



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin
Conference Call Agenda
July 29th, 2019
3:00 - 4:00 pm ET

Dial In: 866-740-1260
Passcode: 4894930

Attendees: *If we missed or misspelled your name, please let us know!

Sierra Pellechio (Hepatitis B Foundation), Catherine Freeland (Hepatitis B Foundation), Maureen Kamischke (Hepatitis B Foundation), Kate Moraras (Hep B United), Seleshi Ayalew Asfaw (Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS)), Lula Sweet (Columbus Department of Health), Lucy Kingangi (NYC Department of Health), Dan-Tam Phan (Minnesota Department of Health), Alia Southworth (Center for Asian Health), Sydney Battle (Center for Asian Health), Farma Pene (NYC Department of Health), Sarah Ahmed (NYC Department of Health), Nirah Johnson (NYC Department of Health), Halimatou Konte (African Services Committee), Sarah Lewis (Maine Access Immigrant Network), Michelle Mitchell (Partnerships for Health), Sherry Chen (CDC), Hibo Noor (Columbus Health Department), Dr. Lewis Roberts (Mayo Clinic), Columbus Public Health Outbreak Response Team, Bright Ansah (HBF storyteller)

3:00 pm

Welcome & Introductions

3:05 pm

Hep B United Summit Recap (Kate Moraras, MPH, Hep B United Director)

- 7th annual Hep B United Summit for coalition partners across the U.S. took place July 23-25th in Washington D.C. – over 100 attendees including CDC, WHO and World Hepatitis Alliance
- Included presentations on hepatitis B cure research, integrating HBV testing into EMR systems, global prevalence research updates and projects, medication access, stigma and discrimination, national action plans
- Specific session on African immigrant health and hepatitis B; 4 speakers outlining local screening and educational events, national NAIRHHA day efforts, CDC African Know Hepatitis B materials update, African Hepatitis Summit in Uganda
- Watch our Facebook Livestream recordings of the Summit here:
<https://www.facebook.com/hepbunited>

3:15pm

Eliminating Viral Hepatitis in Africa: Implementing the Viral Hepatitis Strategy, Updates from the African Hepatitis Summit in Uganda (Catherine Freeland, MPH, Public Health Program Manager, HBF – Catherine.freeland@hepb.org)

- Need for enhanced government prioritization of hepatitis across Africa
- WHO scorecard outlines which governments have developed hepatitis action plans and their progress towards meeting 2020 WHO targets
 - Only 28/47 countries have national viral hepatitis action plans, and most are unpublished
- Overall HBsAg prevalence in Sub-Saharan Africa is >5% in general population, correlating to 60 million people, 1 in 15, 10 million coinfecting with HCV
 - Ethiopia – 9.4%
 - Nigeria – 11%
 - Democratic Republic of Congo – 3.3%

- Hepatitis B is now a bigger threat in Africa than AIDS, malaria and TB
- Mortality from hepatitis B has increased by 22% since 2000
- Challenges: no hepatitis B universal birth dose given, lacking data, funding, prioritization
- Rwanda and Uganda are leading countries in combatting hepatitis; have screened and treated millions for free

Discussion:

- How to get funding for projects outside of East Africa (for West Africa)? It was suggested to advocate for funding and highlight the need for prioritization and more data. Group agreed it is difficult to find funding for HBV work. Catherine can connect those interested with World Hepatitis Alliance member organization who may be useful partners on the continent
- Bright shared that working with churches in DC area with HBI-DC has greatly improved community trust and willingness to get tested, others agreed this is a great strategy

3:45 pm

Member Updates/World Hepatitis Day Events

- Farma (NYC Department of Health): NYC Department of Health has cancer prevention grant to do HBV screening, collaborating with African Services Committee to do screening events for mainly West Africans across NYC including Staten Island
- Halimatou (African Services Committee): ASC tested 400 West Africans for HBV, many recent immigrants – found a 20% infection rate. “Most have never heard of hepatitis B, and there seems to be a lack of physician awareness and training about hepatitis B in Africa”
- Catherine (HBF): African Hepatitis Summits will be yearly going forward, 2020 summit likely in Ghana or Nigeria

4:00 pm

Conclusion

- **Reminders:**
 - **NAIRHHA Day is Monday, September 9th 2019! Stay tuned for additional activity updates. Email chioma.nnaji@gmail.com for more info**
 - **We are looking for a new vice-chair!** Please email sierra.pellechio@hepb.org to nominate yourself or someone else
 - If you have any hepatitis B educational materials or resources, please share them with us, we can use them in our work and on CHIPO website

Next Coalition Call:

Monday, September 23rd, 2019

3:00 - 4:00 pm EDT

Dial In: +1 (312) 757-3121

Passcode: 462-362-069