Micronesian Education

FOR LIVER WELLNESS PROGRAM



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OUR PROCESS

How Did We Get Here?

On World Hepatitis Day, July 28 2019, we partnered with the Hawai'i Department of Health and the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center to host the first meeting to develop Hawai'i's Hepatitis Elimination Plan. It was attended by 45 stakeholders including patients, consumers, medical and social service providers, policymakers, among others. The meeting was also attended by Lieutenant Governor Josh Green, who proclaimed hepatitis elimination an important priority for Hawai'i.

Over the following 12 months, we talked story with over 160 individual stakeholders in more than 24 formal meetings, multiple online surveys, and many more informal conversations to create the structure of this plan, establish its scope (viral hepatitis A, B, and C), and identify elimination priorities, strategic directions, and examples of micro-elimination opportunities.





Micro-elimination means that we will work on many different, innovative, community-driven projects at the same time. This allows us to tailor hepatitis elimination to the needs of each community and to change direction quickly if things aren't working.**





After an intensive year of discussion, we collectively identified five priority areas to eliminate hepatitis in Hawai'i. For each of these areas, we developed Strategic Directions that would help guide us over the next ten years, but still give us enough flexibility to adapt to changing resources and challenges (e.g., 2020 COVID-19 pandemic). Finally, we have highlighted some possible or existing micro-elimination opportunities to move step-wise in each direction.

WILL THIS BE A COMPLETE LIST OF OPPORTUNITIES?

Not at all! The micro-elimination opportunities we list below represent only a fraction of the ideas we came up with. We decided to highlight a few that we thought were important and exciting. Since opportunities and resources may change over time, let's stay nimble!







STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



SHARED LEADERSHIP

By 2030, create and maintain opportunities for those most affected by viral hepatitis— especially people who inject drugs, are immigrants or migrants; are houseless; are LGBTQ+; have been incarcerated; live in rural areas—to have policy and leadership roles.



PEOPLE FIRST

By 2030, implement intentional mechanism of engagement and feedback to ensure that Micro-Elimination projects address the needs of those most affected by viral hepatitis.



STIGMA REDUCTION

By 2030, develop and support efforts that change community norms around perception of viral hepatitis, especially regarding stigma of affected populations.



DATA EVALUATION

By 2030, integrate equity into evaluation metrics for all Priority Areas and Micro-Elimination projects via the Data Workgroup.



Micronesian Education for Liver Wellness Program (MELWP)

How can we take care of our own communities?



https://www.hepfreehawaii.org/micronesian-education-program



Language Barriers

- Provide In-Language Materials
- Culturally appropriate education
- Speakers speak their language
- Partners with Office of Language Access/ translated brochures/card/and basic info when visiting the offices or clinics





Lack of Health Insurance

- Provide resources and referred to service provider (We Are Oceania/ Legal Aide Society of Hawaii)
- Assist with application process for health insurance Medicaid and State
- COVID 19 Task Force, Vaccination Information



Lack of Education

- Address education and knowledge of hepatitis B and liver cancer
- Monthly Talk Story
- Convenient and accessible outreach activities (churches, group/family gathering, community/sport events
- Food and Gift Cards/Prizes for games





Lack of Access

- Individual Hep B Action Coordination (IHAC)
- Monthly follow up calls
- Local and national advocacy





COVID-19 Challenges

- Patients stopped seeing healthcare providers/specialists
- Lack knowledge of using technology to attend telemedicine appointments
- Lack of internet access at home
- Expired prescription





COVID-19 Remedies

- Outreach/Care coordination/IHAC.
- Help them set up appt with PCP/specialist
- Ensure they pick up their meds
- Call them every month to follow up





Successes



Since May 2015

- More than 70 sessions
- Reaching over 1100 people on multiple islands
- During the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Monthly (or more) virtual and/or inperson sessions
 - Reaching over 300 people



Kommol, Kinisou, Mahalo!

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