



**Coalition for a TB-free California Call**  
**Thursday, May 6, 2021**  
**Notes**

**Background:**

The California TB Controllers Association is funded by the state's TB control program to facilitate partnerships between local health programs and the state control branch. Judith Thigpen is CTCA's executive administrator.

In 2015, the first California statewide TB elimination plan was developed with partners and public health to provide a road map toward elimination. That plan ended in 2020. A new plan will be released in June, 2021. We hope that on the coalition's next call, we can work through the new plan and determine how we might work on and support the various recommendations together.

The Coalition for a TB-free California came out of the first elimination plan and was launched in 2015. In actuality, the only strong community partner was BREATHE LA. The coalition mainly focused on outreach and education. This is the right time to refocus the coalition and grown/strengthen our partnerships.

**Discussion/Brainstorming/Questions:**

- Look at probable increases in active cases from people who are out of care and at mini-outbreaks. We need to ensure the community is aware that TB is endemic and why it is so important to be screened.
- Will any pauses from foundation funding from Gates Foundation harm domestic TB programs?

- Consider engaging in media advocacy in addition to direct/grassroots advocacy. When we get our cause in front of the right people, great things can happen.
- Recognize restrictions that TB controllers face in coalition activities, especially advocacy. However, controllers can engage fully in advocacy as individuals.
- What are our needs around education materials (pamphlets/flyers)? It would be good to have materials for community events, especially where there is already hepatitis B outreach happening. We do have materials that have been created by TB Free California and are available for download:  
[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB\\_Community\\_Resources.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/TB_Community_Resources.aspx).
- In San Francisco, there's a coalition of organizations that serve predominately the Chinese community that has been hosting weekly "fireside chats" with medical updates on COVID-19. We could expand on this and include TB education and public awareness.
- SF Hep B Free has a Project ECHO program for providing hepatitis B information and support to PCPs and other providers. Last month, they focused on TB because of the impact on similar populations. There is potential to double up future segments with TB and hepatitis B through Project ECHO. The hook to secure participation is providing CMEs. SF Hep B Free could help provide the platform. We could have a series, including having someone from the state give an update and providing some case presentations.
- Explore opportunities to educate providers, particularly where there are intersections, such as TB and diabetes, TB and undocumented immigrants, etc.
- Explore gaps in health coverage in California and how that impacts access to TB screening, linkage to care, and treatment.
- Look at how to collect meaningful data, having standardized TB data collection to develop quality intervention strategies.
- How does TB impact unhoused populations, including people who use drugs?
- Identify strategies to integrate TB into HIV, HCV, and COVID-19 programs.
- What are the current practices and policies around TB education, testing, treatment in jails and CDCR and among those who move in and out of the criminal justice system? There could be a lot for us to do in this area.

**Next steps:**

- The coalition will disseminate TB information to the California Congressional delegation as a way to educate them and their health staff on the impact of TB on the state, their district, and at risk communities. Ryan will send draft messaging to the coalition for feedback.
- Our next call will focus on the new state elimination plan. Once we know the date of the plan's release, we will poll for a call.
- Ryan will develop a google group listserv for us to communicate effectively.
- Outreach is needed to bring in new partners. If you have any ideas on potential partners, please connect them with Ryan.

**Current Partners/Potential Partners:**

(includes organizations that registered for the webinar, participated in this call, and/or Ryan has had initial conversations with):

- Asian American Drug Abuse Program
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles
- Asian Pacific Islander Health Forum
- Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
- Breathe California
- Bridging Group (Corrections/health care advocacy)
- California Black Health Network
- California Hepatitis Alliance
- San Francisco AIDS Foundation (Hepatitis C Program)
- San Francisco AIDS Foundation (Latino Health Program)
- San Francisco Hep B Free
- Urban Street Angels