



A coalition of organizations, providers, advocates, and consumers working to achieve the elimination of Hepatitis C in Massachusetts.

EndHepCMA Coalition Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday May, 24 1-4PM

Location: Tufts University School of Medicine

Steering Committee: Richard Baker (Coordinator), Dr. Cami Graham, Dr. Tom Stopka, Larry Day, Dr. Jo Solet, Ben Klein, Phil Waters, Connie Peters, Susan Gould Coviello, Rainer Felber, Carl Sciortino (absent), Liz Whynott (absent)

56 people attended this meeting: 22 Voting Members, 7 Non-voting members, 11 Advisory Members, 16 non-members.

MA Dept. of Public Health Report/Q&A

Kevin Cranston, Assistant Commissioner MA Department of Public Health and Director of the Bureau of Infectious Diseases

An epidemiological and policy update on the state of Hepatitis C in Massachusetts.

- ➔ **This section of the program was recorded and is accessible at <https://youtu.be/WKa0PVdp0P0>**
 - ➔ **For a copy of the presentation slides, please contact rbaker@vpi.org**
-

Committee Reports

Recording of the committee report session can be found at: <https://youtu.be/w46CqFAKdIY>

Awareness, Engagement, and Empowerment:

Committee Chairs: Jo Solet, Larry Day

- Direct spokespeople/advocates to communicate with care services on educational materials by the end of September. (Coordinated by Jodi Reese)
- The Committee will plan for a Hepatitis C Public Service Announcement targeting the diverse population the epidemic impacts.
- Support groups and sites for education and intervention.

Next meeting will occur by end of September at the Boston Living Center, 29 Stanhope Street Boston—if you are interested in attending please contact joanne.solet@hms.harvard.edu or lday@vpi.org.

Screening:

Committee Chair: Cami Graham

- Identify health systems that are not providing medical decision support for Hepatitis C testing and offer resources.
- Urge MADPH to draft a letter to all health system CEO's reminding them of the testing law and informing that they will be reviewing progress. (Letter will be drafted by July 2017)
- Propose MA pilot program to screen all adults 18+ for Hepatitis C with DPH support and tracking.

The next meeting of this committee has not yet been set. If you have not attended, but would like to—please contact cgraham@bidmc.harvard.edu for more information.



A coalition of organizations, providers, advocates, and consumers working to achieve the elimination of Hepatitis C in Massachusetts.

Services and Case Management:

Committee Chair: Susan Gould Coviello

- Gather data on the number of Hepatitis C diagnoses and compare MAVEN data showing clients successfully completing treatment with Hepatitis C case management. Use data from other states with Hep C case management to prove the efficacy of the model.
- Drawing on the success of the HIV case management model, develop a model that shows connection to care yields better treatment outcomes, which in turn leads to lower cases of reinfection, healthier lifestyles, and lower long-term costs.

The next meeting of this committee will occur as a conference call in Mid-June. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Susan at scoviello@healthproject.org.

Insurance Access:

Committee Chairs: Phil Waters, Kevin Costello

- Investigate procurement for Specialty Pharmacies on Managed Care plans. (Phil and Maggie)
- Catalogue private and employer insurance policies to identify pressure points over the next three months. (full committee is responsible for this task)
- Establish a reporting system for “on-the-ground” and anecdotal experience with different insurers. (Phil)

The next meeting of this committee will be held via conference call on July 23, 2017 at 10AM. If you are interested in joining please contact pwaters@law.harvard.edu for details.

Corrections:

Committee Chairs: Ben Klein, Joel Thompson

- Assess advocacy for screening and linkage to care in drug court system for at risk and motivated populations.
- Assess ways to support DOC litigation at critical junctures (as when there are dispositive motions filed), including public relations and communications, with focus on opioid epidemic.
- Assess the feasibility of doing county jail survey regarding HCV education, testing, and treatment practices.

The next meeting of this committee has not yet been set. For information on how to get involved please contact rbaker@vpi.org.

Harm Reduction and Prevention:

Committee Chairs: Connie Peters, Lexi Schneider

- Design and develop a social media campaign targeting 15-29 year old population for HCV education. (Seek grant money support)
- Advocate for increased funding for Syringe Exchange Programs throughout the Commonwealth.

The next meeting of this committee will occur on July 10 at 1PM at ABH Natick. For details on this meeting and to join this committee, please contact cpeters@abhmass.org or aschneider@bhchp.org.

Details on the next full coalition meeting are forthcoming. Please help us expand our membership—feel free to share notes or meeting details with all interested parties.

For any questions or concerns please contact Richard Baker at rbaker@vpi.org or 617-927-0836 x188.