

New York State (NYS) Hepatitis C (HCV) Elimination Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Albany Capital Center, Albany, New York

Present: Brad Hutton, Christine Kerr, Gale Burstein, David Bernstein, Ann Winters, Annette Gaudino, Daniel Raymond, Jack Beck, Peter Hill, Terry Leach, Clifton Garmon, Ronni Marks, Gloria Searson, Denis Nash, Charles King, Terri Wilder, Don Des Jarlais, John Barry, Luis Scaccabarrozzi, C. Virginia Fields, Eli Camhi, Matthew Akiyama, Jeffrey Weiss, David Holtgrave, Raymond Ganoë, Ashley Zuppelli, Andrew Talal, Jacquelyn Kilmer

Note: *A full copy of all presentations summarized below and all materials related to the NYS HCV Elimination Force can be found through the following link:*

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/elimination.htm.

Welcome

Johanne E. Morne, MS, Director, New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute

Johanne Morne welcomed HCV Task Force members, provided an overview of meeting logistics, and asked for introductions.

Christine Kerr, MD, AAHIVS, Medical Director of HIV and Hepatitis Hudson River Health Care, HCV Community Center

Dr. Kerr welcomed members and commended the group for its leadership and remarked on the great strides New York State has made with the goal of elimination of HCV over the years. Dr. Kerr commended the members of the Task Force for their hard work.

Brad Hutton, MPH, New York State Department of Health, HCV Government Co-Chair

Brad Hutton welcomed Task Force members and acknowledged the tremendous collaboration between the NYSDOH AIDS Institute and the community partnerships and the successes made to date. Mr. Hutton praised the Task Force and noted the value of their continued partnerships to ensure the elimination of HCV in New York State.

Mission and Purpose of Task Force

Brad Hutton

Brad Hutton provided an overview of the HCV Task Force's mission and charge. The mission of the Hepatitis C Elimination Task Force is to build upon the HCV Consensus Statement developed at the 2017 HCV Elimination Summit. The Task Force will review, update, and enhance the recommendations and will provide expert advice on the development and implementation of the New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Plan.

Message from the Executive Deputy Commissioner

Sally Dreslin, MS, RN, Executive Deputy Commissioner, New York State Department of Health

Sally Dreslin commended the Task Force and community partnerships in the fight to eliminate HCV. The 2017 HCV Consensus Statement called upon Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature to make a commitment to eliminate HCV and resulted in the appointment of the HCV Elimination Task Force. Ms. Dreslin thanked Task Force members for their commitment and hard work.

HCV Elimination Work to Date

Annette Guadino, HIV/HCV Project Co-Director, Treatment Action Group
Clifton Garmon, MSW, Senior Policy Analyst, VOCAL-NY

Annette Guadino provided an overview of the HCV community perspective and acknowledged the contributions of many on the work of HCV elimination. Ms. Guadino first acknowledged the work of advocates and a grassroots campaign which led to several achievements such as the enactment of the HCV testing law, expansion of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) coverage to include HCV treatment for people living with HIV and the removal of the Drug Utilization Review Board removal of disease prognosis and sobriety restrictions for HCV treatments under Medicaid fee-for-service plans.

Ms. Guadino acknowledged New York's bold plan to end the AIDS epidemic by the end of 2020 which offered insights and strategies that converged with efforts to eliminate HCV. HCV advocates modeled a discussion paper proposing NYS commit to developing and implementing a parallel strategy. Through advocacy, the NYS HCV Elimination Summit was held in 2017, which included a broad committee of 94 stakeholders, including state and local governments, epidemiologists, harm reduction and social service providers and community advocates. The committee established five working groups: prevention, testing and linkage, care and treatment access, surveillance data and metrics, and social determinants of health.

Clifton Garmon further elaborated on the HCV Consensus Statement, presented key findings from regional HCV listening sessions, and presented the Five Community Pillars of HCV Elimination:

1. Enhance HCV prevention, testing and linkage to care services for people who inject drugs, people who are incarcerated, men who have sex with men, and other populations disproportionately impacted by HCV infection.
2. Expand HCV screening and testing to identify people living with HCV who are unaware of their status and link them to care.
3. Provide access to clinically appropriate medical care and affordable HCV treatment without restrictions and ensure the availability of necessary supportive services for all New Yorkers living with HCV infection.
4. Enhance NYS HCV surveillance, set and track HCV elimination targets and make this information available to the public.
5. Commit NYS government and elected officials, public health professionals, HCV experts, and industry partners to leadership and ownership of the NYS Plan to Eliminate HCV alongside community members living with and affected by HCV.

HCV Epidemiology in New York State and New York City

Angie Maxted, DVM, PhD, DACVPM, Deputy Director, Emerging Infections Program and Statewide Surveillance Program, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, New York State Department of Health

Dr. Angie Maxted provided an overview of HCV surveillance in NYS, including surveillance data flow and case classifications. Dr. Maxted presented a demographic summary with several of newly reported HCV cases (2017), including race, age and ethnicity distributions. Dr. Maxted summarized acute, chronic HCV cases from 2012-2017 by Ryan White Regions and by county. Dr. Maxted also summarized 2017 acute and chronic HCV risk factor data.

Angelica Bocour, MPH, Director, Viral Hepatitis Surveillance, Bureau of Communicable Disease, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Angelica Bocour provided an overview of HCV surveillance in New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH), including surveillance program goals, demographic data received from laboratory reports, and acute HCV findings from 2008-2017. Ms. Bocour presented 2017 data on new reports of HCV by NYC neighborhood, by age (0-29), by women of childbearing age (15-44) and characteristics of newly reported individuals.

Eli Rosenberg, PHD, Associate Professor, SUNY Albany School of Health

Dr. Eli Rosenberg provided a comprehensive overview of the estimate of HCV prevalence in NYS from 2013-2016. A full copy of Dr. Rosenberg's presentation can be found on https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/elimination.htm.

The New York State and City HCV Policy Environment and Program Portfolio Update

Colleen Flanigan, RN, MS, Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health care, AIDS Institute

Colleen Flanigan provided a program and policy overview of the following HCV initiatives:

- HCV Rapid Testing Program
- HCV Testing Law
- HCV Care and Treatment Initiative
- NYS HCV Patient Assistance Program (HepCAP)
- HCV Continuity Program
- HCV Clinical Guidelines
- NYS HCV Quality of Care Program
- Harm Reduction Policies
- HCV Patient Navigation Program
- Criminal Justice Initiative HCV Expansion
- HCV Testing
- HCV Research
- Community Planning Grant
- Multimedia Campaigns (General and Targeted Awareness)

Amy Winters, MD, Director, Viral Hepatitis Program, Bureau of Communicable Disease, New York State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Amy Winters provided a program and policy overview of HCV initiatives in New York City, including:

- Check Hep B Patient Navigation Program
- Check Hep C Patient Navigation Program
- Hep C Peer Navigation Program
- HCV Clinical Exchange Network
- CDC Hepatitis Care Cascades Project
- Health Department Navigation Programs (HepB Moms, Project SUCCEED, Jail Re-entry Navigation and Enhanced Surveillance)

Ms. Winters also provided an overview of NYC's community engagement approach geared toward building and maintaining a collaborative network to coordinate and disseminate community health program information, opportunities and resources. NYCDOHMH has extensive training and education resources for both clinical and non-clinical providers.

Next Steps and Closing

Colleen Flanigan provided the charge to the Task Force members and Workgroup members:

Task Force

Finalize and prioritize workgroup recommendations

Identify infrastructure needs

Task Force members to serve as liaison to workgroups for seamless communication

Workgroups

Five workgroups to focus on: HCV prevention, HCV testing and linkage to care, HCV care and treatment, surveillance data and metrics and social determinants.

Ms. Flanigan noted the timeline for a plan to be developed, starting with workgroup calls (December 2018 – March 2019), draft recommendations sent to Task Force (April 2019), Task Force consensus meeting (May 2019), community calls (June 2019) and a final NYS HCV Elimination Plan released (August 2019).

The next meeting of the NYS HCV Elimination Task Force will be held on June 4, 2019.