On March 20, 2019, 80 stakeholders gathered at The Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas, NV to attend the 7th Annual Meeting of the National Hepatitis Corrections Network (NHCN).

The goal for the 7th 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 12th 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 eighty-registrants for the NHCN meeting also attended the Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health.

Our presentations included national HCV elimination efforts, Medicaid updates, litigation updates, advocating to policy makers, MOUD (formerly MAT) in DOCs, linkage to care, scale-up of screening and treatment programs in jails, re-entry programs, health department collaborations with corrections, medication costs and pricing structures. Our agenda also included space for open discussion, networking activities where participants were encouraged to speak to people from other disciplines, and a break out session where attendees could speak more in depth about their individual fields and interests.

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 80 attendees, 42 completed the evaluation survey. On the meeting evaluation, 100% of meeting attendees indicated they were either “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the meeting.
- Pertinent information on what people are doing nationally and great networking opportunities
- 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 days
- More time for breaks between presentations
- Invite more people with lived experience of incarceration and HCV treatment to present and provide suggestions
- More time for networking/discussion activities throughout the day (world café as well as discipline-specific break out session)
- More ways to stay engaged throughout the year
- Allotted time reserved for audience questions
- More interactive speaker presentations with handouts or tangible tools to follow along
- Include a how-to on building inter-disciplinary partnerships

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.