



Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin (CHIPO) Call Minutes

January 26, 2026, 2:00 - 3:00pm ET

Attendees: Please let me know if I missed you, misspelled your name, or got only your partial information!

Stella Dlamini (Hep B Foundation), Michaela Jackson (Hep B Foundation), Catherine Freeland (Hep B Foundation), Nettie Johnson (ACANA), Affisath Anjorin (AFAHO), Jean-Jacques Kayembe (Congolese Health Board), Assita Belemkoabga (Project HONE, Mount Sinai, NYC), Julie Lazaroff (Hep Free NYC), Ramatu Ahmed (Africa Life Centre, NYC), , Peyton Thompson (UNC School of Medicine), Alma Chaves (Hep Free NYC), Aaliyah Awe, Mahlet Maru.

Announcements

- CHIPO Member Survey outcomes from December 2025 – CHIPO shared outcomes from the 2025 survey conducted to understand partner needs and priorities for 2026. The top 5 priorities for 2026 were:
 1. Advocating for additional funding for community projects.
 2. Expanding community testing for hep B.
 3. Providing resources on hepatitis B care referral pathways.
 4. Advocacy for increasing hepatitis B vaccine availability.
 5. Increasing advocacy for hepatitis B treatment
- CHIPO Advisory Committee- CHIPO is currently looking for 3 - 4 members to serve on its Advisory Committee. The goal of the committee is to advance efforts for raising awareness about hepatitis B among African communities and providers who serve them in the United States; advocating for HBV testing, prevention, and linkage to care in these communities; and ensuring that African communities are represented in HBV discussions and programs regionally and nationally
To nominate yourself or someone else, please send an email to stella.dlamini@hepb.org

- CHIPO members are invited to register for 2 webinars in February 2026, designed to support clinicians and public health workers as they navigate recent federal changes to hepatitis B immunization recommendations.
1. Webinar 1 - Protecting Infants From Day One: Evidence for HepB Birth Dose Impact and How Clinicians Can Build Parent Confidence, Tuesday, February 3, 2026
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. EDT
Register:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XtYSuWtkSsGBl8cluYsrsA
 2. Webinar 2 - Building Trust at Birth: Improving Hepatitis B Birth Dose & Handling Refusals From HBsAg Positive Mothers, Thursday, February 12, 2026 , 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. EDT
Register:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gJbzt0sQMqEG0zXR3Tkaw

Presentation: Hepatitis B Birth dose in the U.S. - Speaker: Michaela Jackson, MPH, MS.

- At the 2025 December ACIP meeting, there was a vote for no more universal hepatitis B birth dose as a federal recommendation although there was lack of data supporting the changes. New ACIP recommendations state that only babies born to mothers living with hepatitis B or mothers with unknown status should receive the hepatitis B birth dose, which is a risk-based recommendation. For infants born to hepatitis B negative women, ACIP recommends shared clinical decision-making in consultation with a health care provider, for parents deciding when or if to give the HBV vaccine. This recommendation has been adopted by the CDC. Local recommendations and decisions vary by state.
- It is worth noting that while ACIP's vote removes the previous longstanding recommendation, all parents can continue to vaccinate their newborns at birth using the 3-dose series of the hepatitis B vaccine if they wish. The hepatitis B birth dose is essential for protecting infants from hepatitis B and related liver disease. Completion of the vaccine series is needed for lifetime protection. The hepatitis B vaccine will continue to be covered by insurance.
- Community partners must prepare to answer questions from parents about vaccinating newborns. Some talking points on vaccination can be found here:
<https://www.hepb.org/resources-and-support/hep-b-birth-dose-media-toolkit/>

Member Updates – please feel free to email any updates or events to the listserv!