

Hepatitis Free Northern New England (Hep Free NNE)
Minutes – May 11, 2023
2023 Steering Committee Meeting #9

Meeting Roles

Bronwyn – facilitator & proj. mgr.

Chloe – monitor chat

Kelly – taskmaster & hands-raised

Minutes recorded by: Bronwyn Barnett

Official start time: 11:01am

I. Housekeeping

- Reviewed meeting roles.
- No objections or revisions to the April 27 minutes.
- Thanked members for completing the meeting evaluation last week.

II. Guest Speaker: Q & A with Colleen

Colleen Flanigan – Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology at the NYS DOH joined our meeting for a Q&A. She shared about viral hepatitis elimination and implementation planning from the NYS experience and answered members’ questions around funding, engaging peers and people with lived experience, working with Medicaid, prioritizing recommendations, and engaging state policy makers.

III. Discovery Committees – reviewed the purpose, broad goals, structure, duration, and utility.

Reviewed the purpose of DCs: HepFreeNNE Discovery Committees (DCs) are established to explore complex, politically fraught, or sensitive issues that have the potential for maximum impact for freeing Northern New England from viral hepatitis.

Review the overarching DC Goals:

- To approach a complex hepatitis-related topic curiously, intending to discover new information, investigate assumptions, and expose complexities.
- To strengthen relationships with stakeholders around the issue area (get buy-in; problem solve collaboratively)
- To document, organize, and present the findings to broader decision-making bodies.

Review the Structure: Each Discovery Committee is chaired by a lead HepFreeNNE Steering Committee member who engages key stakeholders directly affected by the topic in roundtables. The DC chair sets agendas, convenes stakeholders, and manages committee deliverables. The NH VHPC will continue conceptualizing DCs and providing backbone support.

Reviewed Duration: Discovery Committees are ad-hoc, meeting as needed.

Review Utility: *Why are we doing this?* Ultimately, the findings will be used to inform the elim plan goals & strategies. The relationships developed during the roundtables will be used to ensure there is buy-in, and that the approaches are thoughtful, feasible, and impactful.

IV. Discovery Committees – gathered final feedback on each committee’s individual purpose statement via polls, and solicited potential committee member names.

- i. Action Item: Please email respective discovery committee chairs if you have additional feedback on their purpose statements that did not make it into the polls yesterday.
- ii. Action Item: Bronwyn to share the results from the feedback polls with DC chairs who will make any final revisions to their purpose statements.
- iii. Action Item: Bronwyn will develop info sheets for each DC and a general “About HepFree” one-pager to be used for recruitment

V. Updates

Associations/Conferences (Lead – Geoff): Met with Andy from the NH Rural Health Association – will be able to present there. Andy or David can present at Killington in November. Think of conferences June and beyond – let Geoff know. Also getting on listserv, routine monthly meetings – reach out to Geoff if you know of ones we should be aware of.

Kickoff Summit: Save the Date for October 5

VI. Wrap up - *reviewed action items*

- Please email respective discovery committee chairs if you have additional feedback on their purpose statements that did not make it into the polls yesterday.
- Begin thinking about who in your networks you can connect to discovery committee chairs to potentially join roundtable discussions in the DC process. Either email committee chairs directly with suggestions or add names to the newly created ‘DC’ tabs in the [stakeholder spreadsheet](#).

Next meeting: May 25, 2023 @ 11am via ZOOM.



HFNNE Steering Committee Meeting

May 11, 2023

Start time: 11:01am

5/11: Meeting Roles

Bronwyn – facilitator & proj. mgr.

Chloe – monitor chat

Kelly – taskmaster & hands-raised

Official start time: 11:01

Housekeeping (~4 minutes)

- Meeting roles
- Any objections or revisions to the April 27 minutes?
- Thank you for completing the evaluation of last week's meeting

Quest Speaker: Q & A with Colleen Flanigan (~30 minutes)

Colleen Flanigan – Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology at the NYS DOH will join our meeting to share about viral hepatitis elimination and implementation planning from the NYS experience and to answer any questions you might have.

Discovery Committees (~15 minutes)

DC on Medicaid Partnerships, chaired by Anne-Marie

DC on HCV Care in Correctional Settings, chaired by Melissa

DC on Perinatal HCV, co-chaired by Laurie & Chloe

- Sharing purpose statements & gathering feedback (Polls)
- Rapid brainstorming sesh: who should each DC Chair be engaging?
- Reach out to Anne-Marie, Melissa, or Laurie/Chloe if you're interested in joining one of the committees.

Updates (~5 minutes)

- Associations/Conferences
 - Lead: Geoff
- Kickoff Summit: Save the Date for Thursday, Oct 5.
 - Any known conflicts at this time? Will wait until hearing about NASTAD 2023 before sharing more broadly.

Wrap up (~5 minutes)

- Review action items (Taskmaster)
- Evaluation reminder
- Any Other Business (Parking Lot)

Next meeting: May 25, 2023 @ 11am via ZOOM.

Housekeeping

Please add your
name, pronoun,
and affiliation to
the chat

- Meeting roles
- Any objections or revisions to the April 27 minutes?
- Thank you for completing the evaluation of last week's meeting





Guest Speaker: Q & A with Colleen Flanigan

Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology
at the NYS DOH

Discovery Committees

DC on Medicaid Partnerships
Chaired by Anne-Marie

DC on HCV Care in Correctional Settings
Chaired by Melissa

DC on Perinatal Hepatitis C
Co-chaired by Laurie & Chloe

Purpose: HepFreeNNE Discovery Committees (DCs) are established to explore complex, politically fraught, or sensitive issues that have the potential for maximum impact for freeing Northern New England from viral hepatitis.

Goals:

- To approach a complex hepatitis-related topic curiously, intending to discover new information, investigate assumptions, and expose complexities.
- To strengthen relationships with stakeholders around the issue area (get buy-in; problem solve collaboratively)
- To document, organize, and present the findings to broader decision-making bodies.

Structure: Each Discovery Committee is chaired by a lead HepFreeNNE Steering Committee member who engages key stakeholders directly affected by the topic in roundtables. The DC chair sets agendas, convenes stakeholders, and manages committee deliverables. The NH VHPC will provide backbone and project management support.

Duration: Discovery Committees are ad-hoc, meeting as needed.

Use: *Why are we doing this?* Ultimately, the findings will be used to inform the elim plan goals & strategies. The relationships developed during the roundtables will be used to ensure there is buy-in, and that the approaches are thoughtful, feasible, and impactful.



Shared Deliverables

1. Develop a slide deck to present the findings to the HepFreeNNE Steering Committee.
 - Benchmark: Develop the 1st slide deck iteration by **August 17** for feedback from the states; incorporate feedback and present the final draft to the SC on **August 31**.
2. Develop a supplementary fact sheet – same benchmark timeline as the slide deck
 - Include a comprehensive list of key stakeholders, organized by state.

Again, why are we all doing this? Ultimately, the findings will be used to inform the elim plan goals & strategies. The relationships developed during the roundtables will be used to ensure there is buy-in and that the approaches are thoughtful, feasible, and impactful.



Discovery Committee on Medicaid Partnerships in VH Elimination

DC on Medicaid Partnerships
Chaired by Anne-Marie Toderico

Additional SC Members:

- Roxann Stubbs
- Andrew Seaman
- Jay Gupta
- Kristen Chopas

Purpose Statement: The Medicaid Partnerships in VH elimination Discovery Committee will bring together stakeholders from Medicaid programs, Managed Care Organizations and key Medicaid partners such as Pharmacy Benefit Administrators, enrolled providers and someone with lived experience, or an advocacy group to:

- Identify Medicaid specific challenges to VH elimination efforts
- Explore feasibility for some popular Medicaid based solutions (subscription models, removal of PAs)
- Establish relationships and ways for stakeholders to become engaged in future HepFreeNNE planning and workgroups.



LIVE POLL – Medicaid Partnerships

1. The purpose statement is intended to be sufficiently broad enough to allow for growth and flexibility, but pointed enough to guide the direction of the work. Does this purpose statement meet that goal? If no, please indicate what is missing.
2. Is there anything that should be added to the purpose statement that would impact the direction of the work being performed by this Discovery Committee? If yes, please detail what you think should be added.
3. Do you have any other feedback or suggestions?



Rapid fire: Are there people in your network Anne-Marie should consider contacting for Medicaid Partnerships?



Speak up! Use the chat, email her directly, or add their contact information to the [“DC - Medicaid”](#) tab in the Stakeholder Workbook. **Help make the connection in whatever way is easiest for you.**

Discovery Committee on HCV Care in Correctional Settings

DC on HCV Care in Correctional Settings

Chaired by Melissa Caminiti

Additional SC Members:

- Brian Castonguay
- Jay Gupta

Purpose Statement: The Discovery Committee on HCV Care in Correctional Settings will bring together stakeholders from the field of correctional healthcare to discuss the strategies, strengths, and challenges in addressing HCV prevention and treatment in correctional settings.

Specifically, we will outline the current state of prevention and treatment services in the tristate area. Using this information, we will identify actionable, future state goals for strengthening and standardizing systems of care and for implementing treatment and prevention activities that will ultimately lead to the elimination of HCV in incarcerated populations in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.



LIVE POLL – Care in Correctional Settings

1. The purpose statement is intended to be sufficiently broad enough to allow for growth and flexibility, but pointed enough to guide the direction of the work. Does this purpose statement meet that goal? If no, please indicate what is missing.
2. Is there anything that should be added to the purpose statement that would impact the direction of the work being performed by this Discovery Committee? If yes, please detail what you think should be added.
3. Do you have any other feedback or suggestions?



Rapid fire: Are there people in your network Melissa should consider contacting for HCV Care in Correctional Settings?

Speak up! Use the chat, email her directly, or add their contact information to the [“DC - Corrections”](#) tab in the Stakeholder Workbook. **Help make the connection in whatever way is easiest for you.**



Discovery Committee on Perinatal Hepatitis C

DC on Perinatal Hepatitis C
Co-chaired by Laurie Williams and
Chloe Manchester

Additional SC Members:

Purpose Statement: The Perinatal Hepatitis C Discovery Committee will seek identify the gaps and barriers to:

- Hepatitis C screening of all pregnant persons being done per the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) guidelines;
- Age-appropriate screening for exposed or potentially exposed infants and identify best practices for increasing screening in this population;
- Identifying infants born to HCV+ mothers;
- Linkage to hep C care and treatment for perinatally exposed infants who test positive HCV RNA positive at 18-36 months.

This Discovery Committee will engage a wide range of stakeholders to better understand the gaps and barriers listed above. We will compile proposed strategies to include in each State's Elimination Plan that directly address each barrier.

Stakeholders will include, but are not limited to OB practices, Family Practice/ Primary Care, pediatric providers, hospital lab systems, providers serving women with substance use disorder, STI/ family planning clinics, labor and delivery units, pediatric gastroenterologists, midwifery practices, Office of Child and Family Services/ foster care systems.



LIVE POLL – Perinatal Hepatitis C

1. The purpose statement is intended to be sufficiently broad enough to allow for growth and flexibility, but pointed enough to guide the direction of the work. Does this purpose statement meet that goal? If no, please indicate what is missing.
2. Is there anything that should be added to the purpose statement that would impact the direction of the work being performed by this Discovery Committee? If yes, please detail what you think should be added.
3. Do you have any other feedback or suggestions?



Rapid fire: Are there people in your network Lauren & Chloe should consider contacting for Perinatal HCV Care?



Speak up! Use the chat, email her directly, or add their contact information to the [“DC- Perinatal”](#) tab in the Stakeholder Workbook. **Help make the connection in whatever way is easiest for you.**



Updates

Updates (~5 minutes)

- Associations/Conferences
 - Lead: Geoff
- Kickoff Summit: Save the Date for **Thursday, Oct 5.**
 - Any known conflicts at this time? Will wait until hearing about NASTAD 2023 before sharing more broadly.



Wrap up

**A. Review action items
(Taskmaster)**

B. Evaluation Reminder

***C. Time Permitting: Any Other
Business (Parking Lot)***



THANK YOU!

Next meeting: May 25, 2023