



February 4, 2015; 5:30pm – 7pm

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 2015; 5:30pm – 7pm

**Meeting Location:** Philadelphia Department of Public Health, 500 S. Broad St

**Organizations in Attendance:** AbbVie, ACT UP, AIDS Care Group, Bristol Meyers Squibb, C A Difference, Crosslink Medical Services, Drexel School of Medicine, Drexel School of Public Health, Drug Policy Alliance, Gilead, Health Federation, Hep B United, HepTREC/University of the Sciences, Janssen, Kirkbride Center, National Association of City and County Health Officials, OraSure, Penn Medicine, Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health/Office of Addiction Services, Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Philadelphia Health Corps, Philadelphia FIGHT/John Bell Clinic, Presbyterian Medical Center, Prevention Point Philadelphia, SWOP, Target, Temple University

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## WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

For our first meeting of 2015, **51** people attended representing over **21** organizations!

To start the meeting, Alex announced that **phillyhepatitis.com** is **LIVE!** Bookmark this site to find basic hepatitis information, links to resources, or an online resource guide to find local hepatitis services! Just to make sure you don't forget it...

[www.phillyhepatitis.com](http://www.phillyhepatitis.com)

*Philadelphia's Online Hepatitis Resource!*

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: PHILADELPHIA HEALTH CORPS

Sara Grainger from the Health Federation of Philadelphia attended the meeting to share an opportunity for HepCAP members to **apply to host a Philadelphia Health Corps Volunteer**. Philly Health Corps is part of the national AmeriCorps volunteer program and places members in direct-service positions designed to increase health access and improve health outcomes in Philadelphia's underserved communities. Current volunteers in Philly serve at Prevention Point helping link patients to hepatitis C care and at city Health Centers assisting with insurance enrollment and medication access.

***Could your organization benefit from a full-time volunteer to help with these sorts of activities?***

- Public Benefits Education and Enrollment
- Disease Self-Management
- Care Coordination
- Prevention & Early Intervention
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Volunteer Recruitment & Management
- Capacity Building

***Host Site Applications are due on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>!!***

***The next HepCAP meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1st from 5:30pm-7pm at PDPH (500 S. Broad St)***

Visit [www.hepCAP.org](http://www.hepCAP.org) to download Sara's slides and the three-part application forms:

- **Part One:** An overview of the program, eligibility requirements; prohibited activities; description of the selection process for Host Sites; responsibilities of both Host Sites and Host Site Supervisors; position description instructions,
- **Part Two:** The host site application
- **Part Three:** The Member Position Description, including service activities and outputs, what Performance Measures they coincide with, and what skills and experience you are seeking in a member. Be sure to include all of the programs/projects that your member will serve on, and to be especially **descriptive and specific** in member activities and outputs. The position description is utilized by the host site selection panel to assess the unmet need(s) of the host site and to ensure that members are engaging in "meaningful" and "comprehensive" service, as well as a tool for member recruitment.

To find out more about the selection process or ask questions about the program, contact Sara Grainger, Program Director of PHC at [sgrainger@healthfederation.org](mailto:sgrainger@healthfederation.org) or 215.567.8001 x3045.

## DATA SPOTLIGHT: HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATED HEP C OUTBREAKS

Jennifer Gutowski, RN, MPH is a Surveillance Coordinator at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. One focus of her work is investigating health care associated disease outbreaks. Did you know there have been hepatitis C outbreaks associated with local medical facilities? Jennifer used two local outbreak investigations to highlight:

- How the health department finds out about hepatitis C outbreaks and what happens when an outbreak is suspected in a health care setting
- How hepatitis C can be transmitted in health care settings
- What the health department is doing reduce the risk of future outbreaks and to educate providers

Some of the resources Jennifer mentioned in her presentation were:

- Report: *Public Health Vulnerability Review: Drug Diversion, Infection Risk, And David Kwiatkowski's Employment As a Healthcare Worker In Maryland.*
  - <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/pdf/Public%20Health%20Vulnerability%20Review.pdf>
- CDC's *One and Only Campaign*, which aims to raise awareness among patients and healthcare providers about safe injection practices. The campaign aims to eradicate outbreaks resulting from unsafe injection practices.
  - <http://oneandonlycampaign.org/>

Slides from Jennifer's presentation can be downloaded at [www.hepcap.org](http://www.hepcap.org) .

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## HEP C TREATMENT ACCESS

The conversation about access to hepatitis C treatment continues! Dr. Stacey Trooskin opened by providing an update on the release of AbbVie's Viekira Pak and explanation of the impact new treatment options are having on access to a cure for all patients. Here are the latest updates on the hep C treatment landscape:

- Since our December HepCAP meeting, **AbbVie's Viekira Pak was approved by the FDA** (12/19/2014) and consists of four different anti-viral drugs to be taken as three pills in the morning and one in the evening. Hep C advocates had been waiting to see how much AbbVie's regimen would bring down the cost of hep C treatment. Unfortunately, Viekira Pak was priced at **\$83,320 for 12 weeks of treatment** – still way too expensive for Medicaid programs to cover the cost of treatment for all people living with hep C. For more information on Viekira Pak, check out these links:
  - Package Insert: [http://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/viekirapak\\_pi.pdf](http://www.rxabbvie.com/pdf/viekirapak_pi.pdf)
  - Updated HCV Treatment Guidelines (AASLD/IDSA): <http://www.hcvguidelines.org/>
- As expected however, the release of Viekira Pak did spark “price wars.” **A series of deals between drug manufacturers and insurance companies/specialty pharmacies started** with AbbVie's announcement of a deal with Express Scripts. By gaining access to a discount on Viekira Pak, Express Scripts agreed to that for Genotype 1 patients, it will only pay for AbbVie's treatment and will no longer cover Harvoni (Sovaldi will still be covered in some cases). As part of this deal, Express Scripts agreed to eliminate a fibrosis score requirement which will expanding access to treatment for more of its members. Since then, at least **10** more deals have been made. Not all of these deals expand access to treatment!
  - One deal that has received attention is the “25 state deal” announced by Missouri: *“The State of Missouri, as part of a 25-state purchasing consortium [which includes Pennsylvania] entered into an agreement on Jan. 22, 2015 to begin using Viekira for Medicaid patients with Hepatitis C who meet certain medical criteria.”* This report was a bit misleading. Magellen serves as the Pharmacy Benefits Manager for the 25 state Medicaid programs in the consortium and Magellen negotiated the deal with AbbVie. However, each state has their own Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee which has final approval over which drugs are put on the state's formulary. So far, Missouri is the only state to finalize a contract with AbbVie. PA's “P & T Committee” isn't scheduled to meet again until May (unless the schedule changes with a new administration in Harrisburg). HepCAP will work with state officials to see if some of our local hepatitis experts can participate in this meeting to lend an “on the ground” perspective.
  - While on paper these announcements are great, it is not clear yet whether these deals will remove restrictions (sobriety, proof of severe liver damage, etc) that are preventing universal access to the hep C treatments, particularly for Medicaid patients. A state could sign a deal for lower priced meds but still keep restrictions in place.

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- HepCAP is making headway! Since December, Stacey and Alex have received Public Affairs support from Gili Ronen. Together, they have built new relationships and developed some resources that will help HepCAP and our partners continue to advocate for hep C treatment for everyone living with hep C:
  - **Building alliances across the state.** Stacey, Alex and Gili had a call with the Community Liver Alliance in Pittsburgh. The issues patients have been having with treatment access are the same across the state. The CLA team agreed that our coalitions could have a stronger impact by working together. We agreed to continue strategizing together and to create co-branded materials that each of our coalitions could use to build even more support for the issue of hep C treatment access.
  - **Development of an Issue Brief.** Using input from several partners, Gili developed a one-page issue brief that summarizes the importance of improving access to a hepatitis C cure so that all patients in PA who are living with the disease can receive treatment to cure their disease. This document can be found on [www.hepcap.org](http://www.hepcap.org). We have also shared it with national partners – some of whom even plan to adapt it for use in their own jurisdictions (like Hawaii!). Use this if you need a simple fact sheet to introduce people to the issue.
  - **Putting hep C treatment on the agenda in Harrisburg.** Stacey had a very productive meeting with Dr. David Kelley, Chief Medical Officer for the Office of Medical Assistance Programs in the PA Department of Human Services (formerly Public Welfare). Stacey shared cases of Philadelphia hepatitis specialists being denied access to hep C drugs for their Medicaid patients and Dr. Kelly seemed willing to work with advocates to make sure that insurance companies are not interpreting the Prior Authorizations for treatment in a way that is overly restrictive (ex: by denying patients access for having traces of marijuana or methadone in their urine screen). Pennsylvania has also been selected by CDC as one of three states to host a forum for key stakeholders on hepatitis C. This is a great opportunity for Philadelphia and HepCAP to bring key policy makers to the table, engage them in a discussion about ways to overcome barriers, and hopefully develop a strategy to improve access to hepatitis C testing, care, and treatment in PA.
  - **HepCAP goes to DC – will you join us?** The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable is planning *Hepatitis on the Hill* advocacy event for **March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Washington DC**. There are a few ways HepCAP members could join our local delegation and represent HepCAP/PA in DC!
    - NVHR has limited **scholarships for patients and people affected by hepatitis B and C. Apply NOW – the deadline for scholarship applications is Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**. Scholarship will cover expenses to spend two days in DC – on the 9<sup>th</sup> you will learn and practice advocacy strategies and on the 10<sup>th</sup> you'll join national advocates in a visit to Capitol Hill! Go to this website for more info about this event and to apply for scholarships:
      - <http://nvhr.org/heponthehill>

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- Want to go down for the day? HepCAP is looking into the possibility of having a van take up to 10 representatives of HepCAP and Hep B United to DC for the Hill visits on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. **If you would be interested in going down for the day on March 10<sup>th</sup>, please let Alex know ASAP** at [Alexandra.shirreffs@Phila.gov](mailto:Alexandra.shirreffs@Phila.gov) or 215-685-6462.

## HEPCAP IN 2015

HepCAP will be partnering with the Hep B United coalition to plan a joint awareness event for Hepatitis Awareness Month in May 2015. Let's top the awesome City Hall event we hosted last year! **Are you interested in helping plan a Hepatitis Awareness Month Event?** Contact Pavitri at [Pavitri.Dwivedi@hepb.org](mailto:Pavitri.Dwivedi@hepb.org)

*Bad News:* Unfortunately, time ran out before we had time to review results of HepCAP's member survey. *Good News:* You still have time to complete the HepCAP member survey! If you have not yet filled out this anonymous survey, please take 5-10 minutes to give us your feedback and ideas for 2015:

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HepCAP2015>

## UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AIDS Education Month Call for Abstracts:** This year, the Prison Healthcare & Reentry Summit, HIV Prevention & Outreach Summit, and Faith Leaders and Community Summit have been combined into one super event – the **End AIDS 2015 Summit: One Day, Three Events** - to be held at the Convention Center on **Monday, June 8th from 8am-6pm!** Each of these events has been attended by hundreds of people each year and is a great opportunity to educate a large audience about hepatitis B and C. Consider teaming up with other HepCAP members to submit an abstract! While each of the three events is taking place on the same day, separate workshops may be submitted for each event.
  - Call Alex if you would like to see a sample abstract from last year, would like advice on submitting an abstract, or need additional information about putting a workshop together.
  - **Abstracts are due Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and must be submitted at [www.fight.org/aem](http://www.fight.org/aem)**
- **Upcoming HepCAP Meetings!** HepCAP meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every other months at 5:30pm at 500 S. Broad Street):
  - *2015 Meetings:* Apr 1<sup>st</sup>, Jun 3<sup>rd</sup>, Aug 5<sup>th</sup>, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

Please contact **Alex Shirreffs** at 215-685-6462 or [alexandra.shirreffs@phila.gov](mailto:alexandra.shirreffs@phila.gov) if you have edits to these notes or feedback about HepCAP.

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