



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis

for People of African Origin

Coalition Call Minutes

September 16th, 2024

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!

Beatrice Zovich (Hep B Foundation), Shreya Koirala (Hep B Foundation), Assita Belemkoabga (Project HONE, Mount Sinai, NYC), Elizabeth Koch (Division of Population Health, Columbus, OH), Seun Aluko (Division of Population Health, Columbus, OH), Lutamaguzi Emma Bakojja (Hepatitis Aid Organization, Uganda), Rilwan Osman (Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services), Fatoumata Ngaido (African Services Committee, NYC), Naomi Porter (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC), Patricia Jones (University of Miami), Ibrahim Usman Yerima (Jeneso Development Initiative, Nigeria), Hibo Noor (Division of Population Health, Columbus, OH), Zyh Akumawah (EasyHealth, Cameroon), Victoria Awe

2:00 pm: Welcome and Updates:

- **Welcome to our three new members!** EasyHealth (Cameroon), Youth with a Mission (US), Maine Immigrant & Refugee Services (US)
- **New position statement:** In honor of World Hepatitis Day 2024, the [Hepatitis B Foundation](#) has released a [new position statement](#) calling for expanded hepatitis B treatment around the world. This statement brings the patient voice and community experience to the table – while remaining supported by science and expert opinion.
 - The position is that all people living with chronic hepatitis B and having any detectable hepatitis B viral DNA in the blood, should be considered eligible and offered treatment with currently available therapeutics, if ANY one of the following criteria are met:
 - They have a family history of cirrhosis or HCC.
 - They are older than 30 years of age.
 - They request treatment.
 - They have evidence of liver inflammation or liver damage.
 - They have comorbidities or other risk factors that support treatment.
 - Link to position statement: <https://www.hepb.org/assets/HBF-Position-Statement-on-Treatment-July-28-2024.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=b4444aca-dba4-4db0-a1a6-4c041a9459af>
 - Link to sign on to support: <https://hepbunited.salsalabs.org/hbfexpandedtreatmentstatement07252024/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=b4444aca-dba4-4db0-a1a6-4c041a9459af>
- **Hepatitis B and COVID 19 Survey:** The Hepatitis B Foundation has recently launched a survey to assess COVID-19 vaccine perspectives among people living with liver disease. All are welcome to complete the survey, and we invite you to please share with your networks as well!
 - COVID-19 Perspectives Survey Link: https://qualtricsxmg9ghgwrpg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5njsZSSd8ln6Ree
 - The survey is available in nine different languages.
 - If you have any questions, please reach out to fiona.bjenkins@hepb.org.
- The annual conference of the **United States Coalition for African Immigrant Health** is happening September 27th-29th in Baltimore. You can learn more about it and register here: <https://www.uscaih.org/uscaih-conferences-and-events>
- The next **Hep B United B Informed session** is happening TODAY Tuesday September 17th, 3pm Eastern - Empowering Voices: Real Stories and Advocacy for Hepatitis B Awareness: register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_W7eviE-eSFmyJi_cWhSXuA#/registration

- CDC is pleased to announce the **CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHAC)** 2025 nomination cycle has opened. Candidate nominations will be open until October 1, 2024, for consideration in 2025. Please see the [Federal Register notice](#) for more information.
- NAIRHHA Day celebrated its tenth anniversary on September 9th! Check out our Ten for Ten campaign to help celebrate throughout the month of September: <https://www.hepb.org/research-and-programs/chipo/nairhha-day/2024-ten-for-ten-campaign/>
 - You can also check out the recording of the NAIRHHA Day webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odWvBe0lqZ4>
- The Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination and the US CDC are working together to support African countries in introducing and scaling up routine, universal **HepB-BD (birth dose) vaccination**. To improve awareness of the importance of HepB-BD vaccination among pregnant persons, their families, health care workers (HCWs) and public and policy makers, CGHE is seeking requests for funding proposals (RFP) from national and regional Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Africa. CGHE will provide ongoing technical assistance to funded CSOs, as needed, to improve the overall success of approved activities.
 - This initiative addresses the lack of routine immunization programs providing the HepB-BD vaccine in the World Health Organization (WHO) African region. Only 15 out of 47 countries in the WHO African region provide HepB-BD vaccinations as part of their routine immunization programs, leaving around 28 million newborns without protection from the virus.
 - Proposal due date: October 10th, 2024 11:59 p.m EDT
 - [Learn more.](#)
 - Feel free to reach out with any questions or if you could benefit from assistance with a proposal.
- Just passing along an opportunity from the **Journal for Public Health in Africa and Africa CDC**, which are hosting a manuscript-writing workshop, to be held on the sidelines of the Conference for Public Health in Africa, coming up this November in Morocco. Early-career researchers working on hepatitis B are invited to apply and there is an opportunity for full sponsorship. The application deadline is THIS FRIDAY September 20th. You can read more [here](#).
- The Hep B Foundation is working to recruit individuals who have lived experience of or who have been indirectly impacted by liver cancer (related to hepatitis B or not), to share their stories and help to raise awareness, share accurate information, and reduce stigma. If you know of anyone who might be interested in sharing their stories, please use [this form](#) to sign up.

2:20 pm: Large group discussion

- What have been some of your greatest successes and challenges in addressing hepatitis B among African communities over the past year?

2:35pm: Networking and discussing needs and goals

2:50pm: Bring back insights from small groups into large group discussion

Thank you everyone for the great discussions and exchanges of ideas! Everything has been captured on the [Jamboard](#) – we can continue to discuss this broadly and work toward implementing some of these ideas!

2:55 pm: Member Updates

Feel free to send member news and updates you might have (including happenings around Liver Cancer Awareness Month) to the listserv!

3:00 pm: Conclusion

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on **Monday November 18th at 2pm 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!

