



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis
for People of African Origin

Coalition Call Minutes

May 14th, 2025

2:00pm-3:00pm EDT

[Zoom Link](#)

Phone: +1 646 558 8656

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

2:00 pm: Welcome and Introductions

Beatrice Zovich (Hep B Foundation), Anousha Qureshi (Hep B Foundation), Leso Munala (University of Minnesota), Assita Belemkoabga (Project HONE, Mount Sinai, NYC), Maurizio Bonacini (California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute, San Francisco, CA), Ramatu Ahmed (African Life Center, NYC), Chari Cohen (Hep B Foundation), Robert Gish (Hep B Foundation), Bilan Hussein (Columbus DOH), Tilahun Tesfaye (Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services, Columbus), Alma Chavez (NYC DOH), Tatjana Bozhinovski, Affissath Anjorin (AFAHO), Avi Kahan (African Life Center, NYC)

2:05 pm: Announcements:

- Resolution has passed for National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day on April 30th: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-resolution/362/text>
- Upcoming B Informed Session: May 20th at 3pm Eastern: Health Equity Self-Assessment Tool for Community Health Organizations: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RcVuw2WeRk25-V5nuL-Jgg#/registration
- Upcoming Hep B United Webinar: May 29th at 3pm Eastern: Hepatitis B: About the Basics – Raising Awareness, Screening, Vaccination and Resources: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jwKJnvwCQJuEWn7w96GLuw#/registration
- 2023 CDC Hep B Surveillance Report: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-surveillance-2023/hepatitis-b/index.html>
- Action alert: Urge Congress to Support and Protect Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer Programming at CDC, NIH and the DOD!: <https://hepbunited.salsalabs.org/actionalert-fy26hbpreportlanguage>
- Next CHIPO webinar coming up in June

2:15 pm: Presentation:

- **Ramatu Ahmed**, Founder of African Life Center in Bronx, NY
 - The organization came about as a result of her experiences in Ghana and lack of services available to immigrant communities in New York
 - African Life Center was created to serve the African immigrant communities in New York. There is also a branch that was recently established in Ghana.
 - Encourage people to attend community health trainings, advocacy events, participate in community events and health programs.
 - Organized the first African Health conference in 2016 in NY
 - Youth Drug Free Project Campaign in Ghana—managed to organize a youth conference last year on drug abuse. Use community leaders from the youth, from faith-based organizations to encourage the community to come to the conference.

2:35 pm: Q&A

What is some of the work you do specifically around health services in the community (and hepatitis B in particular)?

- Do outreach for hepatitis B education at mosques to encourage testing and improve awareness about hepatitis B in NY. Worked with the NY Dept of Health to provide training for mental health programs. Also work with women to address issues related to maternal health and cancers in women. Provide education on nutrition and the importance of balanced meals and cooking classes.

How can we start partnerships and get funding and support from City agencies?

- Have to be very active in your community and beyond, walk around with flyers, attend meetings, invest your time visiting places, organize programs, creating connections and building your networks by attending seminars, workshops, and trainings available to the public.

Could you share more about the African Health Conference?

- Attended a conference in PA and was inspired to launch a conference in NY due to the large African community in NY. Received citations from councilmembers in NYC, especially for September 16th as a day honoring the African communities of New York.

Could you share insights on data collection for advocacy?

- Use other organizations that have more resources and work with them on advocacy projects, or collaborate on funding applications and projects. In terms of data collection, other partners will do the data collection, as African Life Center does not have the money or funding to support data collection.

Ghana Fundraising in September with Lewis Roberts—connect with Robert Gish

2:45 pm: Member Updates – please feel free to email any updates or events to the listserv!

340B Programs—Avi Kahan

- Allows nonprofits to get grants and discounted medications for their communities for hepatitis B, HIV, and STIs. Discount can be 80% to 90% for nonprofits.
- Working with over 100 nonprofits nationally

How can we learn more about this program?

- <https://pharmalytiq.com/>

From Bilan Hussein – Columbus DOH had a successful hep B screening event in April with over 50 people screened. AFAHO in Philly did as well on May 10th.

3:00 pm: Conclusion

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on **Monday July 14th at 3pm EDT**

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!