

New Mexico 49th Legislative Session

We are now starting the work to seek legislation that we will support for the upcoming Legislative session in January, 2009.

Watch to the NMHCA e-blasts that will keep you up to date and help you to know the issues. This will also be a great way to help us in our advocacy work.

The NMHCA will not perform any type of paid lobbying. We do however look at the issues and relate those to you. We will recommend or oppose certain pieces of legislation as it relates to the hepatitis issues in New Mexico.

We will be in contact with NMDOH, Project ECHO, UNMH, DPA, CPAG, along with other organizations to see if they are working on any legislation that parallels our mission and advocacy work.

If you are interested in being on our email list, please send an email to info@nmhepcalliance.org.

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

World Hepatitis Day will be on May 19, 2009. Look for details to come about education and awareness events along with collaborating with CPAG, and the other organizations for the three Pride Fests in June.

If you like meeting people, organizing, planning, being creative, then we are looking for you. We will be needing volunteers to help out with the various events to make them all that more successful. We can not do it without you, the volunteer, helping.

If you wish to help, please send your name and contact information via:

email us at info@nmhepcalliance.org

mail us at P. O. Box 6601

Albuquerque, NM 87197

call us at 505.314.6665

One secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes.

Benjamin Disraeli

Report of the 2008 Annual Meeting Slaying the Hepatitis C Dragon

The organizers of this year's Annual Meeting wish to thank all who worked so hard to make this one of the best. Although there were fewer in attendance, what has come out of this year's meeting will take the New Mexico Hepatitis C Alliance in new directions fulfilling the Vision and Mission.

Lucy Yates opened the meeting with an update on this past year and where we envision going in this coming year.

Our presenters this year included:

Louise Smith, RN who gave a talk on what it takes to get into treatment.

Connie Fassler, RN, BS who gave an update of Project ECHO in New Mexico.

Regina Galegos, RN gave a history of the Endorphin Power Company.

Benjamin Corsey III gave us a perspective of volunteering through AmeriCorps.

Stephani Patten, Advocacy Chair gave a national perspective on what is happening with various pieces of legislation working through the US Congress.

Gabriela de Boer presented the new 2008 NM Hepatitis C Quilt and it is just wonderful.



See Annual Meeting on page 2



**NEW MEXICO
HEPATITIS C
ALLIANCE**

OUR MISSION:
To live in a world free of hepatitis C virus (HCV)

OUR VISION:
To promote collaboration among individual, community, state and national policymakers to ensure universal education and access to prevent, manage & cure HCV infection and support all affected by hepatitis C

2008 Annual Meeting

There were several Board of Directors positions that came open and nominations and elections were held. Two new board members were nominated and voted onto the 2008-2009 NMHCA Board of Directors. Welcome is in order for Saroj Baxter and Teresa Williams.

The board held their own nominations and election of officers who are:

- ☞ Yolanda Herrera is now President
- ☞ Benjamin Corsey III is now Vice-President
- ☞ Saroj Baxter is the new Secretary and
- ☞ Holly Taylor remained at Treasurer

There was discussion of the possibility of NMHCA forming a task force that would work with the Community Planning and Action Group (CPAG). It was brought up the collaboration can only enhance the outreach into the hepatitis community and the needs of New Mexico. Stay tuned as there will be more discussions within each group and between each group.

Lunch was provided by Weck's as they laid out some flavorful sandwiches and other goodies. Very tasty in deed!

Again this year, a silent auction was held to help raise funds for our educational and awareness activities.

We wish to thank Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Roche Pharmaceutical and Walmart for their contributions to make this meeting a success.

Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it.

David Starr Jordan

Legislation at the US Capitol

Are you aware that there are two pieces of very important legislation bouncing around the halls of congress?

The first piece addresses just hepatitis and is called the Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act.

The other is Community AIDS and Hepatitis Prevention Act of 2008.

Both of these pieces of legislation contain language to bolster education, outreach, testing, surveillance, and increases in funding to support these programs.

To read about them, you can see the Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act (SB 1445 and HR 2552) and the Community AIDS and Hepatitis Prevention Act (HR 6680) on the House or Senate websites.

Did you know?

In New Mexico

- 1323 Community members have been educated on HCV this year
- 6404 ECHO patients have received HCV education this year alone
- 1121 Provider CME hours for HCV education has been provided this year
- There has been over 5000 Provider CME hours for HCV education total

Source: Connie Smith-Fassler, RN, BS
Project ECHO Program Administrator

NMHCA works in collaboration with National Viral Hepatitis Round Table, National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council, Hepatitis C Advocates United, Project ECHO, NMDOH, NM HIV Community Planning and Action Group, NM Governors AIDS Commission, Drug Policy Alliance, American Liver Foundation, NM AIDS Services, First Nations, Santa Fe Mountain Center, Bosco's Buddies, Organ Transplant Awareness Program

Wiping Out Hep C in New Mexico is published quarterly by the New Mexico Hepatitis C alliance, Inc. The newsletter is also accessible on our website, www.nmhepcalliance.org. The Alliance is organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of New Mexico as a non-profit corporation for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, without profit to any officer or director. Yolanda Herrera, President; Benjamin Corsey III, Vice-President; R. Holly Taylor, Treasurer; Vacant, Secretary; Saroj Baxter; Karen Gonzales; Kory Montoya; Rachel Pacheco; and Terry Holmes. To contribute an article or a letter to the editor, please email us at info@nmhepcalliance.org or send to NMHCA, P.O. Box 6601, Albuquerque, NM 87197.