On March 15th, 2017, 73 stakeholders gathered at The Atlanta Airport Marriot in Atlanta, GA to attend the 5th Annual Meeting of the National Hepatitis Corrections Network (NHCN).

The goal for the 5th annual meeting was “to provide a networking and collaborative space to discuss hepatitis C care in correctional settings.”

Attendees came from 24 states, plus The District of Columbia, Canada and Australia. 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 10th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health hosted by University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health. Approximately 40 of the 73 attendees from the NHCN meeting also attended the Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health.

The agenda included:

- Creation of Key Questions from all stakeholders regarding HCV in The Correctional Setting.
- A presentation of the State of HCV in the Community and in Corrections by Rich Feffer and Michael Ninburg
- Roundtable discussions providing stakeholders an opportunity to share annual updates and new data with one another. Discussions took place between Correctional Healthcare Providers and Administrators, Legal/Policy/Research Professionals, and Public Health and Community-based Organizations.
- Anne Spaulding presented a Prevalence Update of HCV in correctional settings. Chad Zawitz was originally on the agenda for the Medical Update presentation, but due to severe weather, Dr. Lara Strick kindly presented.
- Sean Hemmerle and Daniel Rowan individually spoke about their experiences with Incarceration and HCV.
- Gabe Eber and Jack Beck both provided a legal update. Stakeholders posed great questions from which a solutions-based discussion occurred
- A panel on Effective Linkage to Care for HCV from correctional settings was provided by Barry Zack, Candice Givens, Ashley Brown Randall, and Karen Chappelow.
- Alex Ringe with the American Civil Liberties Union was unable to attend due to weather but provided excellent slides and talking points on helpful HCV care messaging in corrections.
- A lot of space for open discussion and networking.
Highlights included:

- An increase to 73 participants in year five (from 59 in year 4, 55 in year 3, 39 in year 2, and 15 in year 1).
- On the meeting evaluation, 100% of meeting attendees who responded to the evaluation said that they would attend again and 100% would recommend this meeting to others.
- Of the 73 attendees, 34 completed the evaluation survey. On the meeting evaluation, 100% of meeting attendees indicated they were either “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the conference content, the quality of presenters, applicability of information presented, and the workshop format. No respondents reported “Neutral,” “Unsatisfied” or “Very Unsatisfied” with any metric.
- Better representation geographically than past meetings.
- Strong networking and strategizing opportunities.
- Presentations from formally incarcerated/HCV positive individuals.
- Humanity aspect of working in the Correctional settings with staff and those incarcerated.
- Creative Linkage to Care ideas.
- Non-judgmental, safe space for discussion on HCV issues.
- Send-off for five-year NHCN Director, Rich Feffer.

Areas for improvement include:

- “Debate” segments- two points of view
- Bring in more formally incarcerated individuals
- More content focus on women
- Extending the meeting to 1.5-2 days
- More diverse attendees both culturally and inter-disciplinary
- More networking or break-out group time that involves physically moving around
- Include all states in info sharing, regardless of meeting attendance
- More detail on each network member participating

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 going forward.