



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis

for People of African Origin

Conference Call Minutes

Monday February 28th, 2022

3:00-4:00 pm EST

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83011661367?pwd=SDAxbkcwbHdFUUIBQkE1VXZpQ3VlZz09>

Phone: +1 646 558 8656

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

Chari Cohen (Hepatitis B Foundation), Beatrice Zovich (Hepatitis B Foundation), Fatima Omarufilo (Montefiore Hospital), Peyton Thompson (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Seun Aluko (Columbus Department of Public Health), Bilan Hussein (Columbus Department of Public Health), Monde Nyambe (Illinois Public Health Association), Nadine Kela-Murphy (NYC Department of Health), Leso Munala (St. Kate's University), Elizabeth Koch (Columbus Department of Public Health), Farma Pene (NYC Department of Health), Kendra Pelz (VBI Vaccines), Essi Havor (formerly Houston Department of Health – let us know where you are now!)

3:00pm: Welcome and Updates:

- Update on CHIPO National Advisory Committee: The NAC is currently in the process of making plans for future partnerships and membership development and outreach. Other goals include improving state and federal advocacy efforts and strengthening federal partnerships. More updates will be available at the next meeting – stay tuned!
- Data collection and analysis are complete for the project to better understand disparities in liver cancer awareness, knowledge, and screening rates among highly impacted communities (including African and Caribbean communities) in the United States. We are currently beginning work on a communications campaign, which should be ready by the end of this year, and we will be hosting a webinar on preliminary results later in March. Stay tuned for details!
- Hep B United has begun hosting monthly state advocacy calls on the second Tuesday of every month at 3pm Eastern Time. The next one will be on March 8th and then April 12th. Topics of these calls will include state budget/appropriations advocacy, state implementation of new ACIP recommendations for universal adult hepatitis B vaccination, requesting state and local proclamations for Hepatitis Awareness Month, and updates and additions to state advocacy resource pages, among other topics. These calls are a great resource, and we hope you can join! [Register here!](#)
- Our partners at Multicultural AIDS Coalition in Boston are hosting an African Immigrant Health ECHO series, specifically focused on improving HIV services for African immigrants. This series will include a 2-day intensive training and 8 ECHO sessions, running from March 24th-May 27th. Applications are due by March 9th – [apply today!](#)
- HBF and partners at the CDC and in Nigeria will be hosting a webinar on March 17th at 9am Eastern Time on improving timely hepatitis B birth dose vaccination in Nigeria. Two high-level health and government officials in Nigeria will be joining and it should be a great event – [register here!](#)
- We are updating the "Members" section on [our website](#) and would love to have more

complete information for our different member organizations! If you would like to have your organization's description, website, and/or contact information listed on our website, please complete this [SurveyMonkey form](#), so we can list you!

- We have printed out many of the [resources](#) that were created for community health educators and community members, as part of the CDC's Know Hepatitis B campaign. If you would like any materials printed and mailed to you, please let us know using [this form](#).
- CHIPO now has now expanded to other social media channels! Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and @CHIPO_HBV on Twitter and Instagram.

3:10 pm: Presentation: *Breaking Down Barriers for Hepatitis B Screening in the Bronx West African Community: Education in Collaboration with Faith-Based Organizations.* Presenter: Fatima Omarufilo, MPH, PN, Patient Navigator, Montefiore Starfish Program, Bronx, NY

- Presentation slides are attached.
- This project started in 2017.
- Educational events have continued virtually, despite the pandemic.
- People are given blood pressure cuffs and logs as part of the project, for which the Starfish program has gotten designated funds, after paying for these at the start of the program.
- Common myths and misconceptions were shared in both the educational presentation and the informational in-language brochures, which helped quite a bit with addressing these. The most persistent myth seems to be that hepatitis B can be transmitted by sharing meals with someone who is living with HBV – only 67% of participants expressed comfort with this even after the educational session, demonstrating that stigma is still very persistent.
- Many (50%) community members believed that HBV was the same as TB and believed that they had previously been vaccinated when they received a TB test.
- Offering all services (testing, vaccination, and linkage to care) all in one place has proven to be very effective and has helped a lot in addressing loss to follow up.
- As rates of HBV vaccination increased (which happened more once vaccination was given at Montefiore as well), investigators found that uptake of COVID vaccines increased as well. Cultural competency helps to address vaccine hesitancy.

3:50pm: Member Updates

From Nadine at NYC DOH: The NYC Plan to Eliminate Viral Hepatitis was released in December 2021, It includes strategies to eliminate hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Find details here: <https://hepfree.nyc/plan-to-eliminate-viral-hepatitis-in-new-york-city-by-2030-nyc-health-department-hep-free-nyc-coalition/>

4:00pm: Conclusion

Thanks so much for joining! Please keep us updated about research and programmatic news and let us know if you'd like to present at the next meeting!

Next Coalition Call:
March 21st, 2022, 3pm ET/2pm CT