



## Eliminate Hepatitis C Task Force

June 24, 2022  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
Via Zoom

### MINUTES

#### ***Mission: Eliminate HCV in San Diego County by 2030***

***Purpose:*** To coordinate the implementation of the plan to eliminate HCV in San Diego County by 2030, with the overarching targets:

- 80% decrease in the incidence of chronic HCV by 2030, and
- 65% reduction of HCV mortality by 2030.

**Participants:** Scott Suckow, Andrea Tomada, Ryan Clary, Bob Lewis, Patrick Loose, Letty Reyes, Natasha Martin, Lori Jones, Tara Stamos-Buesig, Claire Riley, Lori Jones

#### **Community Engagement Updates:**

##### *July 28<sup>th</sup> World Hepatitis Day:*

The theme this year is “I Can’t Wait.” Activities related to World Hepatitis Day will be part of the next contact period. We will discuss further on our July call.

##### *Annual progress report:*

Andrea has drafted the Board memo. There is a parallel track to draft the community annual report. Scott wants to get the drafts out to the community for feedback. The community report will have pictures, graphics, and expanded narrative. There will be a short turnaround and Task Force members will have a couple of days to weigh in.

##### *Meetings/trainings:*

The Viral Hepatitis in Kids training was held on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The recording can be viewed on the Liver Coalition of San Diego’s website.

#### **Eliminate Hepatitis C Task Force**

c/o Liver Coalition of San Diego  
Scott Suckow, Executive Director

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There has been some follow up with committees of Health Centers Partners since the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Liver Wellness Conference is being moved to the end of the year due to COVID.

The Hepatitis & Substance Use training will be a roundtable led by Ronni Marks of Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group. It will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Hepatitis C Elimination Learning Exchange was held on June 17<sup>th</sup>. It was a success, with over 80 people participating from around the country. We partnered with Hep C Free New York City, Hep C Free Washington, End Hep C San Francisco, NASTAD, and NVHR to discuss strategies to address hepatitis C in people who use drugs.

Tara asked if we could host a training on person-centered language so we can model for the broader community.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### *Surveillance:*

Dr. Martin reported that the surveillance model has been developed, using the HIV model. We will look at what is required to scale up to reach elimination targets and ask major questions around treatment rates in communities, who is being treated, the levels of treatment, and what data we can get to answer these questions.

Scott asked if payers have this information that could be purchased. Patrick and Andrea will follow up.

#### Linkage and Testing:

Letty is leading the Committee. The group has been working through the recommendations, stopping at 3.1.2 for now. The Committee will have conversations with Maternal and Child Family Services to discuss including hepatitis C testing in prenatal panels. The Committee will also discuss with FQHCs. Planned Parenthood is not engaging in routine testing.

#### *Awareness and Prevention:*

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Family Health Centers was funded to produce a campaign for HCV.

The new Take Me Home (home testing kits) project offers an opportunity for HCV tests to be taken home by those at risk for HCV infection.

*Treatment Committee:*

The Committee has had issues with finding a day/time to meet on a regular basis. Andrea has met with Dr. Dunford and had productive conversations about collaboration among providers.

It was noted that we need more people with lived experience in all committees. Tara can help with recruitment.

**General Updates:**

The website, social media, and shared drive are all up and running.

**Standing Items:**

*State budget:*

Ryan reported that the final state budget does not include increased funding for hepatitis C or harm reduction/overdose programs. The \$5 million in annual funding will continue.

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