



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin

Conference Call Agenda

Monday, November 18th 2019

3:00 - 4:00pm ET

Dial In: +1 (646) 749-3112

Access Code: 470-523-629

Slides: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/470523629>

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

Oluseun Aluko (Columbus Public Health), Dr. Seleshi Asfaw (Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services), Sydney Battle (Asian Health Coalition), Chari Cohen (Hepatitis B Foundation), Emmanuel Emeasoba (Monte Fiore), Essi Havor (Houston Health Department), Bilan Hussein (Columbus Public Health), Nadine Kela-Murphy (NYC Department of Health), Dr. Elizabeth Koch (Columbus Public Health), Halimatou Konte (African Services Committee), Dr. Leso Munala (St. Catherine University), Chioma Nnaji (MAC Boston), Fatima Omarufilo (Monte Fiore), Dr. Austin Osemeka (Association of Nigerian Doctors in America), Sierra Pellechio (Hepatitis B Foundation), Farma Pene (NYC Department of Health), Oni Richards (African Family Health Organization), Alia Southworth (Center for Asian Health), Lula Sweet (Columbus Department of Health), Diana Zaato (Columbus Public Health)

Welcome & Introductions

Event Highlight: Free Hepatitis B Screening and #JustB Storyteller Event at Senegalese Association in NYC (Farma Pene, NYC Department of Health)

- Offered free hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV testing and education in Upper Manhattan NYC – screened 10, educated 25
- Special guest and HBF storyteller, Bright attended to share his hepatitis B story and provide education (watch Bright's story [here](#))
- Partners and tabling vendors included Bronx Care, Montefiore, Center for Health Equity, Mount Sinai, African Services Committee and Hunter College Center for Cancer Health Disparities Research

Presentation: African Immigrant Community Engagement: Raising Awareness for Hepatitis B Screening and Prevention (Ms. Alia Southworth, Associate Program Director, Asian Health Coalition, alia@asianhealth.org)

- Asian Health Coalitions started African immigrant community health initiative in 2016
- Performed community health assessment in Chicago's western African (mainly Nigerian and Ghanaian) immigrant communities in 2017-2018; conducted focus groups and surveys among community leaders and community members
 - Utilized bi-cultural and bi-lingual CHWs for outreach
 - Focus group questions focused on health concerns, barriers to healthcare access, sources of information and opportunities for outreach, hepatitis B perceptions
 - East African community health assessment planned
 - Many had never heard of hepatitis, and were misinformed about the cause, severity, mode of transmission
 - Many community leaders did not even know their hepatitis B status and were misinformed about hepatitis B
 - Religious leaders represent trusted sources of healthcare information and can play an important role in education and intervention
- Also screened 263 African immigrants
 - 7% positive, 38% immune, 49% susceptible, 6% borderline

Focus Group Results

Focus Group Results (Emerging Themes Based on Focus Group Objectives)			
Social Concerns	Immigration status	Community unity	Finances
Health Concerns	Diabetes	Chronic illness	Mental health
Sources of Health Information	Family and friends network	Faith leaders	Health fairs
Response to Illness	Networks	Faith leaders	Traditional medicine
Healthcare Barriers	Health insurance	Competing priorities	Health beliefs
Health Care Facilitators	Religious leaders	Community education	Incentives
Best Place of Outreach	Religious organizations	Community events	Health fairs



- *Group conversation around how individuals are referred to care– positive cases are referred to local care depending on health insurance status, susceptible without insurance are referred to attend free vaccination van events hosted by Chicago Department of Health, borderline referred for additional testing*
- *Group conversation around challenges gaining trust and buy-in from African community being an Asian-centered organization – Alia affirmed the importance of partners and gaining trusted points of contact as gateways into communities*

Member Updates/Article of Interest Discussion

- *Group discussion around challenges describing hepatitis B when there may not be a native word for it among some groups: group mentioned that is helpful to use layman terms, describe what ‘cirrhosis’ means in terms of what is happening in the body, use images to describe, avoid medical jargon. It was mentioned that people may be familiar with viruses, and hepatitis B can be explained as a ‘virus that affects the liver’. Also mentioned was challenges differentiating between hepatitis A, B, C but can link all to cirrhosis/liver cancer*
- Starfish Program by Montefiore offering free hepatitis B screening and education in West African communities in NYC
 - Email: Emmanuel at eemeasob@montefiore.org

Conclusion

Next Coalition Call:

Monday, January 20th 2019

3:00 – 4:00 PM EDT

Phone: +1 (669) 224-3412

Access Code: 822-817-853

Slides: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/822817853>