



National Task Force on Hepatitis B

www.hepbtaskforce.org

Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 (every 4th Tuesday of the month)

Time: 3PM ET / 2PM CT / 1PM MT / 12PM PT / 10 AM Hawaii

Email: administrator@hepbtaskforce.org

Join Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84716815323?pwd=RWWJdUo4K0NmM1JCY0ZuYVBoWHBwQT09>

Meeting ID: 847 1681 5323

Passcode: 039758

One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,84716815323#,,,,*039758# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,84716815323#,,,,*039758# US (Chicago)

Attendance (at or after 3:05PM) are as follows:

Executive Board Members (Officers):

- Co-Chair: Danh Truong, MD, MPH**, Chair, Asian Pacific Health Foundation (San Diego, CA)
- Co-Chair: Richard So, MPH**, Executive Director, SF Hep B Free – Bay Area (San Francisco, CA)
- Secretary: Catherine Freeland, MPH**, Public Health Program Director, Hepatitis B Foundation (Doylestown, PA)
- Administrator (and notetaker): Amy Trang, PhD, MEd**, Founder and CEO, Social Capital Solutions (Chantilly, VA)

Regional Directors:

- Northeast Regional Director: Ruth Brogden, MPH**, Grants Manager, Center for Asian Health at Saint Barnabas Medical Center (Livingston, NJ)
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Director: Kate Lu, MSW, LCSW-C**, Clinic Director, CCACC-Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic (Gaithersburg, MD)
- Southeast Regional Director: Christina Meyers, MPH**, ORISE Fellow, CDC Division of Overdose Prevention (Atlanta, GA)
- Midwest Regional Director: Oyu Tumurtuya, PharmD**, Founder & President, Mongolian Community Health Network (Chicago, IL)
- South Midwest Regional Director: Stephen Fakoyejo, MD, MPH** Medical Resident, HCA Houston Healthcare West (Houston, TX)
- Western Regional Director: Thaddeus Pham**, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Hawaii State Department of Health (Honolulu, HI)

Student Representation

- Sandra Kong**, Stanford Team HBV (Stanford, California)

Board Advisors:

- Richard Andrews, MD, MPH, Board Advisor (Houston, TX)
- Moon Chen, PHD, MPH, Board Advisor (UC Davis; Sacramento, CA)
- Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH, Board Advisor (Hep B Foundation; Doylestown, PA)
- Robert Gish, MD, Board Advisor (Robert G. Gish Consultants; San Diego, CA)
- Lu-yu Hwang, MD, Board Advisory (Department of Epidemiology, University of Texas HSC; Houston, TX)
- Karen Jiobu, Board Advisor (Asian American Community Services; Columbus, OH)
- Amy Tang, MD, Board Advisor (North East Medical Services; San Francisco, CA)

General Members (open to all on listserv; please excuse any typos):

Total Number of attendees: 21

- ☑ Binh Tran, PharmD, APHF and Hep Free LA (Los Angeles, CA)
- ☑ Mutasem Shopon, CPACS (Atlanta, GA)
- ☑ CPACS Health (Atlanta, GA)
- ☑ Andrew Piotrowski, Health Program Manager, MAHA (Chicago, IL)
- ☑ Umaimah Khatun, NYC Health Department (New York, NY)
- ☑ Jeff Loi, Hepatitis B Coordinator, Santa Clara County (San Francisco, CA)
- ☑ Soo Yee, Korean American Outreach Group (DC metropolitan area)
- ☑ Lizzette Gutierrez, MPH, CHES, Common Spirit Health (Houston, TX)
- ☑ Mick Del Rosario, Program Manager, San Francisco Hep B Free – Bay Area (CA)
- ☑ Meg Chappell, MPH, Program Manager, Empire Liver Foundation (New York, NY)

Note: There may be some members missing from this list of attendees; please excuse any omission.

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome Task Force members (Richard So and Catherine Freeland)
- 2) Note any changes to previous meeting's notes
- 3) Highlights from AASLD (Dr. Robert Gish)
- 4) Highlights from Hep B United and TB Elimination Alliance Summit (Catherine)
- 5) Website discussion (Amy Trang)
- 6) Hepatitis B ECHO updates (Richard So and Catherine Freeland)
- 7) ACIP meeting update (Catherine Freeland)
- 8) 2022 Hep B Task Force meeting date / time change discussion (Amy Trang)
- 9) Regional Directors' Updates (all Regional Directors)
- 10) Other items (all members)

Notes:

- 1) Welcome: Introduction / Roll Call of Officers and Regional Directors (Amy Trang)
 - a) Opening remarks made by Richard So and Catherine Freeland
 - b) Members were asked to introduce themselves in the chat box
 - c) Recognize any new members on the call: none were recognized.
 - i) Amy recognized Mutasem Shopon from CPACS in the private chat.

- 2) Highlights from AASLD (Dr. Robert Gish)
 - a) AASLD liver meeting this year was from November 12-16 (digital experience; the in-person was cancelled)
 - i) You can still register and access materials until February 16, 2022: <https://www.aasld.org/the-liver-meeting>
 - ii) The online system was very efficient with very few glitches and provided for lots of interaction and engagement; direct Q&A opportunities
 - b) Two biggest topics: hepatitis B and fatty liver
 - i) Where we go next depends on the policy issues related to access and minimal monitoring, etc.
 - ii) The ACIP meeting decision to vaccinate all adults up to age 59 will also affect upcoming activities
 - (1) Hopefully, CDC will provide specific guidance before February

- c) Many new therapies were also discussed; the highlights:
 - i) Combination treatment [Dr. Gish predicts] may be the direction we're heading, i.e., 3 or 4 drug combinations and using immunomodulation as one of the pillars or cornerstones for future therapy
 - ii) Researchers need to recognize that patients are stopping drug treatment on their own; sometimes not even working with their providers to inform them; this is another hot topic for providers treating hep B patients
 - (1) Death in patients
 - (2) Clearing monitored or unmonitored patients
 - (3) Counseling patients, especially when they are starting new drugs for treatment
 - (4) If they're going to stop treatment, we need to closely monitor them every four weeks or at least three months, then every three months for at least to finish out the treatment; stopping at one year
 - iii) There are a couple of more HBV vaccines in the works, including a nasal vaccine
 - (1) Now that ACIP is recommending universal vaccination for adults, that's about 116 million people who may need to be vaccinated
 - iv) There's potentially an opportunity for the Task Force to lobby / advocate for removing barriers to testing as well.
 - v) Dr. Gish also discussed different types of drugs under the "pillar concept," but Amy will not include it in these notes to minimize liability issues for drug discussion among providers. Please contact Dr. Gish directly for follow-up discussions.
 - vi) Dr. Gish also candidly shared that investor money in pharma is needed to further research and progress in finding a cure and eliminating hepatitis by 2030.
 - vii) Catherine added that there were also a lot of patient forums at AASLD this year; they're getting better and better.
 - (1) They're going to continue to elevate village experiences of those living with hepatitis B more broadly, which is really exciting
 - (2) HBV ECHO Philadelphia had a poster session as well and received good feedback

3) Hep B United and TB Elimination Alliance Summit (Catherine Freeland)

- i) The first joint [Hep B United](#) and the [Tuberculosis \(TB\) Elimination Alliance](#) virtual summit took place November 2-3, 2021 from 7:30am - 11:15am HT / 10:30am - 2:15pm PT / 1:30pm - 5:15pm ET each day.
- ii) The theme of this year's summit is *Centering Community to Advance Health Equity*.
 - (1) The event included exciting sessions on community engagement and education strategies, data, parallel strategies for screening and testing, impacts of COVID-19, lived experiences, and advocacy efforts for both hepatitis B and TB elimination.
 - (2) Opportunities for networking and engaging with poster presenters and exhibitor booths
 - (3) The sessions looked at the impact of COVID-19 and the local innovative strategies and best practices for prevention and solutions to incorporate in screening, education, outreach, and holistic ways. For example:
 - (a) Incorporating education for EMT into wait times during the COVID vaccination 15-minute wait time; using the 15-minute wait time to incorporate education and screenings for hepatitis B; good and easy strategy to incorporate
 - (b) Incorporating data at the clinic level and looking at elimination strategies to leverage data; it was a more technical session

- (c) Looking at specific barriers to testing in the Pacific Islander community; a Just B storyteller from Hawaii shared his experience; a TB elimination alliance speaker shared their specific outreach strategies and testing
 - (i) Thaddeus shared the video link of Hawaii storyteller in the chat box: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AX2kZgt008A&t=3s>
- (d) Parallel testing and treatment strategies and maintenance; look specifically at federally qualified health centers (FQHC) and how they were able to incorporate both hepatitis B antibody testing within the same populations because they face similar risk factors associated with both
- (4) All involves overcoming a lot of challenges with the healthcare system
- iii) Great turnout. Agenda could be found: <https://tbeliminationalliance.org/resources/2021hepbunited-tbeliminationalliancesummit>
 - (1) Amy and Thaddeus commented on the great storytelling sessions
 - (a) they really help community health workers and providers understand the patient perspective and hesitation on learning about their health status and seeking treatment.
 - (b) Cost is definitely another big issue for patients.
- 4) Website discussion
 - a) Amy provided a quick demo of the website, which is now live: <https://hepbtaskforce.org>.
 - b) General positive feedback from members on the call.
- 5) Hepatitis B ECHO updates
 - a) CME credits have been approved by American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
 - i) All session dates for West Coast (San Francisco) and East Coast (Philadelphia) programs have been entered.
 - ii) Texas Heart Institute is managing CME credits for the Gulf Coast (Texas) program.
 - b) Still need to explore CE credits for pharmacists and social workers
 - c) Updates on HBV ECHO in San Francisco (Richard So)
 - i) The team has already mapped out the plan for their didactics for the next four or five months.
 - ii) Looking to explore and reach out to the Central Valley area to engage their participation; any help from other Task Force members are greatly welcomed; there's interest in provider participation, but most of the conflict is in the time commitment.
 - iii) They will be implementing an incentive for speakers moving forward to compensate for their time.
 - iv) Last session for 2021 was on Tuesday, **November 16, 2021 at 12:30PM Pacific Time**. Note: No December session.
 - v) West Coast hub: every 3rd Tuesday of the month
 - vi) For more information on upcoming session, registration is required. Register: <https://www.sfhepbfree.org/echo-program>
 - d) NEW: Hawaii has secured \$40,000 to start their own ECHO program; Thaddeus is not sure of the funding source
 - i) They are still in the planning process so no details of the sessions yet
 - ii) Looking to also include Pacific Island nations for this program
 - iii) This would be a good option for other regions where providers may want to participate after their normal clinic working hours.
 - e) Updates on HBV ECHO in Texas (Lizzette Gutierrez)

- i) Second session was held on Wednesday, **November 17, 2021 at 12PM Central Time.**
 - ii) HBV ECHO in Texas (Gulf Coast hub): every 3rd Wednesday of the month
 - iii) For more information on upcoming session, registration is required. To register to attend Project ECHO sessions in Texas, go to: <https://redcap.research.bcm.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=TCJ7WC74A7>
 - iv) This session is open to all regions, just need to register to get the link.
- f) Updates on HBV ECHO in Philadelphia (Catherine Freeland)
- i) No session in November because of Thanksgiving holiday; next session is Thursday, **December 16, 2021 at 12PM Eastern Time.**
 - ii) East Coast hub: every 4th Thursday of each month
 - iii) Register in advance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsc-mrqjMjEtZaabsz-qr5iRYvVjKq75ec>
 - iv) Also, see flyer at the end of the notes for 2022 session dates/time.
- g) Note: We are actively encouraging hepatitis ECHO participants to continue to share your real cases to engage others in the learning opportunity. All cases are welcome.
- 6) ACIP meeting update (Catherine Freeland):
- i) Vote passed on November 2, 2021; still waiting for more guidelines from CDC
 - ii) Universal HBV vaccination is now recommended for adults age 19 – 59.
- 7) 2022 Hep B Task Force meeting date / time change discussion (Amy Trang)
- a) Starting in January, the Task Force meetings will be on the 1st Wednesday of the month
 - b) The time remains the same 3PM Eastern Time / 2PM Central / 1PM Mountain / 12PM Pacific / 10 AM Hawaii
- 8) Regional Directors' Updates
- a) Student Representative (Sandra Kong):
 - i) Will meet with Amy offline to discuss the professional development, i.e. workforce development program opportunities
 - ii) Thaddeus, Catherine, and Amy brainstormed on ideas to have students put together a toolkit that would be easy to use for college students as they implement their programs in their schools; they key is to not reinvent the wheel; there's already a lot of stuff that Hep B Foundation has done that they could share.
 - b) Western Region (Thaddeus Pham): updates provided above
 - i) Dr. Binh Tran commended the Texas ECHO program for their resource map, i.e. map of the different populations in Houston; it's a great outreach tool to have
 - ii) Dr. Binh Tran is also waiting for the "I'll B There" toolkit from the Asian Health Foundation; she will provide feedback for everyone once APHF receives it and tests it.
 - c) Midwest Region (Oyu Tumurtuya): no updates
 - d) South Midwest Region (Stephen Fakoyejo): no updates
 - i) Dr. Richard Andrews is chairing the Houston Viral Hepatitis Task Force now and asked Chrsitina if she was aware of any funding opportunities from CDC to support local Viral Hepatitis Task Force efforts.
 - (1) There are none that we are aware of right now; Amy will also do further research
 - e) Northeast Region (Ruth Brogden): no updates
 - i) Umaima shared that NYC just released the 2020 annual report that consist of hepatitis A, B, and C surveillance data as well as programmatic data, including their coalition activities; link: <https://hepfree.nyc/hepatitis-a-b-and-c-in-new-york-city-2020-annual-report>

- f) Mid-Atlantic Region (Kate Lu): no updates
 - g) Southeast Region (Christina Meyers): no updates
- 9) Other items:
- a) Thaddeus shared in the chat box the abstract info for submitting to the World Hepatitis Summit in June 2022: <https://www.worldhepatitissummit.org/abstracts>
 - b) Amy will be testing new website features, including meeting registration features for next meeting. Check your Inboxes.
- 10) Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM Eastern Time.
- 11) Next Hep B Task Force Zoom meeting date: **Wednesday, January 5, 2021 at 3PM Eastern Time / 2PM Central / 1PM Mountain / 12PM Pacific / 10 AM Hawaii (1st Wednesday of each month).**
- i) Suggestions for the next agenda:
 - (1) Updates on the hepatitis B ECHO program (and its expansion)
 - (2) Discussion and strategic planning on how to promote HBV vaccination among providers
 - (3) Updates from states on their viral hepatitis elimination plans; share best practices and strategies for other coordinators
 - (4) Updates on HBV workforce development projects
 - ii) Meetings will be more like strategic discussions and resource sharing to assist members with their local work
 - (1) Amy will try to reach out to individual members ahead of time to coordinate discussion topics

Items shared via email:

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

join us!



HEPATITIS B ECHO

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CASE-BASED LEARNING SESSIONS BETWEEN
HEPATITIS B SPECIALISTS AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

REGISTER HERE!

bit.ly/3CD2SJr



**4TH THURSDAY OF
EVERY MONTH
12:00PM-1:00PM EST
FIRST SESSION:
JANUARY 27, 2022**

**DIDACTIC
TOPICS**

- *BASIC HEPATITIS B DIAGNOSTICS*
- *ACIP HBV VACCINATION GUIDELINES UPDATE*
- *HEPATITIS DELTA AND MORE!*

ABOUT PROJECT ECHO

THE ECHO MODEL IS A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PHYSICIAN EDUCATION MODEL USING PROVEN ADULT LEARNING TECHNIQUES AND INTERACTIVE VIDEO TECHNOLOGY, THE ECHO MODEL™ CONNECTS GROUPS OF COMMUNITY PROVIDERS WITH SPECIALISTS IN REGULAR REAL-TIME COLLABORATIVE SESSIONS. THE SESSIONS, DESIGNED AROUND CASE-BASED LEARNING AND MENTORSHIP, HELP LOCAL WORKERS GAIN THE EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES. EACH SESSION WILL INCLUDE 1 CASE DISCUSSION AND A SHORT 15 MINUTE DIDACTIC AIMED TO EMPOWER PROVIDERS TO EVALUATE, MONITOR, AND TREAT PATIENTS WITH HEPATITIS B IN THE PRIMARY CARE SETTING.

