



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis

for People of African Origin

Conference Call Minutes

Wednesday April 19th, 2023

3:00-4:00 pm EDT

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87372435111?pwd=eVdRVEEyYmVnaEVsYno0a1F1dVlmUT09>

Phone: +1 646 558 8656

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

Gilbert Ngwaneh Miki (Community Vision Group), Frank Hood (Hepatitis B Foundation), Rhea Racho (Hep B Foundation), Kara Sapp (Hep B Foundation), Florence Gune (Hep B Foundation), Beatrice Zovich (Hep B Foundation), Chari Cohen (Hep B Foundation), Bryant Tufino (Hep Free NYC), Seun Aluko (Columbus DOH), Elizabeth Koch (Columbus DOH), Charles Ampong (Hep Alliance of Ghana), Stacie Ko (Asian Health Coalition), Leso Munala (St. Catherine University), Bilan Hussein (Columbus DOH), Farma Pene (NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Elizabeth Koch (Columbus DOH), Alma Chavez (NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Agatha Adigwe (Multicultural AIDS Coalition), Allison (American Liver Foundation), Frederick Mairong (Community Vision Group), Oiking, Shaibu Issa (Organization for Medical Outreach to Communities, Tanzania), Marinus Chia, Bongam Solange (Community Vision Group), Julius Ntang (Community Vision Group), Sunyasemeni Almond Ezra (Jeneso Development Initiative, Nigeria), Tayong Sedrick (Community Vision Group), Nchinda Malvis (Community Vision Group), Laurie Williams (Gilead), Kenne Kenne

3:00pm: Welcome and Updates:

- [Hepatitis Community Collaborative Event coming up on April 25th at 11am Eastern Time, co-hosted by NASTAD and The AIDS Institute](#)
- May 1st at 3pm Eastern Time: [HBU Webinar: Universal Adult Hepatitis B Screening Recommendations Are Here: Best Practices For Implementing Universal Screening and Vaccination](#)
- #JustB featured storyteller is [Theobald](#)
- April 26th – Virtual Advocacy Day - Opportunity to interact with legislators and speak about the need for more funding and support of hepatitis B initiatives at the federal level – [register here!](#)
- May 17th at 1pm Eastern Time: Upcoming CHIPO webinar in partnership with Multicultural AIDS Coalition in honor of Hepatitis Awareness Month: Hepatitis B and HIV Screening, Prevention, and Management in the African Immigrant Community in the U.S.: Barriers & Solutions. Panelists will include physicians, CBOs, a #justB storyteller, and hospital networks. [Register here!](#)

- Save the Date: The 2023 Hep B United Summit (first in-person event since 2019) will be taking place in Washington, DC on July 24th and 25th, with an Advocacy Day on July 26th. More details coming soon.

3:20 pm: Presentation: Dr. Gilbert Ngwaneh Miki, Executive Director and Founding President of Community Vision Group in Cameroon and Malawi

- Background information:
 - Infrastructure in Cameroon is poor; 11.2% prevalence of HBV, only 1% accessing treatment
 - HBV and HIV coinfection is 7% in Cameroon
 - 25% increase in prevalence of HBV in Cameroon between 2018 – 2019
- Strategic objectives
 - Awareness & education
 - Currently engaging the community through radio talks, outreach in churches and mosques, & schools, targeted outreach programs – Athletes for hepatitis B, outpatient units, grassroots volunteers
 - Screening & vaccination
 - Linkage to care & support
 - Advocacy and education
 - Collaborating with CBOs and community leaders, including religious leaders
 - Enforcing the inclusion of hep B awareness and education in school curricula
 - Targeted volunteer activities include outreach to outpatient departments, ANC clinics, and women church groups
 - Media communications
 - Annual volunteer forum: Attendees include civil society organizations, governor, guest speakers and the national government officials to come and listen to community volunteer experiences. Volunteers are also recognized during this event.
- Challenges:
 - Funding
 - Inability to provide screening and vaccinations
 - High cost of screening and vaccines
 - Slow response for collaboration
 - Limited incentives for volunteers
 - Low political will
- Roadmap for Hepatitis B elimination:
 - Integrating awareness and education campaigns with screening and vaccination
 - Need for hep B infrastructure for linkage to care and support
 - Fully integrating hep B educational campaigns in schools and tertiary education system
 - Building sustainable partnerships with the government, policy decision makers, and telecommunication companies.
 - Supporting government action through research to influence advocacy and policy
 - “Think globally, act locally;” reduce stigma & discrimination; increase access to care for most vulnerable populations

3:40pm: Presentation: Frank Hood, Associate Director of Policy and Partnerships at the Hepatitis B Foundation & Director of Hep B United; Rhea Racho, Program Director for Advocacy & Engagement, Hepatitis B Foundation

- Hep B Policy Priorities
 - Federal funding
 - Prevention: screening and vaccination (expanding screening guidelines & increasing vaccination)
 - Treatment access
 - Ending hepatitis B-related discrimination
 - Health equity
- Federal Funding
 - CDC

- NIH (NIAID, NIDDK, NCI)
- White House Elimination Plan (hepatitis C-focused, but can be inclusive of hep B)
- Prevention
 - CDC now recommends a one-time universal screening for hep B among adults 18 and older
 - Only 30% of adults are fully protected against hep B
 - Increase access to hep B vaccine
 - Eliminate systemic barriers to vaccines
- Treatment access
 - Currently treatment is unaffordable for many
 - Adverse drug tiering
 - Cost of hep B medication
 - Copay accumulation
- Ending hep B related discrimination
 - Hep B is a protected condition under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Despite this:
 - Health care providers and students face discrimination
 - Military members and Commissioned Corps of the USPHS face discriminatory hep B (& HIV) accessions policies
 - Health equity
 - Hep B is associated with significant health disparities, especially among AAPI and African immigrant and refugee communities
 - Wide spectrum of inequities in health care
- Other activities include:
 - Encouraging GAVI to recommit to providing the hep B birth dose
 - Hep B Advocacy Day to train advocates to engage with legislators around hep B and to raise awareness and provide education and lobby for support and funding – **this is happening on April 26th – register at the link above!**
 - In-person Congressional lobbying day in July.
 - Online action center – [sign up](#) to receive targeted alerts for actions you can take!

3:50pm: Questions

3:55pm: Member Updates

Feel free to send other member news and updates to the listserv!

4:00pm: Conclusion

- Next Meeting: Webinar on May 17th at 1pm Eastern – register at the link above!

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!