



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis

for People of African Origin

Coalition Call Minutes

July 17th, 2024

12:00-1:00 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), Agatha Adigwe (Multicultural AIDS Coalition, Boston, MA), Ganiat Sarumi Disu (African Health Coalition, Chicago, IL), Adesuwa Oni (Rise Against Hepatitis Global Initiative, Imo State, Nigeria), Elizabeth Koch (Division of Population Health, Columbus, OH), Seun Aluko (Division of Population Health, Columbus, OH), Chari Cohen (Hepatitis B Foundation), Karen Jiobu (Asian American Community Services, Columbus, OH), Shane Chen (HOPE Clinic, Houston, TX), Japete Aquila (African Hepatitis Coalition, South Sudan), Abubakar Jama (Somalia Ministry of Health), Prince-Ochuko Okinedo (Hepatitis Advocacy Foundation, Delta State, Nigeria), Myra Wamah (Muhlenberg University, Allentown, PA), Nicollate Okoko (Zidkijah Medical Center, Kenya), Ijeoma Ifeorah (University of Nsukka, Nigeria), Annie McDonald (NYC Department of Health), Dolapo King (Division of Population Health, Columbus, OH), Luul-Diamond (Division of Population Health, Columbus, OH), Alma Chavez (NYC Department of Health), Amadou Goita (ONG-Adilo, Mali), Lutamaguzi Emma Bakojja (Hepatitis Aid Organization, Uganda)

12:00 pm: Welcome and Updates:

- In honor of World Hepatitis Day, the Hepatitis B Foundation is hosting a **B Informed Patient Conference** in Philadelphia on July 27th from 9am-1pm. The purpose is to bring individuals with lived experience to a space to get information, ask questions, and learn about all things hepatitis B. During the day free breakfast and lunch will be provided. The session will feature a provider panel and serve as an opportunity to engage and ask questions to provider experts. Additionally, patient advocates will share their stories and how they have engaged in the hepatitis B space. Free resources and information will be shared throughout the day. All are welcome! You can learn more and register [here](#).
- The annual **HBV International Meeting** is coming up from September 11-15 in Chicago! The meeting will feature cutting-edge studies in hepatitis B and D viruses (HBV and HDV), development of new technologies and analytical methods for understanding HBV and HDV infection, joint discussion on the latest therapeutic development with patients and clinicians, opportunities to network with the HBV/HDV community for all career stages, and a platform for trainees (graduate students and post-docs) to showcase their studies. **This is a hybrid event.** Use [this link](#) for in-person and zoom registration. This event will also feature a **community forum, specifically for people with lived experience**, which is entirely free and virtual. You can register for the community forum [here](#).
- A CHIPO partner has a new publication! Fatima Omarufilo of the Starfish Program at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx is one of the authors of a new article: [The challenges of integrating an immigrant population with chronic hepatitis B into long-term hepatology care: Lessons learned from a Bronx West African screening program](#). Check it out today!
- The World Health Organization is hosting a webinar in honor of World Hepatitis Day, entitled **Time for Action**, happening on Monday July 29th - 1-2pm CEST – [you can register here](#).
- The **Society on Liver Disease in Africa** is also hosting a webinar in honor World Hepatitis Day on Friday July 26th from 10-11:50am CAT/SAST. [You can register here](#).
- Finally, the **World Hepatitis Alliance** has a number of events happening in honor of WHD:
 - [Turning the Tide on Hepatitis webinar](#) - July 23rd

- Community Forum - July 26th - This is an open space designed to bring people living with hepatitis together, allowing them to share their experiences. It provides valuable insights into the diverse experiences, perspectives, and unmet needs of individuals diagnosed with and living with hepatitis globally. The panel will delve into global conversations and examine how lived experiences can inform and drive the actions required to eliminate hepatitis by 2030 – [register here](#).
- Info about the relay, comms toolkit, pledge cards, and other campaign resources can all be found in the email I forwarded earlier - let me know if you'd like that sent again!

12:20 pm: Presentations

Adesuwa Oni, Rise Against Hepatitis Global Initiative, Imo State, Nigeria

- Introduction of RAHGI
 - They work to prevent the further transmission of hepatitis and to advocate against discrimination and stigmatization on all levels for those living with the disease.
- Activities
 - They work on the ground to impart education around hepatitis B.
 - They work with Anti Hepatitis Club (AHC) on providing education, advocating around hepatitis B, providing accurate information about hepatitis to club members and communities, and promoting hepatitis prevention measures
- Advocacy Journey
 - First place tie in 2023 in the category of sharing awareness. This was hosted by Global Hepatitis Elimination Taskforce.
- How to address employment discrimination faced by people with lived experience in Africa
 - Public Awareness Campaigns
 - Workshops and Training
 - Support Networks
 - Collaboration with health workers
 - Policy and Advocacy
- Key Components of National Policy on HIV/AIDS in the workplace
 - Non-discrimination, confidentiality, voluntary testing, workplace programs, reasonable accommodations, zero tolerance for stigma, health and safety
 - Some of these can be adapted for HBV

Prince-Ochuko Okinedo, Hepatitis Advocacy Foundation, Delta State, Nigeria

- Driving Effective Advocacy for Viral Hepatitis in Delta State
 - HAF is the only patient-led organization in Delta State and registered by CAC in Nigeria
 - Mission is to unite stakeholders in the fight against hepatitis
- Burden in Delta State
 - 5% people are living with hep B or C or both
- Challenges
 - Access to diagnostics and medication
 - Suboptimal awareness among healthcare providers
 - Stigma faced by PHLB
- Patient-led awareness campaigns
 - Encouraging patients to be advocates can tremendously help to bring about change and prove to be crucial to change policy and improve healthcare services.
- Raising Public Awareness
 - Education campaigns and community events can help reduce stigma and encourage people to seek testing
- Partnerships
 - Collaboration with government agencies, health care providers, and non-governmental entities both locally and internationally is key in addressing hepatitis in Delta state.
- Political Actions
 - His excellency's prompt approval
- Strategy
 - Identifying stakeholders
 - Lobbying using lived experiences
 - Policy engagement using official data/ information from sources like WHO, WHA, HBF etc
 - Purpose-driven collaboration
 - Awareness campaigns on TV and social media

- Call to Action
 - Fostering collaborations and uniting together in the fight against hepatitis in Delta state

12:50 pm: Discussion and Q&A

Can we model any of this work off of what has been done in the HIV space? This is a possibility to explore.

12:55 pm: Member Updates

Feel free to send member news and updates you might have (including happenings around World Hepatitis Day) to the listserv! Thanks to the Division of Population Health in Columbus for the great activities you have planned for the day!

Sadly, Farma Pene has left the leadership role at CHIPO-NYC – she will be greatly missed! CHIPO-NYC will work to continue the great work she has done and will keep us updated of new developments – thanks, Alma!

1:00 pm: Conclusion

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on **Monday September 16th 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

