



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis for

People of African Origin

Conference Call Minutes

Monday November 15th, 2021

3:00-4:15 pm EST

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81953631447?>

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), Kate Moraras (Hepatitis B Foundation/Hep B United), Noemi Tousignant (University College, London), Halimatou Konte (African Services Committee), Affisath Anjorin (AFAHO), Agatha Adigwe (MAC Boston), Augustus Woyah (Columbus DOH), Peyton Thompson (UNC Chapel Hill), Seun Aluko (Columbus DOH), Cait O'Donnell (AFAHO), Bilan Hussein (Columbus DOH), Leso Munala (St. Catherine University), Elizabeth Koch (Columbus DOH), Farma Pene (NYC DOH), Monde Nyambe (Illinois Public Health Association), Naomi Louie (Asian Health Coalition), Essi Havor, Kendra Pelz (VBI Vaccines), Edford Sinkala, Tory

3:00pm: Welcome and Updates:

- On November 3, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted to recommend universal hepatitis B vaccination for adults ages 19-59. This is groundbreaking and has many exciting implications for HBV prevention and elimination going forward. The committee will likely be voting to recommend universal adult hepatitis B screening as well in the early part of next year. At that time, creation of a robust strategic plan for implementation will begin – we will keep you posted as this process unfolds!
- 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 (including a version of the PowerPoint with audio voiceover recording). 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: *Filtering Inequality: Screening and Knowledge in Senegal's Topography of Hepatitis B Care*

Presented By: Dr. Noemi Tousignant, University College, London

- Presentation slides are attached and please feel free to reach out to Dr. Tousignant (n.tousignant@ucl.ac.uk) with any questions!
- The WHO African region lags far behind target goals for worldwide HBV diagnosis, prevention, and treatment by 2030.
- The hypothesis is that persistently high rates in HBV infection are products of prior inequalities in research and prevention.

- From the 1940s-1970s, Senegal was actually a hub for research on the connection between HBV and HCC and on vaccine efficacy in Africa. Since the 1970s, this early momentum has faded significantly.
- Dr. Tousignant conducted approximately 40 interviews with urban specialists, rural primary care nurses, midwives, and initiators of community/public HBV communication and screening.
- A variety of factors contribute to the lack of HBV follow-up care that are due more to sociological, rather than traditional access barriers, including unsystematic screening, prognostic uncertainty, misconceptions about risk factors, privatization and the high cost of diagnostic evaluation and monitoring, referral ambivalence, absence of symptoms and uncertainty about future manifestation of HBV, and strongly held beliefs in the efficacy of dietary remedies, including removal of ubiquitous peanuts from the diet.
- The main prerogative of awareness-raising initiatives is to render hepatitis B a collective problem.
- The presence of multiple and uneven sources of information is something to keep in mind while dialoguing about hepatitis B with African immigrants in the United States.

3:40pm: Questions

3:50pm: Presentation: *Hep B United: Capacity Building Programs*

Presented By: Kate Moraras, Deputy Director of Public Health, Hepatitis B Foundation & Director, Hep B United

- Presentation slides are attached!
- Hep B United just received renewed funding from the CDC for another five years of programming.
- Hep B United is like a sister coalition of CHIPO, focused primarily on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.
- Ongoing capacity-building programmatic activities will include: Coalition Building and Membership Development, Mini-Grants, Peer Mentoring, Hep B United Annual Summit, and Webinars
- New initiatives will include increased focus on more groups that are highly impacted by hepatitis B, including African immigrants and people who inject drugs.
- One specific new goal is to improve the capacity of community health centers (FQHCs) serving AANHPI and African immigrant communities, as well as PWIDs, to implement hepatitis B education, screening, and linkage to care programs, and promote cross-sector partnerships with community-based organizations.
- A new community coalition leadership development program will also improve the capacity of local coalition leaders to lead and grow community-based hepatitis B coalitions.
- The ECHO model of community health education will be expanded to include public health, in addition to medical, practitioners.
- Three working groups will be created to address health equity, harm reduction, and hepatitis B in NHPI communities.
- The new and expanded focus of Hep B United to include African immigrant communities presents an exciting opportunity for CHIPO to access more capacity-building programs, project funding, and resources!
- The first step toward CHIPO's greater involvement in this program and all it has to offer is to designate an official CHIPO liaison to Hep B United, who can make sure that all of CHIPO's interests are represented within HBU and that full advantage can be taken of this program expansion. After this liaison is designated, a small working group will likely be formed to discuss next steps.
- We will be reaching out to follow up about designating a liaison and forming a working group – if this interests you at all, please reach out to Beatrice at beatrice.zovich@hepb.org.
- We are looking forward to this new partnership and what it means for the future of CHIPO!

4:10pm: Member Updates

- Farma shared that CHIPO-NYC has a new co-chair, who will be announced at the next quarterly meeting in January 2022.
- Please feel free to share any updates you may have on the CHIPO Google Group!

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:
December 13th, 2021, 3pm ET/2pm CT/12pm PT/10am HT