



**Coalition for a TB-free California**  
**August 31, 2021**  
**Call Summary**

**Recap of activities since last call:**

Emailing staff from the California Congressional delegation's offices, no responses. We have learned email is useful but only after having meetings (virtual or in person) establishing a relationship. It can be particularly useful to have meetings with district offices. Would coalition members like to schedule virtual meetings with elected officials about TB in California? This will be discussed on the next call.

E-votes received establishing procedures for addressing coalition requests (details below).

Recent federal DACA ruling statement supported by most coalition members (voting members). This has been finalized and disseminated.

We are preparing to respond to the release of the updated California TB Elimination Plan. We plan to issue a press release and promote through social media.

Note: on future calls, we will have discussion on each pending activity for the purpose of identifying next steps and building momentum in prioritized areas of action.

**Coalition requests:**

Coalition members voted on 4 items. Three of them were approved and one was not.

**Voting item #1:** TB information sharing only opportunities will have a process where members are alerted to a planned action and given a deadline by which to state concerns or opt out of the action (for example, not being listed on a coalition document). If a simple majority has not opted out of an action, the action will be taken.

15 organizations were eligible to vote; 8 voted yes with 1 abstention. The item is approved.

**Voting item #2:** Advocacy/Lobbying actions will have a clear process where a simple majority of members vote in favor of taking a stated action by a deadline given, or a “no difference” action, e.g., a sign on deadline is missed, so a “no difference” action is taken on behalf of the coalition.

15 organizations were eligible to vote; 8 voted yes with 1 abstention. The item is approved.

**Voting item #3:** DACA ruling statement.

15 organizations were eligible to vote; 9 voted yes. The item is approved and the statement will be disseminated.

**Voting item #4:** Olive View TB Specialist Unit.

15 organizations were eligible to vote. 7 voted yes with 2 abstentions. This item will not move forward. If anyone has additional information about the issue related to the TB unit at Olive View and would like the coalition to reconsider, please contact Ryan.

#### **Coalition members/partners:**

Who is considered a voting member and who is a partner? National organizations in the coalition may not be comfortable voting on local/state issues, and staff of tuberculosis programs in public health departments may not be able to engage in. We discussed this on the call and agreed on the following:

- A member is a community organization based in California. They should have the ability to be listed on coalition documents and letters. They should have a website or other online presence that can be linked to from the coalition webpage. They are eligible to vote on coalition items.
- A partner is a non-voting participant in the coalition. They are vital components of the coalition, and their full participation and input is encouraged. Partners include public health departments, national organizations, and state or local organizations/coalitions outside of California.
- We need to determine membership role of individuals.

#### **Discussion: coalition activities**

We held an open discussion about potential activities that the coalition can start working on. The following were discussed:

1. Address the problem of co-pays and other cost-sharing of TB tests and treatment in Medi-Cal and private insurance.

2. Potentially meet with TB industry partners to discuss #1.
3. Potentially meet with Medi-Cal to discuss #1.
4. Develop a fact sheet/blueprint on co-pays/cost-sharing.
5. Submit comments on proposed CMS regulation re: tele-health.

Next steps:

1. The California plan is expected to be released in mid-September.
2. Ryan will poll for the next call and will work on scheduling a regular monthly day/time for our coalition calls.
3. Identify potential new coalition members: who are we missing?
4. Disseminate DACA statement.