

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Viral Hepatitis Council Meeting**  
**February 18, 2008**

**Attendees:**

Michael Amidei  
Debbie Barnes  
William Chen  
Susanne Crowe  
Charles Dennis  
Frank Johanson  
Mike Jolly  
Deborah Orr  
Enid Santiago-Cruz  
Phillip Styne  
Andi Thomas

Stacy Washington  
Dongming Cui  
Lynn Simons  
Tania Harper  
Michelle Scavnicky  
Peggy St. Croix  
Sterling Whisenhunt  
Thesda Manu  
Pam Moody  
Sharon Caruthers  
Dante Ross  
Jen McLeod  
Warren McDougale  
Kathy Kavanaugh  
Allison Herring  
Lucretia Jones  
Ada Rivera  
Mike Paredes  
Edith Garcia

**Guests:**

April Crowley  
Phil Reichert  
Cyndena Hall

**Council Business**

**Debbie Barnes-** Good morning and welcome. This meeting is being sponsored by the St. Petersburg Women's League

Introductions

Old business- Motion to accept minutes from July 17-18, 2007, meeting. Motion accepted.

New Business:

**By Laws-** Motion made and accepted to re-word Article VII Section 1 to:  
Guests are welcome to in a non-voting position.

Article IV, Section 1, 3e: Motion made by Andi Thomas to change wording to:  
Associations and community-based-organizations with 501 status, who have been in operation three or more years.  
Motion accepted.

\*\*Article's need to be renumbered

## **Member vacancies**

Total 16 members

Michael Gilbert, Gina Bispham and Nick Rao have missed more than 2 meetings  
Members will research and nominate new members

## **Phil Reichert**

Gave update budget and funding

## **Allison Herring**

Gave update on the Prevention Planning Group

**April and Debbie-** Update on Hepatitis Day at the Capitol on March 18 and World Hepatitis Day on May 19.

April introduced **new Viral Hepatitis ABC Chart**, a one-page fact sheet in English on one side and Spanish on the other

Phil talked about the **new Hepatitis Comprehensive Plan**. Andi Thomas suggested taking out the reference to injection drug users.

There was a group discussion on when a booster for vaccine should be done in adults

Discussion about goal 6 in the comprehensive plan not mentioning hepatitis C. Suggested the goal be to establish some direction or a baseline. Phil agreed to email everyone with action steps that should be taken.

**Lucretia Jones-** Gave update on Patient Care Planning Group (PCPG), Ryan White Part B funding and new grant, comprehensive plan and local guidance. AICP program co-payments increased. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) has added new drug Etravirine to formulary. PCPG meeting dates: Ryan White meeting March 26-27 and Patient Care Statewide meeting October 8th.

**Deborah Orr, Center for Drug Free Living in Orlando,** talked about the Hepatitis Center of Excellence Project. Received funding from the Blue Foundation to help get clients hepatitis C treatment. Will create a planning group to get someone to provide care and to have a network of key stake holders to network and to get funds.

**Charles Dennis-**Round table discussion on treatment in jail facilities. As a counselor, the problem is he has nothing to offer an inmate after telling them that they are HCV positive. Also, what to do with HCV+ inmates that will be incarcerated for a year or more.

**Dr. Frank Johanson-** Mandatory testing for hepatitis is not done unless you are HIV positive. At that time inmates are given information on hepatitis prevention and treatment.

## **Hepatitis Educational Conference**

**Phil:** Save the date went out. Cyndena (Dena) Hall will be the lead. 10/02/08 is the date for the conference in Tampa. A workgroup has been set up. CME's and CEU's will be provided.

Suggestions for the conference:

- Use Life Link
- Utilize psychiatric resources
- Have sexologist again
- Decide on how many days
- Physician tracts into one day
- Have boxed lunches
- Have a meet and greet
- Make breakouts more informational on level basis
- Repeat tracts
- Dr. Julia Gill, Dr. David Nelson and Chris O'Brian---good speakers
- Measures for living well

## **Update discussion on position papers**

### **Paper 1: *Hepatitis Education for Health Care Professionals***

American Liver Foundation should be taken out as an entity

Education requirements should be clearer

Healthcare providers should be added into 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph line 2 (FCPN) should be added

Under Goal: change to "increase knowledge"

The cost of liver transplant should be 400,000 + 150,000 for care

### **Paper 2: *Consistency and Uniformity by Medicaid in the Approval of Use of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-Approved Medications***

Reorganize paragraphs: move "Hep C as leading cause of transplant" to second paragraph and "nearly 50%" to third paragraph last line in this paragraph should start with ....

### **Paper 3: *Medicaid Coverage of Hepatitis A and B Vaccine for Adults***

Paragraph 4 -- "Age 25-49" should be changed for who should be vaccinated -- take age groups out and just use "adults" except where it says highest risk

### **Paper 4: *Funding for Hepatitis C Diagnosis and Treatment***

Paragraph 6 should say a "significant" gap instead of the "main" gap.

Second paragraph in Statement of Problem should be shortened.

## Community Concerns

None

## Travel Reimbursement

### Meeting Minutes Viral Hepatitis Council Meeting February 19, 2008 (Day 2)

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## Discussion of issues

### **Position paper #4: *Funding for Hepatitis C Diagnosis and Treatment***

April will make changes (pending approval from Phil Reichert) from **Dr. Styne**. April will email changes to council members along with the meeting minutes.

Plans for additional position papers

Need to know where position papers go and who gives them out

- The chain of command is: Tom Liberti, Dr. Eggert and Surgeon General's office
- Used to get more funding
- Used for education

### **Possible topics for future position papers:**

**Patient care** for Hep C patients without insurance, and screenings for Hep C. Coverage for adult vaccines. Making recommendations for paying for adult vaccines and baseline testing for hepatitis. **Mike Jolly** agreed to bring a write-up to next meeting.

**Lynn Simons** from Polk County Health Department suggested: It is our hope by 2010 that everyone have a baseline test for viral hepatitis. Then, if risk factors increase in the next few years, get re-tested.

**Education in schools:** What is currently mandated by Department of Education with Sunshine State Standards? “Life Skill Management” course is required all middle schools. Could we add a hepatitis component that mentions risk factors? **Debbie Barnes** pointed out that it’s very hard to get into the school system.

What about trying to partner with organizations that are already working with schools such as Red Cross, Domestic Violence etc. Find out what current status is on Life Skills Management Class in high schools and how hepatitis can be added in the curriculum.

**Dena Hall** volunteered to do the research and find out what currently exists and what the mandate is.

Should we contact Faith-based organizations to try and get into churches, etc?

Recommendation made by **Michael Amidei** to help Healthcare providers identify things patients can do while they wait to go on treatment. Michael Amidei will work on this. He also offered to write a position paper on faith-based organizations.

**County Health Departments** screening and vaccinating for hepatitis. Uniformity needs to be obtained for CHD’s when it comes to hepatitis screening and vaccination.

Recommendation to have a position paper concerning CHD’s standardized protocols for hepatitis testing and vaccination. Can Dr. Eggert send out a memo? If the CHD is already drawing blood for HIV, why not also screen for hepatitis?

**Michelle Scavnicky-AIDS Institute** presentation

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> is “White Coat Day” at the legislature in Tallahassee
- HIV/Hepatitis work group
- Solicited hepatitis articles for their news journal
- HIV/HepC form
- Community Forum on co-infection March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in Orlando at the Rosen Center

**Next council meeting** in August

- Requested **Tom Liberti** or **Dr. Lamadrid** attend and address the following:
  1. Where does the State see hepatitis?
  2. What can we look forward to in the future for the Hepatitis Prevention Program?
  3. What can the Council do to help make policy changes and increase funding?