



**Coalition for a TB-free California  
Conference Call Summary  
July 29, 2021**

**Review of recent coalition activities:**

We sent TB information (including district specific statistics) to health staff from the office of all California Members of Congress. We also asked the Members to join the Bipartisan TB Elimination Caucus. We have not yet received responses; however, we know that they are extremely busy. We received advice from AAPCHO's policy director (who used to be a Congressional staffer) that while emails are helpful, the best way to communicate is through the phone or a meeting. This allows constituents to develop a relationship with the office. Especially effective are meetings with the district staff. We will discuss this further on our next call.

We wrote and disseminated a statement applauding President Biden's establishment of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. We highlighted the disproportionate impact of TB on AANHPIs and urged the Initiative to play a leadership role within the Biden Administration to develop and implement a TB elimination strategy.

**Current coalition requests:**

*DACA:*

We have been asked to write and disseminate a statement about the federal ruling on DACA and its likely harmful impact on communities at risk for TB. On the call, the coalition agreed unanimously. Ryan will draft a statement and send to the coalition for review/feedback.

*Olive View Medical Center:*

The Emphysema Foundation of America is asking for co-signers to a letter urging the preservation of specialty TB care at the Olive View Medical Center in L.A.

These two potential actions are great examples of different kinds of action our coalition may want to take. Like the last two actions, sharing TB information with the CA delegation and applauding the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, some actions are opportunities to simply restate facts about TB in California and highlight those groups disproportionately impacted by this still life threatening and preventable, airborne infectious disease.

However, the request to take action to preserve the TB specialty unit at the Olive View Medical Center by the Emphysema Foundation of America is more of a direct advocacy action. While CTCA staff can provide technical assistance and support to the coalition, we need to be clear about who is requesting and taking this action.

To this end, we propose the following processes for the different actions requested of the coalition:

1. Information sharing opportunities can have a simple opting out process, where members are sent the action being taken and can raise concern about or opt out of the action by the deadline.
2. Advocacy actions will require a simple majority of members opting in. Members replying in favor of taking an action by the deadline given will be counted toward the simple majority.

**TB Elimination Plan:**

*Coalition response:*

We agreed to assist with the dissemination of the TB plan and to use the opportunity to educate decisionmakers, the media, and the general public about the epidemic and potential to eliminate TB in California.

We will issue a press release upon the plan's release. We will also send the plan to health staff from our elected representatives' office. Ryan will send additional information through the listserv.

### *Summary discussion:*

Many coalition members have not yet had a chance to read through the Executive Summary. We had an initial discussion, with the following comments:

1. Some noted that there is not mention of TB and the criminal justice system and TB among people who use drugs.
2. Cost-sharing (diagnostics and treatment) is a major issue for people with TB and those at risk for infection. We can't eliminate TB without addressing cost-sharing and removing that barrier. It was suggested that the coalition develop a blueprint around cost-sharing that can be used to educate decision makers about the issue.

### **Follow Up:**

To address concerns of coalition members voiced on this call, can we create TB Fact Sheets for vulnerable populations not prioritized in the plan, but specifically of concern to coalition members, e.g. people who use drugs and people in the criminal justice system?

### **Next steps:**

The coalition will reconvene in a month. By that time, the full plan should be released and we will have time to review it in advance and engage in a discussion about potential coalition activities that we can to support public health partners and to advance the recommendations in the plan.

Ryan will poll for the next call. We will also identify a date/time for a regular monthly call.

Ryan will draft a media release with three key messages from the plan for comment from CTC members.

Ryan will draft and circulate the DACA and Olive View Medical Center letters highlighting the different proposed processes for the different kinds of potential coalition actions.