



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis for

People of African Origin

Conference Call Minutes

Monday July 19th, 2021

3:00-4:00 pm EDT

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82980294269?pwd=Q1ppQmJXRHpwcGZXMmdLVEk1Tm9UZz09>

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Attendees: I wasn't able to jot down everyone's name, so please let me know if I missed you or got only your partial information!

Chari Cohen (Hepatitis B Foundation), Beatrice Zovich (Hepatitis B Foundation), Patricia Jones (University of Miami), Hikma Elmi (AFAHO), Bilan Hussein (Columbus Public Health), Elizabeth Koch (Columbus Public Health), Leso Munala (St. Catherine University), Guy Tshimanga (Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services), Kendra Pelz (Syneos Health/VBI Vaccines), Nikki Parkerson (Merck Vaccines), Shahnaz Jaleel (Asian Health Coalition), Monde Nyambe (Illinois Public Health Association), Umaima Khatun (NYC Department of Health), Agatha Adigwe (Multicultural AIDS Coalition), Stephanie Mihailescu (PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics & PA Immunization Coalition), Tory, Kim

3:00pm: Welcome and Updates:

- 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!
- The Conference on Liver Disease in Africa (COLDA) is coming up and is taking place from September 9th-11th. This conference is a great opportunity to learn more about what is happening internationally to prevent, treat, and ultimately eliminate hepatitis B in Africa and the African diaspora. Registration is open – [click here](#)!
- 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.
- The Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination will hold its fourth and final meeting on birth dose in Africa on **Thursday July 22nd from 8-11am EDT**. You can [register here](#) – all webinars are also recorded and available [on their website](#). These meetings are a great opportunity to learn more about this important issue and network with colleagues who are also working on this!
- My apologies for forgetting to bring this up at the meeting, but along these same lines, Dr. Gish also posed the question to the group: **"How do we advocate for HBV vaccination within 2 hours of birth? With the new data on HBV vaccine and use of TDF in 3rd trimester if HBV DNA over 200,000, we can eliminate the cost /need of HBIG and keep transmission to <1%."** Something to keep in mind and that we can certainly continue to discuss in the future!
- National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness (NAIRHHA) Day is coming up on September 9th. Over the past few months, we have been working to gain federal recognition for this day. We have met with Senator Dick Durbin's (IL) office, along with some partners who are constituents of his, and are planning to also meet with Senator Tammy Duckworth (also of Illinois). We will keep you updated as to what happens! Also, please stay tuned for more information on NAIRHHA Day events and activities as the date draws nearer!

- Finally, just a reminder that the CHIPO Vice Chair position remains open – if anyone is interested in this and would like to nominate someone (or yourself!) for this position, please reach out to beatrice.zovich@hepb.org or chari.cohen@hepb.org.

3:10 pm: Presentation: *A Mixed Methods Approach to Understanding Perceptions of Hepatitis B & Hepatocellular Carcinoma Among Ethnically Diverse Black Communities in South Florida.*

Presented By: *Dr. Patricia Jones, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Miami*

- Presentation slides are attached and please feel free to reach out with any questions!
- It is far more common for Black communities to be living with hepatitis B, compared to non-Hispanic/Latino whites. There are also significant racial differences in who receives treatment - people are often not diagnosed with hep B until they've been diagnosed with liver cancer. Black communities had the lowest survival rate for HCC. In fact, patients born in the Caribbean had only a 39% survival rate from HCC.
- A large and important part of the solution is educating providers. There is overall very low knowledge that birth place is a risk factor for hep B and that this question needs to be asked.
- There is hope and belief that the universal HBV screening recommendations that are anticipated to be approved and implemented by late 2021/early 2022 will help to improve screening rates among Haitian communities, as providers will theoretically be more informed and will not have to simply go off of risk categories.
- A lack of medical care access for Haitian communities does contribute to the shorter life expectancy from HCC diagnosis. Bringing care to the communities, as Dr. Jones has done with both screening and, in the near future, a mobile vaccine clinic, is helping to close this disparity.
- Follow up with linkage to care was not difficult in this study, since only a low number of participants tested positive for hep B, but with the growing availability of community-based healthcare services, this will continue to get easier and more convenient for community members as time goes on.
- Adjusting EHRs could potentially help providers have a reminder for hepatitis B screening. However, since many of these doctors are primary care providers and are already overwhelmed and usually understaffed, another reminder might not be the best way to go. Patient education is a really good step in this regard, since they can play a big role in reminding doctors that they need to be tested.
- There are different methods that are being utilized to bring information and awareness into the community, including through children, who convey information to their parents, politicians, and religious and other community leaders, among others.

3:40pm: Questions

4:00pm: Conclusion

Thanks so much for joining! Please keep us updated about research and programmatic updates and let us know if you'd like to present at the next meeting!

Next Coalition Call:

September 2021 – Exact Date and Format To Be Determined