



# National Task Force on Hepatitis B

www.hepbtaskforce.org

## Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 (every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month)

Time: 3PM ET / 2PM CT / 1PM MT / 12PM PT / 9 AM Hawaii

Email: [administrator@hepbtaskforce.org](mailto:administrator@hepbtaskforce.org)

Zoom Meeting registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcumtrTwqE9RkoJ1dyu9n7DUuTWD6mSvf>

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

#### **Executive Board Members (Officers):**

- Co-Chair: Carol Brosgart, MD** (San Francisco, 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**, Medical Student at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)

#### **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: 27**

- Julia Freimund, IDEA Program Manager, University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
- H. Nina Kim, MD, MSc, University of Washington, Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (Seattle WA)
- Maria Corcoran, MD, MPH, University of Washington, Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (Seattle WA)
- Binh Tran, PharmD, APHF and Hep Free LA (Los Angeles, CA)
- Maggi Li, Hepatitis B Program Coordinator, MAHA (Chicago, IL)
- Jing Zhang, Director of Community Health, MAHA (Chicago, IL)
- Mutasem Shopon, Health Program Coordinator, CPACS (Atlanta, GA)
- Vivian Ching, CPACS (Atlanta, GA)
- Zinnia Dong, NEMS (San Francisco, CA)
- Soo Yee, Korean American Outreach Group (Fairfax, VA)
- Becky Nguyen, Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation (Fountain Valley, CA)

- ☑ Thomas Rolain, Syneos Health /VBI Vaccines (Montreal, QC, Canada)
- ☑ Jacki Chen, PhD (New Jersey)
- ☑ Patricia Cerrato, Program Manager, Santa Clara County Health Department (Santa Clara, CA)
- ☑ Rene St. Vrain, Perinatal Hepatitis B Nurse Manager, City of St. Louis Department of Health (St. Louis, MO) Vivian Huang, Dynavax (Arizona)
- ☑ Kendra Pelz
- ☑ Lauren Meyers

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

## Agenda:

- 1) Welcome Task Force members
- 2) Note any changes to previous meeting's notes
- 3) Project updates:
  - a. HBV universal vaccination guidance promotion among providers
  - b. HBV ECHO program expansion
  - c. HBV workforce development projects
  - d. HBV elimination plan best practices among state Viral Hepatitis Coordinators
  - e. HBV work group on updating screening guidance
  - f. Upcoming trainings or resources
    - i. Hepatitis B Online training resource (University of Washington)
- 4) Action Plan discussion: Next steps?
  - a. Promoting and implementing AB7889 in California
- 5) Regional Updates (all Regional Directors)
  - a. Hepatitis Awareness Month – all of May
  - b. National Hepatitis Screening Day – May 19<sup>th</sup>
  - c. World Hepatitis Day – July 28<sup>th</sup>
- 6) Other items (all members)

## Meeting format:

- strategic discussions and resource sharing to assist members with their local work

## Notes:

- 1) Welcome: Introduction / Roll Call of Officers and Regional Directors (Amy Trang)
  - a) Opening remarks made by Dr. Carol Brosgart, MD
  - b) Members were asked to introduce themselves in the chat box
  - c) Recognize any new members on the call: see list of attendees above
- 2) Note any changes to previous meeting's notes: Note that the April 2022 meeting was cancelled to encourage members to participate in HAP on the Hill activities.
- 3) Project Updates
  - a) Note: Project updates were not discussed in order. We started the meeting with a presentation on "Hepatitis B Online" by the University of Washington.
  - b) HBV universal vaccination guidance promotion among providers (Catherine Freeland – Hep B Foundation)

- i) Dr. Carol Brosgart in her opening remarks discussed “universal screening” among adults 18 years and older. Screen for HBV before vaccinating.
    - (1) There’s currently in a public comment period for Hep B Screening / Testing recommendations, which is due by June 3, 2022. Click here for more information: [Federal Register Notice for Hepatitis B Screening and Testing Recs. | CDC](#).
      - (a) Share any current or potential barriers.
      - (b) Hep B United is also working on draft suggestions and will share that with coalition members when available; there will be a template created to make it easier for coalition members to customize their feedback.
    - (2) We encourage everyone to read the draft recommendations and provide public comments.
    - (3) Two purposes:
      - (a) Routine screening / testing to find cases to help people get linked to care
      - (b) Get all adults vaccinated against HBV
    - (4) This would also help encourage health insurance to cover these screenings if it is a recommended “routine” screening/testing.
  - ii) Dr. Vivian Huang shared in the chat box: “Universal hepatitis B screening information on the CDC website” <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/policy/isireview/HepBScreeningAndTesting.htm>
  - iii) Catherine shared information about the National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day (April 30<sup>th</sup>).
    - (1) For reference, see the Social Media Toolkit that was produced for the campaign: [Download here](#).
    - (2) There’s congressional legislation that passed to designate that this is National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day: [Text - H.Res.1072 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): Expressing support for the designation of April 30, 2022, as "National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day". | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)
  - iv) Here’s the link to the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) for [Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)
  - v) Hepatitis B Foundation is also taking the lead on the Hepatitis B Vaccine Advisory Council convening this summer that will look at HBV vaccination and screening recommendations and implementation planning; hopefully, there will be a White Paper or written recommendations on strategies moving forward.
- c) HBV ECHO program expansion (Amy Trang)
- i) All existing HBV ECHO programs are progressing well.
  - ii) In addition, the University of Washington has an active Hepatitis ECHO program; this includes both hepatitis B and C.
  - iii) The sessions are more for individuals in the state of Washington and focus on hepatitis B or C is driven by the program participants.
  - iv) The following additional information was shared by Julia Freimund via email after the meeting:
 

The University of Washington Project ECHO Viral Hepatitis meets every Tuesday, 12 – 1:30 PM Pacific Time. The longtime telemedicine clinic has limited spots so only physicians and staff members who treat patients with viral hepatitis AND who can regularly attend the sessions are invited to participate. Since the Washington State Department of Health funds the project, healthcare professionals based in Washington state are given priority. To discuss if this ECHO program would be a good fit or if other training or consult options would better suit your interests/schedules, please email Pam Landinez, [landinez@uw.edu](mailto:landinez@uw.edu).
- d) HBV workforce development projects (Sandra Kong and Thaddeus)
- i) Call for Opportunities for high school / college students
    - (1) Task Force member organizations and providers are being asked to provide any volunteer / internship opportunities that also have a “mentoring” component for high school / college students (public health, medical, or nursing students)
  - ii) See attached survey; please consider creating and sharing opportunities.
    - (1) SurveyLink: [tinyurl.com/hbvdevsurvey](https://tinyurl.com/hbvdevsurvey)

- e) HBV elimination plan best practices among state Viral Hepatitis Coordinators: no new updates
  - i) Review the Hep ElimINATION website for a National Evaluation of State’s Capacity for Viral Hepatitis Elimination: [Together We Can Eliminate Hepatitis by 2030 | Eliminate Hep](#). See how your state compares with others.
- f) HBV work group on updating screening guidance (University of Washington)
  - i) Julia Freimund indicated that the University of Washington may be convening a work group meeting in the near future to discuss this item since it relates to the materials on Hepatitis B Online as well as where the current simplified algorithm is shared.
- g) Upcoming trainings or resources (Amy Trang)
  - i) This was actually the first topic of discussion after opening remarks by the Co-Chair.
  - ii) More than half of the meeting was focused on learning about Hepatitis B Online and the learning resources available for continuing education credits.
  - iii) Julia Freimund shared that she’s the Program Manager for the Infectious Diseases Education and Assessment (IDEA) program at the University of Washington, Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. One of the programs that she oversees is the Hepatitis B Online program.
  - iv) Link: [Hepatitis B Online \(uw.edu\)](#)
  - v) Free CME credit and CNE/CE contact hours are offered throughout this site. Pharmacology CE for advanced practice nurses is also available for many activities.
  - vi) Dr. H. Nina Kim and Dr. Maria Corcorran are both associate editors of Hepatitis B Online and provided a demo of the site.
  - vii) Feedback from Task Force members:
    - (1) Generally positive feedback and comments from those on the call.
    - (2) Dr. Vivian Huang noted the updated information on the UWA HBV vaccination page
    - (3) Thaddeus commented on the clinical challenges vignettes as a valuable resource.
      - (a) Julia clarified that currently, there’s not a button on the website to add any vignettes or ideas for ones. Therefore, please email [support@hiv.uw.edu](mailto:support@hiv.uw.edu) to send your clinical challenges vignettes.
    - (4) Renee St. Vrain commented that this is also a good resource for public health workers.
    - (5) Dr. Stephen Fakoyejo suggested considerations for translated materials that providers could use when discussing hepatitis B with their patients.
      - (a) Dr. Vivian Huang suggested contacting Charles B Wang Clinic (New York) or NEMS clinic (San Francisco, CA) for Chinese language materials.
      - (b) Thaddeus provided the following link for in-language materials in the chat box: <https://www.hepfreehawaii.org/downloads>
      - (c) Other resources for in-language:
        - (i) You can also visit [Hepatitis B Foundation \(hepb.org\)](#) for Hepatitis B materials in 16 different languages
        - (ii) Know Hepatitis B Campaign is also available in multiple languages: [Materials about hepatitis B | CDC](#)

#### 4) Action Plan discussion: Next steps?

- a) Richard So needs help promoting and implementing AB7889 in California; details to follow when available
- b) Amy will work with Catherine offline on how best to approach the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

#### 5) Regional Updates

- a) Student Representative (Sandra Kong): provided above in Workforce Development project discussion.
- b) Western Region (Thaddeus Pham): shared via email (at end of notes)
- c) Midwest Region (Oyu Tumurtuya): no new updates

- d) South Midwest Region (Stephen Fakoyejo): no new updates
- e) Northeast Region (Ruth Brogden):
  - i) Dr. Jacki Chen inquired if other states are encountering a similar situation that his friend in Boston is having in regarding access to medication because of the cost and how much insurance would cover. Up until early this year, there hasn't been a problem with medication coverage. Now, it seems like we have to go to a specialty pharmacy to fill the prescription. In addition, he has received notice from the insurance company that they are going to terminate his coverage for this medication starting July 1, 2022. What can we do?
  - ii) Catherine explained that this issue has to do with drug tiering and unfortunately, hepatitis B has been affected causing the cost of medication to also increase. As this may differ from state to state, Catherine indicated that she could help connect or steer individuals towards the right direction on how to address the issue.
    - (1) One of the ways include contacting the state's Insurance Commissioner to report the specific issue.
    - (2) The other way is to contact the drug company to enroll in their patient assistance program.
    - (3) Also, programs like GoodRX has discount drug programs that could be explored.
    - (4) Costco and Sam's Club may also have discounted drugs as well.
    - (5) Resource on Hepatitis B Foundation's website:
      - (a) <https://www.hepb.org/treatment-and-management/patient-assistance-programs-in-the-u-s/>
      - (b) <https://www.hepb.org/resources-and-support/know-your-rights/us-access-to-medicine>
    - (6) This is an issue that Hepatitis B Foundation has actively been discussing with Congress to address.
  - iii) Dr. Richard Andrews elaborated on calling the state Insurance Commissioner; this something that should not be overlooked by patients and providers.
    - (1) A follow-up letter to the Commissioner should be written to explain the situation; this may include citing the American Disability Act.
    - (2) The health care provider should also be encouraged to write to the Commissioner to explain how this adversely affects their patients.
  - iv) Thaddeus suggested that the National Task Force could also contact National Association of Insurance Commissioners <https://content.naic.org>
    - (1) States where this is not happening yet should be aware of this situation; protect areas where it's not happening yet.
    - (2) Jacki appreciates everyone's input and resources hopes that the Task Force could do something with Hepatitis B Foundation to address this issue nationally so that others across the country will not be negatively affected.
    - (3) Dr. Richard Andrews commented that he would like to assist with writing that letter to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.
  - v) Maggi Li shared that MAHA has been helping patients with obtaining free hep b medication through Gilead's Support Path program.
- f) Mid-Atlantic Region (Kate Lu): no new updates
- g) Southeast Region (Christina Meyers): no new updates

6) Other items: (not discussed in the meeting)

- a) The National Task Force on Hepatitis B still does not have any new source of funding or support for 2022 activities; all initiatives are currently on a voluntary basis by all members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM Eastern Time.

- Next Hep B Task Force Zoom meeting date: **Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 3PM Eastern Time** /2PM Central /1PM Mountain/ 12PM Pacific / 10 AM Hawaii (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month).
  - Other dates in 2022: (no regular meetings in Jul and Aug), Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7
- Suggestions for the next agenda:
  - i) Follow-up on Action Plan discussed and progress of provider outreach efforts.

## **Upcoming HBV ECHO sessions:** Free CME

West Coast (SF Hep B Free Bay Area): [Hepatitis B ECHO Program \(sfhepbfree.org\)](http://sfhepbfree.org)

- Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month
  - 2022: May 17, Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 16, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15
- 12:30PM – 1:30PM PDT / 3:30PM – 4:30PM EDT / 9:30AM – 10:30AM HST
- To register, email: [ECHO@sfhepbfree-bayarea.org](mailto:ECHO@sfhepbfree-bayarea.org)

Gulf Coast (Texas Heart Institute with Baylor St. Luke Medical Center): [Project ECHO Interest Form \(bcm.edu\)](http://bcm.edu)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month
  - 2022: May 18, Jun 22, Jul 20, Aug 17, Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16
- 12:00PM to 1:00PM Central Time
- To register: [Project ECHO Interest Form \(bcm.edu\)](http://bcm.edu)

East Coast (Hep B United Philadelphia): Hepatitis B ECHO [Meeting Registration - Zoom](http://zoom.com)

- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month
  - 2022: May 26, Jun 23, Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 22, Oct 27
- 12:00PM – 1:00PM Eastern Time
- To register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](http://zoom.com)

## **Items shared via email:**

1. Dr. Moon Chen, PhD, MPH, UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, recently published a commentary in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, “Cancer burden facing Asian Americans partly caused by racism”: <https://health.ucdavis.edu/cancer/news/headlines/cancer-burden-facing-asian-americans-partly-caused-by-racism/2022/0>.
2. Please join us for a webinar featuring speaker Dr. Amy Tang, Director of Immigrant Health at Northeast Medical Services in San Francisco, CA, who will provide an overview of perinatal hepatitis B transmission and share the development of *Hep B Moms*, a program focused on education, prevention of transmission and care and treatment of pregnant persons living with hepatitis B.  
**Date : Thursday, May 5, 2022**  
**Time: 3:00 PM EDT**  
**Register at this link:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7mEtnmV2S-CI5z3U97f9mA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7mEtnmV2S-CI5z3U97f9mA)
3. The next monthly [Hep B State Advocacy Calls](http://hepb.org) is **Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET**.
4. **New Hepatitis B Vaccination Guidelines Webinar. Register Today!**  
The CDC updated the adult hepatitis B vaccination recommendations! In recognition of Hepatitis Awareness Month, on **Monday, May 23, 2-3:30pm EST** the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) will host a webinar on the federal implementation of these new guidelines.

As part of the [Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan](http://viralhepatitis.org), federal partners are working together to increase hepatitis B vaccination uptake in the United States. OIDP will be joined by a panel of federal leadership from across HHS to discuss how each agency plans to employ the new recommendations and encourage vaccination uptake.

Speakers will include representatives from:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Health Resources & Services Administration
- Indian Health Service

- Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy
  - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
5. Hepatitis B Foundation has compiled a [Hepatitis Awareness Month Events Guide](#) which highlights partner events taking place this month. For more information, contact: **Shreya Koirala (she/her/hers)**, *Public Health Program Coordinator, Hepatitis B Foundation* at [shreya.koirala@hepb.org](mailto:shreya.koirala@hepb.org).

6. **Updates from APHF:**

APHF had 3 in-person events where we provided Hep B and Hep C screenings along with the customary tests:

- 1) at the MEMO (Medical, Educational Missions and Outreach) on 3/5;
- 2) with the San Diego Lions Club Chapters on 3/19/22; and
- 3) at AMSA (American Medical Students Association) outreach on 4/9/22 near the South border of San Diego.

Challenges:

The outreach event planned for Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church on May 1 was canceled due to insufficient staff who are available on that day.

Other comments:

- Binh Tran attended the meetings of the Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership (HAP) for the 2022 Policy and Advocacy Summit and the virtual Hill Day on 4/11/22.
- She attended also most Sessions from Hep B ECHO West, East and Texas region; and presentations from Hep B United Coalition such as Hep B Outreach among South Asian Communities on 4/13/22.
- Scott Suckow at The Liver Coalition of San Diego will hold their Annual Liver Walk through Seven Bridges in San Diego distinctive neighborhoods on July 16, 2022. Scott has graciously enlisted Asian Pacific Health Foundation as partner, so please register at [Seize the Moment - San Diego Liver Walk 2022 \(sdliverwalk.org\)](#) and support APHF for 20+ years of Hepatitis B and C work in the Community. APHF Team Page: <https://www.sdliverwalk.org/teams/asian-pacific-health-foundation>



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# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

## NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON HEP B

The task force is creating professional development programming to provide 1:1 mentorship, support, and training for all interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field, with a special focus on hepatitis and liver cancer. Please complete the survey below by 5/15/22 to share summer opportunities.

**SURVEY LINK: [TINYURL.COM/HBVDEVSURVEY](https://tinyurl.com/HBVDEVSURVEY)**

**DEADLINE: 5/15/22**

