



Providing service and comfort to people affected by HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

MENDOCINO COUNTY AIDS / VIRAL HEPATITIS NETWORK

Fall 2017

Update on our Angel - Diana Sylvestre, M.D. Extraordinaire

By Libby Guthrie, Executive Director,
MCAVHN

Dr. Diana Sylvestre approached MCAVHN in the summer of 2016 surprising and delighting us with information about the new regulations mandating the hepatitis C treatment protocols for active-users in California. MCAVHN has been trying for the last 17 years to get persons with hepatitis C into treatment, even when it was more rigorous and less effective. For the last two decades, treating active hepatitis C virus (HCV) was an extensive exercise in jumping through hoops that were seemingly endless. Dr. Sylvestre is a determined specialist on HCV and liver disease now treating the most disenfranchised of our citizens here in Mendocino County with the newest and highly successful treatment regimens. According to Dr. Sylvestre, "we need to reduce infection and reinfection by treating everyone in our client's social circle." This is in complete alignment with our mission here at MCAVHN, and we leapt at the chance.

Even though we were initially required by insurance carriers to repeatedly jump through a variety of hoops, we prevailed. Our office staff can make immediate referrals for confirmatory testing and treatment and are capable of seeing clients through the entire process with intensive coordination of efforts. If the client/patient already has a provider willing to treat, Dr. Sylvestre will coordinate with those providers as necessary. Dr. Sylvestre works with Wendy Lee and other case management staff to help ensure that all committed participants get through the treatment.

Dr. Sylvestre started the OASIS Clinic in Oakland, California back in 1998 and became a friend of MCAVHN's back when the California Hepatitis Alliance was in development helping MCAVHN with past endeavors; training

Advanced Practice Providers and physicians about hepatitis C and the newest monitoring and treatment protocols. Now that treatment length and intensity has been reduced by new technologies and medications, we are able to help so many more than ever before.

Wendy Lee and I have recently attended a conference of Syringe Exchange Programs from all over California. I was honored to present, with Dr. Sylvestre, regarding starting HCV treatment services within syringe exchange programs. She very much wants to share this model and service delivery system state-wide so that many more individuals can be cured.

She is a well-loved team member here at MCAVHN, and clients/patients love her! Thank you Diana!



Dr. Diana Sylvestre

STAFF



Libby Guthrie—Executive Director. Fearless Leader.



John Weber – Senior Case Manager. The most extraordinarily compassionate counselor.



Joann Brewer – Housing Specialist Case Manager. The most tenacious advocate for housing all in need.



Wendy Lee – Outreach & Testing. Our “Can Do” Lady.



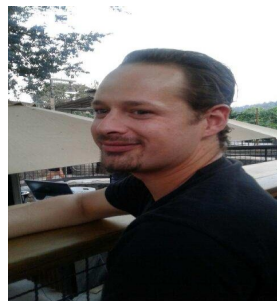
Nina Goodson – HIV Housing Case Manager. An outspoken advocate for people’s rights.



Darrell Zapanta – Case Manager. Our steady and strong Mr. Calm within the Storm.



Karina Gonzalez – Compliance & Operations. Very cooperative, open, inclusive and “On the Job”.



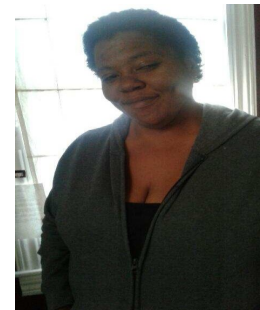
Christopher Hall – Volunteer/Testing. Helpful, precise and willing – long-time volunteer.



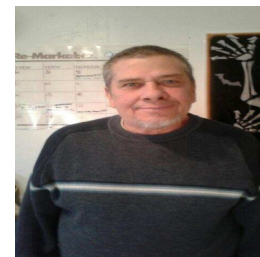
Carol Chrysler – Exchange Volunteer. Steady, calm, friendly & ready.



Larry Cristiani – Volunteer. A Jack of All Trades – Mr. “What’s Next”.



Traci Patterson-Hernandez – Volunteer. “Get-r-Done!”.



Gerry Duro—Animal lover and all around “Chief Cook and Bottle Washer”.

We also have two part-time mental health interns providing assessments and therapy to our behavioral health clients :

Patrick Spielman and **Trisha Messner**

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OFFICE

148 Clara Avenue
P.O. Box 1350
Ukiah, CA 95482

phone: 707-462-1932
fax: 707-462-2070

mcavhn@yahoo.com

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MCAVHN SERVICES

HIV Care Services

Care Coordination services for persons with HIV in Mendocino County; including coordination with community service providers for medical, behavioral, and psychosocial services.

Practical assistance with food, transportation, housing access, benefits coordination and advocacy, and referral to medical and addiction treatment providers.

Risk/harm reduction counseling, social groups and supportive counseling.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and housing coordination for other HUD subsidies.

MCAVHN's transitional housing facility for homeless persons with HIV until permanent housing can be accessed.

Weekly case conference with all applicable service providers and care team.

Specialty Mental Health Services

Medi-Cal reimbursed coordination of care for those meeting medical necessity for Serious Mental Illness and/or Co-occurring Disorders

Individual therapy, medication management, rehab services, SUD treatment referrals and coordination, life skills, housing resources; assistance and advocacy with SSI/SSDI applications

Behavioral Health Court (11 O'clock Calendar)

Provide intake and bio-psycho-social assessments on referrals from Judge Moorman, the Public Defender's, D.A.'s offices, and Probation Department

Care coordination and supportive services for persons who repeatedly commit criminal offenses due to their psychiatric diagnoses and/or problematic substance use

Focus on medical and behavioral healthcare linkage and (particularly medication adherence), life skills, housing resources and stability, assistance with SSI/SSDI applications as well as other financial resources eligibility

Case conference weekly with multidisciplinary team; focusing on both individual client-centered goals as well as sanctions presented by the criminal justice system

Recovery
is about **PROGRESSION**
not **PERFECTION**

MCAVHN SERVICES

HCV Care and Advocacy Services

Care Coordination for individuals with active Hepatitis C in need of a medical provider who will evaluate and treat chronic HCV. Both practical assistance and care coordination which includes medical referral and monitoring, benefits advocacy – as well as counseling for those who are interested in or are currently in treatment for their HCV disease.

Medical evaluation and treatment for chronic hepatitis C, provided by Hepatitis specialist.

Advocacy trainings for clients including the basics of hepatitis C issues, liver health, life skills, and learning to manage side-effects of treatment.

Facilitation of trainings for medical providers regarding monitoring and treating hepatitis C.

Intensive Outpatient Case Management Program

Care coordination delivered in conjunction with medical staff at Mendocino Community Health Clinic. Referrals are made by physicians working with high-cost patients who have poorly-addressed medical and mental health conditions, and who are difficult to engage in consistent medical and behavioral health care.

Practical assistance and support, benefits advocacy, transportation, medication adherence counseling, and appropriate levels of service delivery based on acuity levels throughout the continuum of need.

Recovery-oriented System of Care (ROSOC) case management program

Identify, intake and assess individuals with co-occurring disorders and/or chronic health issues who have high utilization of emergency department medical care and/or jail services, and those who have experienced serious barriers to obtaining and engaging with available community resources.

Refer and monitor services for primary medical and behavioral health; develop service plan in conjunction with client; support adherence to prescribed medications and treatment plans.

Assess substance use and current level of engagement for recovery services (12-step based treatment, harm reduction, supportive counseling, etc.).

Advocate for client's shelter needs; identify housing resources, make applications on behalf of clients, and monitor housing stability; address barriers to maintenance as needed.

Work with jail staff, Probation Department staff, the Public Defender's and District Attorney's offices to ensure that alternatives to incarceration are offered and considered on a case by case basis.

Assist follow through with GA, Food Stamps, SSI/SSDI, etc. applications and other financial resources eligibility.

Support job training and employment opportunities.



MCAVHN SERVICES

Outreach for Harm Reduction

Harm reduction education and support counseling.

Syringe exchange services and harm reduction materials.

Satellite secondary exchangers trained to work in communities that do not utilize face-to-face contacts with agency staff.

Counseling and testing for Hepatitis C and HIV in the office and the field at outreach sites.

Referrals and resources for positives; linkage to, and coordination of care.

Overdose prevention education.

Wound care information and products.

Naloxone distribution and overdose prevention training for opiate users and secondary exchangers (SSE's).

Outreach for Coordinated Entry

Housing vulnerability assessments (VI-SPDAT) for chronically homeless and unstably-housed individuals and families.

Access to multiple housing assistance programs.

Case management for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Drop-in Center

Monthly socials for all program clients and guests.

Community garden.

Benefits education for outreach clients who drop-in.

Referrals for other medical and behavioral health care.

Additional Opportunities

Training for Human Services and SUDT/AOD program interns.

Specialty training for outreach to PWID's.

Training for community volunteers.

Fundraising activities and learning opportunities.

Work Experience and Community Service hours.



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Mendocino County AIDS
Viral Hepatitis Network presents
The 31st Annual
EVENT OF THE HEART

“A Starry Night”

Gourmet dinner
by Ellery Clark

FEBRUARY 10, 2018

5:30—10:30 PM

Music by
**The Johnny
Young Band**

UKIAH CONFERENCE CENTER

Tickets in advance—\$85 per person (all inclusive)/ Purchase a table for 8-10 guests & receive a \$5 discount per person. Ticket price increases to \$90 per person on Feb. 4th.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT MCAVHN (707) 462-1932