

MARIN HEPATITIS C COALITION (MHCC)

Quarterly Meeting Notes

June 5, 2023

11:00-12:00 p.m.

Participants: Deborah Gallagher - HIV Surveillance Coordinator/Epidemiologist, Linda Dobra - Sr. RN, Nga Le - Sr. Program Coordinator, Jasmine Soriano – Epidemiologist, Alejandra Garcia, Public Health Investigator II (HHS); Cat Condon – Division Director (BHRS); Chris Brown - Harm Reduction Manager; Bill Remak - Chair (California Hepatitis C Taskforce); Sehrish Khan – Director of Clinical Compliance (Ritter); Melanie Thompson – Chief Medical Officer, Isai De La O – Director of Nursing (Marin Community Clinics); Bobby Moske – Co-chair (ROSM); Andy Desruisseau – Infectious Disease Doctor (Marin Health); Jennifer Lai – PharmD (Kaiser)

[Link](#) to meeting recording. Password: *Dz3s2.r

Discussion	Action?
I. Introductions: Name, agency/affiliation, role. What are you looking forward to most this summer?	
II. HCV Provider Updates Ritter <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hired a new Medical Assistant.• Ritter is still providing medical outreach to all the sites and open to new locations if there are recommendations.• For the HCV grant, Ritter submitted the new scope of work for FY23/24. Spahr <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working on simplifying processes for providing service and setting expectations for testing. Will put together a document on what to expect with HCV treatment that might help clients better understand.• Another staff member is now certified for HIV/HCV testing – Imogen Wormwood.• Spahr has a new Chief Programs Officer, Renato Talhadas started today. MCC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expanding on who can offer treatment at the clinics. Currently have two providers so far, and its working really well. Don't have to send prior authorizations anymore so that has helped a lot. We have allocated some of this grant funding to support diagnostics and labs so that is an option for patients now.	

- For people who are uninsured, there are some programs to cover the medications, but it wasn't approved with one patient. Are there suggestions to get this approved in a timely manner (so patients don't lose interest)? Dr. Desruisseau says that there are patient assistance programs, such as Gilead, and generosity programs. He will email Isai some contacts that they have worked with over the years. This is for a patient that had no coverage, and the income level was above the assistance program eligibility. Below a certain threshold, they could consider a 340B provider, and all providers at MCC are 340B. might go into looking at 340 b provider, that is another option. All providers are 340b at mcc.

Bill Remak (California Hepatitis C Taskforce)

- Submitted abstract to Association of Liver Disease, coming out in November, will find out if the submission has been approved.
- Working on applications and grants and bringing on another board member.
- Starting to register in other states. Expanding our partnership throughout the state, going very well. Would like to see more funding from state, HHS, HRSA, and other agencies with regard to viral hepatitis.
- CA HCV task force is taking interns – contact Bill if your agency wants interns to help out. The intern can support the HCV coalition but work with a program within the taskforce.

HHS

- We will fund all three agencies at \$35,000 each for FY23/24. Working with each agency to update SOW and budget. We won't find out about funding beyond July 2024 until early next year.
- State of CA was providing grants for point of care tests for HCV grants, if in need of tests, Rachel McClean has them at her office.
- We are working with Marin County Cooperation Team and Canal Alliance to launch an STI home-based testing pilot project in July. The test kit includes testing for HIV, HCV, Syphilis, and diabetes.

Cat Condon (BHRS)

- We provide direct services or contract with CBOs to provide substance use treatment services. The services are for Marin low income or Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Most of the services are contracted out.
- When providers are doing their initial screening and assessment, they will ask a variety of health questions but are not doing any screenings. MTC is one of the largest treatment providers.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All providers meet together once a month, the HCV team can present to the treatment providers at this meeting to increase awareness and provide referral resources for treatment. • Providers include MTC, Helen Vine, BACR, Ritter, CenterPoint, some out of county providers in the East Bay and SF who join via Zoom, and the Recovery Coaches. • There are Marin services for men, for sober living and outpatient program in Spanish. • There is a health questionnaire that is self-report – can run a report. 	<p>Cat can share the report regarding self-reported HCV.</p>
<p>III. Academic Detailing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda and Dr. Desruisseau have completed some detailing sessions with MCC. They have scheduled with Ritter at the end of June for the new hires – the training will be for all their staff members. • We presented to the Forensic Mental Health team at the Jail to inform them about the HCV testing efforts. • Working on getting point persons at One Medical and Carbon Health. • It would be good to connect with Marin Treatment Center. They have administration details they needed to work out, and MTC is going through a change in Director. • Dr. Thompson has already provided the HCV training at MCC’s provider meeting. 	
<p>IV. HCV Education and Testing at Marin County Jail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: 100 inmates tested at MCJ in 2023 – so far have conducted 35 tests and the flagging process started a month ago. • We have had an uptick in screenings since the “opt-out for those with identified risk” has been implemented. Booking nurse can flag the charts and with the HCV education sessions, inmates can also submit sick call slip to request screening. Also met with Forensic Mental Health staff so they are aware of the efforts and can flag the charts as well. • There is a learning curve in terms of how long we wait to screen an inmate when they enter, waiting a week or so is better, since they don’t know its coming. Staff has been helpful. • 	
<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients are not aware that HCV treatment takes 8-12 weeks, so that is why Spahr wants to provide a handout explaining the treatment process and treatment plans. • There are patient stories on YouTube and a number of Hepatology departments and nonprofits have on their website – many success stories about treatment, people from all walks of life, the treatment and results they see in themselves. These are helpful for people to watch, and it is calming for someone who is nervous about their 	

<p>treatment. July 28 is World Hepatitis Day, if you go to https://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/ it is a great way to get people involved for greater awareness. Example YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJoU6LNz5Vk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrics from partnership and Kaiser: treatment starts, it is prescriptions filled to new patients. https://www.marinhhs.org/hepatitis-c-data 	
<p>V. Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will send a new invite for September because the first Monday is a holiday, so the meeting will be moved to the second Monday, September 11, 10:30-12 	