

# Cuyahoga Regional HIV / AIDS Health Services Planning Council

Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties

Naimah O'Neal – Co-Chair



## Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

### Minutes

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Start: 12:09 am      End: 1:04 pm      Facilitating Co-chair: N. O'Neal

### Moment of Silence

### Welcome and Introductions

### Approval of Agenda: August 5, 2020

Motion: C. Droster      Seconded: F. Ross

In Favor: All    Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0

### Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -*Outstanding-pending approval*

Motion:      Seconded:

In favor:      Opposed:      Abstained:

### New/Old Business

#### Review Committee's Work Plan for Progress

The CLC work plans are as follows:

1. Create a Planning Council Consumer Outreach Presentation – This item is on hold, discussions are ongoing about options because of COVID.
2. Create & Conduct Education Sessions to provide information about the Ryan White Services – This item to be further looked into as the committee is not aware of anything being brought to the table regarding this.
3. Plan 2 Community Forums (to provide Consumer input for PSRA) – The previously scheduled April forum was cancelled, due to COVID. The committee discussed several possibilities for future forums. One suggestion was to have a virtual community forum for some time next year, although some members felt that may be restrictive for those without computer access. PC committee members from Lorain County informed the group that there will be an outside support group meeting being held there on August 25 at 1:00 p.m., and that they might consider that type of venue to conduct the forums. It was mentioned that an outside venue could be a good idea because people can wear masks and have social distancing. The downside to an outdoor venue was not knowing how big the meeting would be and that the fall allergy, temperature changing weather may not be ideal for a September forum, as there could be harmful risks to people who may already be immune-compromised. The committee also discussed room accommodations that would support an indoor venue and that Mercy Health's large hospital room may be a possibility. The committee also expressed safety concerns, which may cause barriers for people wanting to attend, such as the need to maintain adequate spacing to control the environment, possibly renting a pavilion to control flow of traffic, as well

## **Cuyahoga Regional HIV / AIDS Health Services Planning Council**

*Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties*

**Naimah O'Neal – Co-Chair**



as taking precautions to ensure more safety even more like taking temperatures, as an additional threshold of protection.

Members agreed to further explore all the options discussed and provide feedback to the group in September. However, all agreed that the Lorain event could be a starting point/model on how to set up future forums. The CLC Co-chair advised the committee to remember that nothing is going to be normal again, and that everyone must be open minded to new ideas, allow for everyone to have an opinion and the chance to voice their ideas. The final unanimous decision by the committee was to table a community forum for now and reschedule for next year.

4. Identify & Plan a List of Capacity Building Training Activities for CLC Members - TBD
5. Monitor Committee Work Plan for Compliance – ongoing
6. Assist with Statewide Needs Assessment – ongoing
7. CLC conducted presentations at Planning Council - TBD
8. Community-based strategies for successful community forum – Discussed in #3
9. Create a Workgroup for U=U Strategies around Improving Health Outcomes - TBD
10. Quarterly Progress Report for Compliance with Committee Work Plan - TBD
11. Prepare 2021 Committee Work Plan – Planned for November 2020

### **Committee Work Planning Strategy Session**

Members will continue ongoing ways to collect consumer HIV service related needs assessment data.

### **Develop Housing Survey for outlying counties & Dissemination Plan**

This discussion was ways to develop a survey regarding issues PLWH/A may be having with housing. Listed are some of the questions and comments.

*\*Question:* What should be the focus on this survey?

*\*Comment:* The Survey should give options to choose what they want rather than a limited check box reply.

*\*Question:* What does stable housing mean to you?

*\*Comment:* That varies for everyone.

*\*Question:* Do you prefer housing with utilities included, or just housing and what are the barriers preventing you from getting housing?

*\*Comment:* Some people legitimately don't know how to find a house, may not have a job, and don't know who to turn to ask these questions.

*\*Question:* Do you have barriers to seeking housing; do you need assistance searching, also, what about vouchers; are they available- can they help?

## **Cuyahoga Regional HIV / AIDS Health Services Planning Council**

*Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties*

**Naimah O'Neal – Co-Chair**



**T. Marbury** – Safe housing, whatever that means, knowing if the housing is safe, if the structure is safe, or in an area that's safe or conducive for lifestyle. For instance, if you are having dependency issues, is the area you live in conducive for your sobriety?

**C. Droster** – maybe include questions on purchasing a house, as it is now easier and cheaper to buy, but it also has drawbacks. The downside to buying is there are few, if any, homeowner mortgage assistance options for help with mortgage payments, and no forgiveness at all for mortgage payments. Renters, however, have a variety of services available to assist with rent payments.

**B. Jones** – Another question to consider is do you know your rights as a tenant and about safe housing rules? From the view of some case managers, safe housing could be considered as one thing, like utilities, appliances, stoves, and etc., whereas our interpretation may be different and many clients may be confused by that. HRSA's definition is also different. In addition, having a voucher may make it hard to find places that accept vouchers. The term "safe housing" in general, may confuse things. Maybe a briefing in housing terminology may help.

**L. Lovett** – When first going through the housing situation, a lot of things were not understandable. The questions need to be simple, like do you have stable housing, so it covers everything. Then, you can give a checklist to check off specifics. How hard is that?

**N. O'Neal** - Vouchers and Section 8 applicants get a bad rap, people get ideas, same way with renting housing, because some people badly damage rental properties, and homeowners are hesitant to rent their properties.

**K. Dennis** – In the option portion, consider leaving a space for "other" for some things that may not be listed but may need to be put down and addressed.

In addition, the committee was advised to think about housing and PLWHA falling behind on bills during this time. There has always been a need and it is getting worse due to the epidemic. The facilitator will compile all the questions and comments from the discussion and develop a draft survey that will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### **Review & Update Consumer Mini-Outreach Survey**

The committee agreed to look at revisiting questions to format based on data from surveys on how we prioritize services are not funded, however, the list will be expanded to include funded and non-funded services. It was noted that, due COVID-19, there are different barriers affecting that. Some people are hesitant getting on public transportation and it's really scary for people, right now. The way we access services is different due to the new normal, so we need to add things because priorities are going to change in any given day.

### **Parking Lot Items**

Discuss Rescheduling Lorain County Community Forum – done.

### **Standing Business**

## Cuyahoga Regional HIV / AIDS Health Services Planning Council

*Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties*

**Naimah O’Neal – Co-Chair**



Agree on CLC Committee work activity (if any) to be reported at Executive & Planning Council meetings.

The committee will report the discussion on the community forum, outlying the decision they are considering.

### **Announcements**

**N. O’Neal** – Regarding an article that was sent out, a Zoom meeting will be held to discuss drafting a petition to the mayor of Cleveland regarding the article which affects Cuyahoga county, but is for anyone interested in joining, as advocated from everywhere are needed. This would be a voluntary and independent endeavor, with no ties to the Planning Council body, itself.

**M. Rodrigo** - A flyer, announcing two listening sessions, for the CSU Peer Worker Certification Project will be sent out to all PC members, affiliates, and providers. This certification training is to be a building block for the peer program and also could be a work force initiative as well. CSU is leading the program and it will be HIV specific with and HIV curriculum. The facilitator will forward the info to all PC following today’s meetings.

**B. Jones** – The Sankofa Initiative will be hosting an outdoor event at the Ridough Green Space on August 22, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with lunch and dinner. For more details, contact Bryan Jones at (216) 640-3404.

**Adjournment:** Motion: N. O’Neal    Seconded:    F. Ross

	CLC Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June PSRA	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	Naimah O'Neal Co-chair	20	20	20			20	20			
2	Co-chair	0	0	0			0	0			
3	Tina Marbury	20	20	20			20	20			
4	Stephanice Washington	20	0	0			0	0			
5	Faith Ross	20	20	20			20	20			
6	LeAnder Lovett	0	0	0			0	20			
7	William Simpson	0	0	0			0	0			
	<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>			

PC Members/Attendees: K. Dennis, C. Barnett, C. Droster, B. Gayheart, B. Jones

Staff: S. Harris, M. Rodrigo, T. Mallory

Guests: 0