

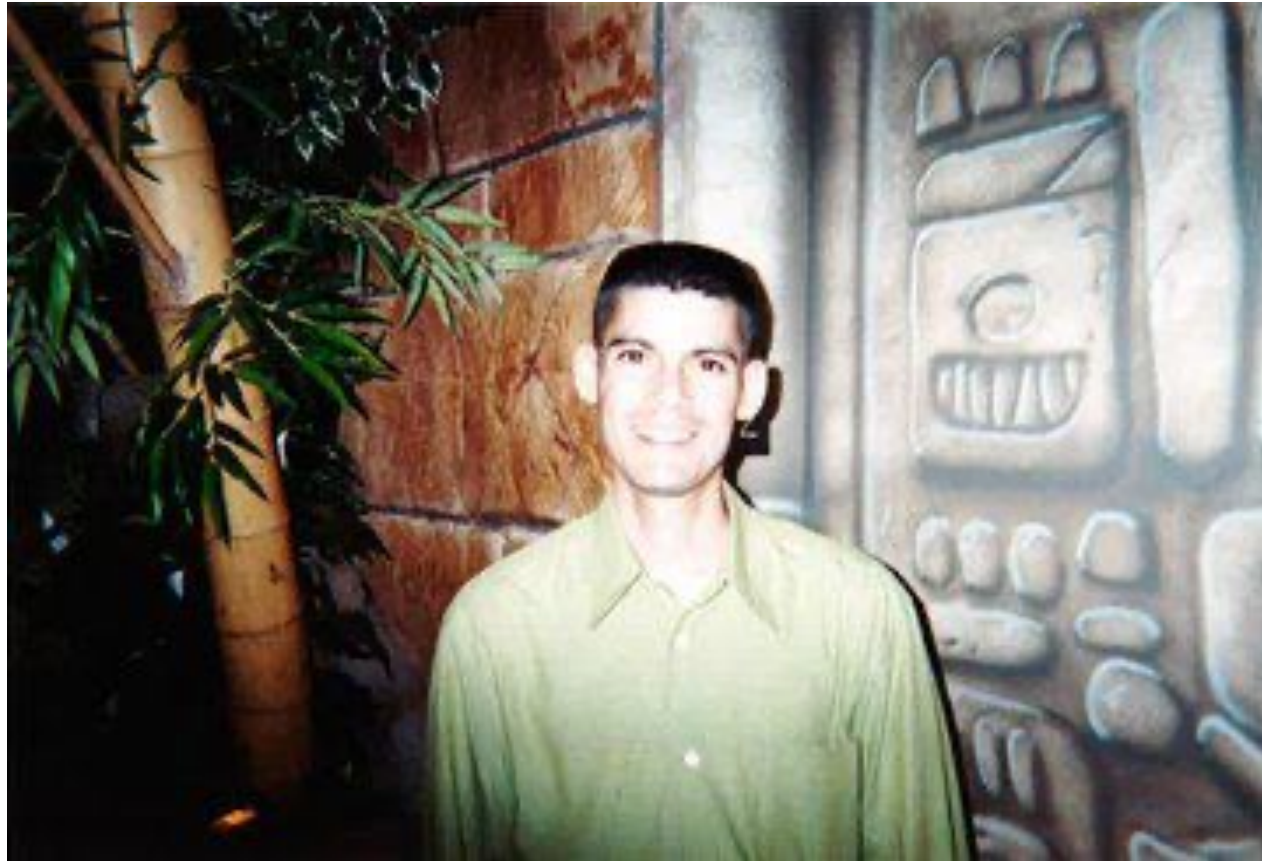
Mobilizing Communities to End Hepatitis B and TB



Affiliations

- End the Epidemics California
- San Diego Liver Coalition
- American Liver Foundation
- Hepatitis C Task Force for Los Angeles County
- Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group
- California TB Controllers Association
- Hep B United
- **Today, I speak on behalf of myself**

Gil Turner, 1968-2001



Hepatitis B and TB

- Impacted communities
- Stigma
- Other infectious diseases receive more attention
- Lack of sufficient funding at all levels
- Lack of attention/understanding of diseases
- Small but mighty advocacy community
- Possibility of elimination

Challenges Create Opportunities!

- Testing guidelines
 - Need updating/expansion?
 - Implementation
- Treatment access
- Partner with FQHCs, etc. to expand testing/treatment
- Develop strong partnerships with public health
- Identify policy strategies
(funding/legislation/administrative changes)

Effective Advocacy Strategies

- Engagement/leadership among people with lived experience
- Personal stories
- Relationships with elected officials/staff
- Secure champions – who has been impacted?
- Connect to existing coalitions/resources
- Don't recreate the wheel
- Develop partnerships, leverage strengths

One Model: End the Epidemics

Mission:

End the Epidemics advocates for anti-racist policies and funding priorities to eliminate health inequities among Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) while working collaboratively to end the syndemic of HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and overdose in California.

One Model: End the Epidemics

- Founded in April 2018
- Centering of racial justice
- Initially covered HIV/HCV/STIs
- Added hepatitis B and overdose in 2020
- Initial goal: Urge the governor to convene a state level, cross department, and community driven task force to develop a strategic approach to end the epidemics
- Current focus: budget/legislative/administrative advocacy, community engagement

SYNDEMIC

“A situation in which two or more interrelated biological factors work together to make a disease or health crisis worse. It is increasingly used in the context of the social determinants of health that drive syndemics”

- HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis, and overdose disproportionately impact many of the same communities
- Having an STI increases the likelihood of acquiring HIV
- HCV progresses faster and more than triples the risk for liver disease among people coinfecting with HIV and HCV
- Epidemics are driven by similar social and economic conditions
- Allows people to be treated as a whole person
- **Does TB fit here?**

EtE Impact: Public Policy

- Budget:
 - Increased funding for HCV, HIV, STIs, harm reduction services
- Administrative:
 - Partnered with California Department of Public Health re: integrated plan (HIV, HCV, STIs)
 - Increased access to quality care through Medi-Cal
 - Expanded treatment access (including substance use disorder) to those in state prisons.
- Legislation:
 - SB 258: Aging & HIV Act
 - AB 789: Mandatory HBV/HCV testing offer
 - SB 306: Expansion of STI services
 - AB 1344: Reduce barriers to syringe services programs

EtE Impact: Community Engagement & Leadership Development

- Coalition member input to policy and advocacy priorities
- Town Hall meetings
- Recruited new leaders through Day of Action
- Grassroots actions: petitions, district visits, etc.
- Informal networking/social opportunities

EtE Impact: Racial Justice

- Working Group (meets twice per month)
- Restructuring to ensure 50% BIPOC leadership at all levels
- Examine all policy/advocacy strategies and other activities through the racial justice lens
- Racial justice checklist
- Racial justice trainings

Community-Led Advocacy Success: AB 789

- Recently signed California legislation mandating HBV/HCV testing offer in primary care
- Community driven advocacy campaign led by Asian Liver Center
- Secured funding for lobbyist
- Identified legislative sponsors and champions
- Organized broad community support
- Provided communication/action opportunities at key moments in the process
- Next step: implementation
- Demonstrates the strength of community advocacy from vision to implementation

Thank You!

Ryan Clary

clarystrategies@gmail.com

323-810-6184