatment barriers among PLWH area required to ensure existing treatment rates can be maintained.

**Eliminate Hepatitis C Task Force**  
c/o Liver Coalition of San Diego  
Scott Suckow, Executive Director

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- Scale-up of harm reduction efforts (opiate agonist therapy and needle and syringe programs) among PWID both with and without HIV are required to reduce risk of infection/reinfection.

In summary, Dr. Martin emphasized the need to scale up treatment and focus on reinfection, combining with harm reduction for reinfection.

Dr. Wooten suggested benchmarks to determine if we are on track. Dr. Martin has a student that will move forward with modeling to determine benchmarks. She will forward the Liver Coalition a scope of work for the \$10,000 fee.

It was suggested to bring healthcare systems together (i.e. FQHCs). The power of convening, data sharing and collection.

Ryan Clary provided an update for Recommendation 8 and 9. He will forward information about an upcoming Hepatitis Policy Summit. He also provided an overview of the California Budget Request that End the Epidemics is making this year.

Upcoming training was discussed. Dr. Ramers mentioned the Bridge HCV as something we should put our efforts behind.

Dr. Wooten suggested the need for a basic Hep C 101 training curriculum. Scott said he would reach out to the American Liver Foundation for a copy of their program.

**The meeting ended at 12:59 PM**

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