

From: Lt. Governor's Office <LtGov@scstatehouse.gov>
To: Patrick Britton-Harr <pbh@cmglaboratories.com>
Date: 5/17/2018 12:38:08 PM
Subject: RE: Discussion Topic

Good Afternoon Patrick,

Yesterday, Catherine McNicoll, the Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs in my office was able to meet with Director Bryan Stirling and his staff from the Department of Corrections about your concerns. Unfortunately, I was unable to be at the meeting. Catherine has briefed me on the information provided by Dept. of Corrections and below are some of the major takeaways from the meeting.

- The Dept. of Corrections tests all inmates at intake for infectious disease including HIV, Tuberculosis (TB) , and Syphilis. They also test inmates for Hepatitis C (Hep C) if they are on dialysis, are HIV positive, or have elevated liver enzymes.
- They provide all inmates with the T-Dap vaccine (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis).
- Currently, in the system there are 287 HIV positive inmates, and 600 being monitored for Hep C. This is a relatively low percentage of the nearly 20,000 inmates in the state.
- The Dept. of Corrections has begun treating inmates with Hep C, they began with those that were in stages 3 and 4 of the disease and are now working on Stage 2. By the end of June, 44 inmates will have been treated for Hep C. They cannot treat all of the inmates with Hep C at once/ immediately because of the costs. They have been tackling the issue in a systematic way by prioritizing the inmates who are most severely affected by Hep C.
- In order to prevent/ track transmission they monitor viral load and liver enzymes (specifically for HEP C). They also provide education on what results in transmission and how to prevent transmission. In particular they mentioned tattooing and sharing needles as the two main concerns for transmission of HEP C. They explained that unlike California, South Carolina does not have as big a problem with prison tattoos (apparently in California it is a common form of prison initiation to receive a prison tattoo).
- The Dept. of Corrections also states that they do not have evidence of a pattern of transmission within correctional facilities of infectious diseases like Hep C and HIV.

Catherine is happy to help answer any follow questions you may have, her email is CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov and her phone number is 803-734-5292.

*Best Regards,
Kevin L. Bryant
Lieutenant Governor
LtGov@scstatehouse.gov
803-734-5280*

From: Bryant, Kevin [mailto:kevin@kevinbryant.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 11:57 AM
To: Lt. Governor's Office ; Patrick Britton-Harr
Subject: Fwd: Discussion Topic

Catherine, Please see if Director Stirling would meet with us about the topic described below. Thanks

Sincerely,
Kevin

Kevin L. Bryant
Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina
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Anderson, South Carolina 29625
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patrick Britton-Harr** <pbh@cmglaboratories.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 11:46 AM

Subject: Discussion Topic

To: Kevin Bryant <kevin@kevinbryant.com>

Mr. Bryant,

Your Honor, as you may now know, our group is extremely proactive oriented when it comes to Healthcare as a whole. Our main focus is patient advocacy in order to provide a reduction in the overall Healthcare cost. As the old adage and quote by Mr. Benjamin Franklin goes "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Albeit Mr. Franklin was speaking in terms of Fire Prevention at the time, it is as true and applicable today for our healthcare system as it was back when he was addressing his constituents in Philadelphia to create the first volunteer firefighting organization.

I bring this up as I have come across a few interesting articles that I have included below; addressing a major concern with inmates in our correctional facilities. During our conversations we have touched on not only an AntiMicrobial Stewardship but also an Antibiotic Stewardship as 70% of all prescriptions are prescribed inaccurately or are maintained unnecessarily or in my personal opinion perhaps a lack of oversight due to many mitigating factors such as over worked and under staffed.

That being said, multiple studies show that the top infections and diseases in correction facilities are either Respiratory or Bloodborne pathogens. As our society continues to develop we are becoming more aware and garnering a further understanding that coincides with Mr. Franklin's quote for the betterment of all.

My thoughts are and would appreciate to hear your thoughts on the following: If South Carolina would establish a program to evaluate a test market in correctional facilities to begin proactive testing for both Respiratory Panels and Bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis would we be able to prevent the spread of these infections and diseases throughout the population by being able to accurately detect and diagnose at the infancy of the inmates incarceration period? Would we be providing a much needed service that effectively and efficiently continues to reduce our overall Healthcare costs?

As our current and future leader of the great state of South Carolina, as well as being a Pharmacist by trade I thought it appropriate to bring this to your attention and ask for your evaluation and thoughts. My intention is for discussion and educational purposes only and not intended to overstep my position as a healthcare advocate.

I appreciate all of our conversations and the time you personally provide to not only myself but to the citizens of our state. I greatly look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Patrick

Patrick Britton-Harr
President & CEO
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https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/suit-sc-failure-to-test-inmates-for-hepatitis-c-is-cruel/2018/03/13/f3ada75c-26f4-11e8-a227-fd2b009466bc_story.html?utm_term=.01702d1517b8

<https://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2018/03/13/lawsuit-could-force-sc-spend-tens-millions-treat-inmates-hepatitis-c/420868002/>