On March 18th, 2015, 55 advocates gathered at the Hyatt Boston Harbor to attend the 3rd Annual Meeting of the National Hepatitis Corrections Network (NHCN).

The goal for the 3rd annual meeting was to “update the lay of the land and discuss innovative solutions to common challenges of hepatitis prevention, testing, treatment, and linkage to care in the correctional setting through networking and interaction.”

Attendees came from 21 states, plus The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Of the 55 attendees, 30 were attending their first NHCN meeting. Represented were correctional medical directors, correctional healthcare providers, legal and policy experts, correctional education experts, academic researchers, departments of health (especially viral hepatitis prevention coordinators), and community-based organizations. Representatives were purposefully chosen to be cross-disciplinary and geographically diverse.

The meeting took place one day prior to the 8th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health hosted by University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health. 31 of the 55 attendees from the NHCN meeting also attended the Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health.

The agenda included:
- A welcoming talk by NHCN directors
- An opening talk on “Hepatitis C, Corrections, and Public Health: Why Now?” by ACLU Staff Attorney, Gabe Eber
- An in-depth panel on HCV treatment in corrections that included high-level representatives from 3 state prison systems and 1 large jail system
- Three in-depth networking sessions: one to identify common challenges, one to identify possible solutions, and one topic-based roundtable workshop
- Presentations from experts on HCV testing, cost-effectiveness of HCV screening and treatment, linkage to care programs, working with limited funding, and global treatment access
- A lot of space for open discussion and networking

Highlights included:
- An increase to 55 participants in year three (from 39 in year 2, and 15 in year 1).
- On the meeting evaluation, 100% of meeting attendees said that they would attend again and would recommend this meeting to others
- On the meeting evaluation, 99% of meeting attendees indicated they were either “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the conference content, learning techniques, workshop format, quality of presenters, and applicability of information presented. No respondents reported “Unsatisfied” or “Very Unsatisfied” with any metric.
- Better representation geographically than past meetings, especially from the southern USA
- Great balance between didactic presentations and interactive workshops – not boring
- Excellent brainstorming on creative solutions to ongoing challenges
- Strong networking opportunities
Incredibly strong interest in the topic and attending the meeting
Especially good presenters this year

Challenges included:
- Finding ways to engage parties from different disciplines with each other, while also allowing networking inside each discipline
- More demand than space and capacity
- Topics too big to discuss in a single day, too much content for time allotted
- Finding ways to engage pharmaceutical industry partners in an appropriate, meaningful way
- Moving from challenges to tangible solutions and realistic action steps
- Follow up/through post-meeting, maintaining momentum

Overall, this was by far the best organized and most productive meeting of the National Hepatitis Corrections Network. We departed with an abundance of new connections, thoughtful ideas, and potential avenues for follow through. The ideas generated at this meeting will drive this year’s NHCN priorities and other efforts going forward. More to come.