



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis

for People of African Origin

Conference Call Minutes

Monday July 18, 2022

3:00-4:00 pm EDT

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82431105839?pwd=Ulg3a1dXbzhpQ1VNRXVPMXN1Z3g2QT09>

Phone: +1 646 558 8656

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

MaryGrace Sharp (Asian Health Coalition), Amadou Goita (Adilo), Leso Munala (St. Catherine University), Bilan Hussein (Columbus DOH), Beatrice Zovich (Hepatitis B Foundation), Catherine Freeland (Hepatitis B Foundation), Oludolapo King, Sunyasemeni Almond Ezra (Jenneso Development Initiative), Jillian Brown (Philadelphia Department of Public Health), Jereba M Swaray (Columbus DOH), Chari Cohen (Hepatitis B Foundation), Shreya Koirala (Hepatitis B Foundation), Kendra Pelz (VBI Vaccines), Cait O' Donnell (AFAHO), Kenya Mack (Philadelphia DOPH), Mohamed Ali (Seattle DOH), Farma Pene (NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Boatemaa Ntiri-Reid (NASTAD), Elizabeth Koch (Columbus DOH), Nonso Maduka, Adama (#justB storyteller)

3:00pm: Welcome and Updates:

- New #justB videos
 - <https://www.hepb.org/research-and-programs/patient-story-telling-project/>
 - Adama's story is available in French and Mandingo. [Find it here!](#)
 - FK's story is available in French. [Find it here!](#)
- Nigerian Storytellers videos
 - New Nigerian Storyteller Videos for World Hepatitis Day (Sonia, Ismail, John, Gold, Dayo): <https://www.hepb.org/news-and-events/world-hepatitis-day/>
- World Hepatitis Day event at Arbutus Biopharma
 - WHD storytelling panel event to take place on July 28th at 10:30 am Eastern Time in HBF's Doylestown, PA headquarters. Watch the Facebook Livestream of the event on [HBF's Facebook page!](#)
- Discrimination Registry – If you hear stories of hepatitis B-related discrimination, please encourage community members to share their story via this registry, in order to collect the stories and data that are needed to affect policy change:
 - <https://www.hepb.org/resources-and-support/hepatitis-b-foundations-discrimination-registry/>
- Please complete the CHIPO Membership Survey to be listed as an official CHIPO member: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6FRWKGB>
- Request form for printed [educational materials](#): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HepBAfricanEducationalMaterials>

- Hep B United monthly state advocacy calls – a good opportunity to learn how to affect change in your state. Next meeting: August 9th at 3 PM EDT. [Register here!](#)

3:10 pm: Presentation: Stigma and Discrimination

Presenter: Mohamed Ali, Public Health Manager for Seattle and King County, WA

Presentation slides are attached.

- Hepatitis B screening and testing has been conducted for many years in King County, Washington State.
 - Some of the Lessons learned through these kinds of events are:
 - 1) Hep B testing
 - Patient education is important to increase participation in testing. Incentives are helpful to get more interest.
 - There are structural and systematic barriers to conducting testing events. Drawing blood requires skilled professionals. It is helpful if volunteer doctors and nurses can be recruited.
 - CDC has mentioned that this kind of approach has been effective in testing and screening for Hep B.
 - These kinds of programs are rare now which makes It difficult for patients with hep B to advocate to get themselves tested.
 - 2) There is a lot of stigma surrounding hepatitis B. This is due to lack of awareness and education. There is also a lot of misinformation and ignorance about the disease.
 - 3) In countries like Somalia and Ethiopia, sometimes viral hepatitis is confused with other infectious diseases like malaria and jaundice as the signs and symptoms are similar. There is also confusion regarding different types of hepatitis. People tend to turn to spiritual healing to cure the disease.
 - 4) Between 2020-2022 a lot of Somali women passed away due to liver issues in Minneapolis. They did not get adequate medical help due to stigma relating to hepatitis that exists in their communities.

3:35 PM Presentation: Stigma and Discrimination

Presenter: Cait O' Donnell (African Family Health Organization)

- AFAHO was founded in 2005. Their clients are mostly female. They conduct health, social, and educational programs. Their health programs are focused on increasing testing, immunization, and health access for the population they serve regardless of their immigration status. They focus on helping communities to navigate the health care system and advocate for the care they deserve.
- There is a lot of stigma surrounding hepatitis B in the communities they serve. Hepatitis B is often confused with malaria and jaundice as all of these infections share similar signs and symptoms.
- The burden for hepatitis B is high in these communities. People fear testing as a positive test will require follow up action on their part and navigating that is not easy.
- AFAHO works with these communities to reduce the anxiety around testing and help these communities navigate testing, screening and follow up visits.

3:46 PM Adama's story: Discrimination and Stigma surrounding hepatitis B

- 10 years after his mom passed away, Adama realized he has the same infection - hepatitis B. Adama has been managing his hepatitis B and receiving treatment but is concerned about the low awareness of hepatitis B in his community, as well as reduced access to treatment following the COVID-19 pandemic.

3:50pm: Mini Grant Update

- For more information and the RFP, [click here](#)
- The mini-grant program is open for current Hep B United members or affiliated members.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have an active, local coalition focusing on hepatitis B education, screening, and linkage to care activities. Seven awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 will be awarded. The application deadline is August 1st at 5 pm PST via Survey Monkey (see RFP linked above for details). There is a scoring sheet on the second page of the RFP. The scoring sheet gives applicants an idea of what things reviewers are looking for in their applications. For more information, reach out to Catherine Freeland:

Catherine.freeland@hepb.org

3:55pm: Questions

- Important takeaways from both presentations include making materials as community-specific as possible, and folding hepatitis B in with other routine health screenings and care, so as to reduce potential stigma.

3:57pm: Member Updates

- From Kendra Pelz: Baylor University in Texas invites people from all over the country to attend their ECHO sessions (hepatitis education sessions for providers) – to register, visit: <https://hepbtaskforce.org/event/hepatitis-b-echo-gulf-coast-hub-tx-jul-2022/>
- Feel free to send other member news and updates to the listserv!

4:00pm: Conclusion

- Next Meeting: NAIRHHA Day event on or around September 9th, 2022

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!