

**Butte County Hepatitis C Task Force
Minutes of March 8, 2006 Meeting
Chico**

Greetings and Introductions:

(Debra Wendt, Assistant to Del Norte Medical Director, attended)

Educational Moment:

Jeannie reported about the following articles: Large amounts of green tea can be liver toxic, a new drug may be helpful to HCV treatment: Alinia.

Old Business:

HCV Screening By Providers: Jeannie contacted the four clinics that did not have HCV risk factor screening questions on new patient history forms. Of the four who originally agreed to make additions, one has done so. Jeannie will follow up.

Bank Balance: The Task Force agreed to spend part of the Task Force funds to enable some members to attend the annual California Task Force conference in Riverside in April. Suggested attendees: Dr. Al-Dwairi, Patricia Pinkham RN, and Debra Wendt, Admin. Assist., Del Norte Clinics. Del Norte may assist with funding, also.

AIMS

Public Education Classes: Jeannie and SPHN Shanon reported that the Oroville / Chico monthly classes are continuing. Dr. Al-Dwairi stated that the patients' comments are positive. Discussion of how to attract more students followed.

HCV Patient Evaluations: the cover letter draft was chosen by Dr. Al-Dwairi to be added to his document encouraging providers to evaluate and treat their HCV patients. We will send the documents initially to providers who report HCV to the Health Department.

Roche-Sponsored Town Hall/Educational Event in Paradise: The event will be held Friday, May 12, 2006, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. There will be a concert (Kelly's Lot), barbeque, Educational Booths, speakers, bounce house, HCV testing has been suggested. Jeannie, Beverly, Ellen, Brandy, and SPHN Shanon will work with Ed from Roche.

CMSP: Steve was not able to contact his consultant yet. Dr. Lundberg stated in the past six months there has been a change in CMSP. A private insurance company is administering the program for 23 rural counties, mostly in Northern California. The transition has not been smooth and the funding for Indigent Medical Services has decreased.

ITS: Steve will continue to follow-up regarding their services to HCV pts., community education, etc.

New Business:

None.

Next Meeting - April 12, 2006
Chico