On March 20, 2018, 65 stakeholders gathered at The Royal Sonesta in Houston, TX to attend the 6th Annual Meeting of the National Hepatitis Corrections Network (NHCN).

The goal for the 6th annual meeting was “to provide a networking and collaborative space to discuss hepatitis C care in correctional setting that can be taken to improve hepatitis management in corrections.”

Attendees came from across the United States. Represented were correctional health providers and administrators, community organizations and public health workers, university researchers, lawyers, consultants, policy makers, and others. Representatives were purposefully chosen to be cross-disciplinary and geographically diverse.

The meeting took place one day prior to the 11th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health hosted by University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health. Thirty-five of the seventy-registrants for the NHCN meeting also attended the Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health.

Our presentations included presentations covering global elimination efforts, patent updates, legal overview, opioid abuse pandemic, MATs in DOCs, linkage to care, jail treatment programs, medication costing updates, peer education initiatives. Our agenda also included space for open discussion and networking as well as activities related to understanding priorities and barriers on reentry.

Highlights included:
• On the meeting evaluation, 100% of meeting attendees who responded to the evaluation said they would attend again and 100% would recommend this meeting to others.
• Of the 65 attendees, 25 completed the evaluation survey. On the meeting evaluation, 100% of meeting attendees indicated they were either “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the meeting content, workshop format, quality of presenters, and usefulness of information. No respondents reported “Neutral,” “Unsatisfied” or “Very Unsatisfied” with any metric.
• Strong networking and strategizing breakout opportunities.
• An increase of presentations from formerly incarcerated/HCV positive individuals.
• Humanity aspect of working in the correctional settings with staff and those incarcerated.
• Creative Reentry ideas for people who are being released from a correctional setting.
• Diverse attendees from across the United States with an even distribution of professions and demographics.
• Non-judgmental, safe space for discussion on HCV issues.

Areas of Improvement include:
• Extending the meeting to 1.5-3 days
• More presentations and discussions around jails
• Invite more formerly incarcerated individuals to present
• Small group activities throughout the day
• Include a Department of Corrections panel from doctors
• Allotted time reserved for audience questions
• Invitation of representatives from the industry or various levels of government
• Inclusion of speakers from Public Health, CBOS/FQHCs and Children Services
• Discuss blending funding streams in Corrections and Public Health projects

Overall, this was an excellent and productive meeting of the National Hepatitis Corrections Network. We departed with new connections, thoughtful ideas, and potential avenues for follow through. We will continue to highlight the action steps created by our network this year, which will also drive NHCN priorities moving forward.