

Hepatitis C Elimination Task Force Summary of 2017 meetings

January 18, 2017

Meeting location: AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC); 200 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL

Number of participants: 18

Agencies attending: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Caring Ambassadors Program, Chicago Department of Public Health, Legal Council for Health Justice, Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, University of Chicago

Topics Discussed:

- HCV Patient Inclusion (i.e., how can the HCV Task Force engage patients through storytelling and other avenues)
- Opportunities for collaboration with other groups for those who are co-infected (i.e., HIV/HCV/ Addiction/HCV; Military Veterans/HCV, etc.)
- Medication and Treatment Updates
- HCV drug access: exploration of barriers
- Policy Changes (HCN Sign on Letter and Changes to Medicaid)
- HCV Call to Action
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Action Steps:

- Draft a letter to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services that explains the limitations of AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) for those who are co-infected with HIV and HCV to educate providers about available coverage.
- Check in with CDPH for an update on hiring of HCV Coordinator
- Explore a legislative sponsor for hearings regarding barriers to HCV drugs.

March 16, 2017

Meeting location: AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC); 200 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL

Number of participants: 20

Agencies attending: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Caring Ambassadors Program, Chicago Recovery Alliance, Legal Council for Health Justice, Gilead, CDPH, University of Chicago, CORE Center

Topics Discussed:

- Policy Update
- Healthcare for our lives (presentation/Overview)
- Obtaining Medication for HCV patients (Presentation)
- Expanding Access to HCV Treatment (ECHO) – this is a training provided by the University of Chicago to encourage individuals to seek and stay in treatment.

Action Steps:

- Examine and modify HCV Elimination Task Force workflow process
- Modify ECHO training for presentation at a future HCV Elimination Task Force meeting

May 21, 2017

Meeting location: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, 200 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL

Number of attendees: 20

Agencies attending: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Caring Ambassadors Program, Chicago Recovery Alliance, Legal Council for Health Justice, Gilead, University of Chicago, CDPH, CORE Center

Topics Discussed:

- ECHO Training
- Setting HCV Elimination Task Force Priorities
- Patient Needs and Accessibilities
- Who else should be at the table?
- Discussion regarding development of a survey to help determine Task Force priorities

September 25, 2017

Meeting location: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, 200 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL

Number of participants: 25

Agencies attending: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Men and Women in Prison Ministry, Southside Health Center, Haymarket, Agape, Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, Chicago House, Management Synergistics Inc., Cook County Health and Hospital System, Caring Ambassadors Program, Howard Brown Health, Chicago Department of Public Health, American Liver Foundation, Legal Council for Health Justice, Gilead, Center on Halsted, Chicago Recovery Alliance, Franciscan Alliance, CAHISC-CORE, University of Illinois-Chicago--Community Outreach Intervention Projects, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago.

Topics Discussed:

- Managed Care Organizations' HCV Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) coverage
- Task Force priorities
- Community-based organization needs for HCV training
- Addressing unmet HCV patient needs
- Upcoming HCV Conferences

Updates:

- Coordinated an HCV taskforce; basecamp communication
- HCV advocates recently submitted an open letter to Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family and Services Commissioner Felicia Norwood and the Pharmacy Manufacturing Organization regarding policies and practices that restrict Illinoisans' access to HCV treatment.
- There is a need to collect data regarding health insurance company denials of HCV-related care.
- Developed and launched a section on AFC's website devoted to HCV.
- Task force members are advocating for HCV access and treatment guideline to be removed within the Medicaid program.
- Task force members are coordinating with partners to help facilitate clients for a possible legal challenge to the state's Medicaid restrictions.
- Task force members are developing and distributing a HCV MCO medication guide.

November 20, 2017

Meeting location: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, 200 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL

Number of participants: 25

Agencies attending: AbbVie, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Caring Ambassadors Program, Center on Halsted, Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Recovery Alliance, Cook County Health and Hospital System, Franciscan Alliance, Gilead, Haymarket, Hepatitis C Community Alliance to Test and Treat (HepCCATT), Howard Brown Health, Legal Council for Health Justice, Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Illinois at Chicago-Community Outreach Interventions Program, and Regional Resource Network Program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Topics Discussed:

- Illinois recently received a “D” rating from the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. At present, the state does not have an HCV Coordinator. Additional funding is necessary to fill this position and better meet the needs of Illinoisans living with HCV; the coalition will advocate for this moving forward.
- Review HCV Task Force survey results to inform 2018 priorities
- Medication Updates
- Breakout Sessions (3 groups) - Policy & advocacy, treatment access, and outreach, education and training
- Priorities and activities for 2018