

Cuyahoga Regional HIV Health Services Planning Council

Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties
Kimberlin Dennis, Merle Gordon, Terry Allan Co-Chairs



Planning Council Minutes

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Start: 5:36 pm **End:** 7:03 pm **Facilitating Co-chair: M. Gordon**

Moment of Silence

Facilitating Planning Council Co-chair, Merle Gordon, invited all to share in a moment of silence, in remembrance and celebration on the 30-year anniversary of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (Ryan White Care Act). This Act, which was signed into law on August 18, 1990 by the United States Congress, is the largest federally funded program in the country for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Welcome and Introductions

PC Co-chair, M. Gordon, re-introduced Planning Council attendee, LaRaun Clayton to the committee. LaRaun is the newly appointed Program Manager for the HIV Program at the Cleveland Department of Public Health.

Public Comment Opportunity (agenda items only) 5 minutes

Planning Council Co-chair, Terry Allan, shared exciting news on the recent promotion of Melissa Rodrigo to the position of Deputy Director of Prevention and Wellness for Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Everyone extended congratulations and best wishes for her success.

Approval of Agenda: August 19, 2020

A motion was made to amend the agenda to include Part B updates from Susan DiCocco.

Motion: To amend the agenda to add Part B updates.

Motion: T. Marbury Seconded: C. Nicholls

VOTE: In Favor: All Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 20th and February 19, 2020

Motion: C. Droster Seconded: K. Dennis

VOTE: In Favor: All Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Motion carried.

COVID Update - T. Allan

COVID has affected us all in many different ways. As of today, Cuyahoga County is reporting 14,585 new cases, almost 2,300 hospitalizations, and 542 deaths. However, we are happy to say there have been 12,119 people that have recovered. That news is nice to hear but we must keep in mind that this is still a major pandemic. Since the beginning, a public health advisory

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tracking system was put in place for Cuyahoga with Cleveland and surrounding counties, that looks at transmission levels via Color Codes Level Public Emergency:

- **Yellow**, lowest, (*Level-1: active exposure & spread*)
- **Orange**, (*Level-2: Increased exposure & spread, Exercise high degree of caution*)
- **Red**, (*Level-3: Very high exposure & spread. Limit activities as much as possible*).
- **Purple**, highest, (*Level-4, Severe exposure & spread. Only leave home for supplies and services*).

The advisory also looks at hospital beds and ventilators, among indicators of exposure. Members were reminded that masks work to help reduce the spread and prevent exposure, along with 6 feet of distancing, washing your hands & cleaning frequently, and other methods that are all important prevention components. We also know many affected, not just here, but also abroad, so this is an international issue. We are currently working with MetroHealth, through funding from the County Executive Office to provide testing. The testing is free and is conducted at local churches; however, you must sign up in advance. Ohio National Guard may provide additional funding. More details can be found on CCBH's Facebook page. As the flu season is around the corner and many people may become susceptible to more viruses, it may be helpful to consider a flu shot, as well as making sure to use masks. There are currently vaccine developments in the making that will provide relief from this virus, and they are thinking that sometime in the spring a vaccine will be validated and made available to the public. There may perhaps be new therapeutics & other treatments that become available, similar to Tamiflu and other therapies already in place to treat immune illnesses that could work for treating for COVID, as well. For now, we will just have to stick it out and remain vigilant as we work through the upcoming winter and spring seasons.

COVID Update - M. Gordon

There are now some pop-up testing sites in Lorain County and Youngstown that the state has been sending out. Details of these can be found at coronavirus.ohio.gov. While we are currently reaching high numbers, those numbers only reflect people that have been tested. Everyone is encouraged to remember, we are all in this together, all need one another, and that we need to make sure we are thinking together towards addressing all the needs in our community, moving forward with this virus.

*Question: Regarding everyone being in this together, this is not really the case, COVID seems to be most affecting black people and those with low access to health care.

*Response: This all goes to underscore what is going on and it illuminates the disparities of those disproportionately affected. We must look at what we want to be and work toward building a more equitable community, as that relates to how public health is critical to our community. It may be helpful for people to contact their local and state health boards and offer ideas and suggestions on ways to improve COVID efforts. Additionally, information will be provided to the committee on COVID symptoms and updates, testing locations, and available resources.

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***Question:** Regarding free testing and the issue of accuracy. Is it genotype or antibody testing?

***Response:** B. Gripshover, MD - Testing done through MetroHealth is performed using swabs that go deep into the nose. These tests are considered gold standard genetic tests, detecting virus material, with quick turnaround. There is also pop-up site testing, which tests are done going into the inner nasal, but not in the throat. However, these tests also tend to stay positive for a longer time, so it is recommended to go on symptoms rather than tests, with two days before and two days after being the most susceptible. The major symptoms of COVID are fever & chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, new loss of taste and smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

***Response:** B. Gripshover, MD - For antibody testing, if you had flu-like symptoms, not allergy symptoms, you might want to be tested for antibodies. However, there are some estimates that while 40% of people may be asymptomatic, (*not have symptoms*), they still may transmit the virus to others.

In summary, with less than 10% of the population being exposed, we know that a wave is coming and that we have a long road ahead. The chair asked that everyone just look out for each other and be kind, and that for now, all planning council meetings will remain virtual and/or audio based. There will be no in-person planning council meetings conducted in the foreseeable future.

Grantee Report – M. Rodrigo

Grantee Report - August 2020 – Planning Council

1. Grantee Report
 - a. ODH State Integrated Plan no update.
 - b. Clinical Quality Management committee continues to meet with the efforts focusing on disparities in viral suppression. Grantee CQM members met with providers regarding ongoing 2020 projects. Thirteen out of fourteen meetings have been conducted regarding quarter 2 data. Grantee develops one-pagers for providers to use for internal purposes.
 - c. Grantee team finalized the closeout report for the FY2019 grant year. The remaining balance for the FY2019 grant year is \$101,950.89. All funds are allowable for carryover as we are below the 5% of the Formula award. This is the 1st year below the allowable carryover.
 - d. CCBH is ramping up the FY2020 grant year.
 - e. ODH sponsored needs assessment update. The surveys have been released for completion requesting all parties to distribute widely if possible. The survey closed at the end of June. CCBH will present once data has been received.
 - f. Grantee completed version five of the newsletter and it was sent out on June 1st. Feedback welcome.
 - g. The training schedule is on hold due to COVID-19 except the AETC training would like to know what date they can present. CCBH needs to get a month designated as this is a Directive.

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- h. Data to Care - The 2nd cycle was completed by the medical providers. CCBH received legal feedback from John Hopkins University. The Not-In-Care (NIC) process uses a combined approach integrating data from CCBH and medical providers. The next list is due out in August. This project is an Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative.
- i. CCBH continues to work with sub-recipients in regards to data completeness and productivity. CCBH completed the annual data submission to HRSA called the Ryan White Services Report (RSR).
- j. CCBH fully migrated to CAREWare 6. The system has many differences when running reports. This has caused CCBH staff to spend many hours creating new reports as well as determining what data is now being pulled.
- k. Ryan White Part A received COVID-19 funding. CCBH and CDPH conducted joint listening sessions with providers. CCBH completed a large order of masks for clients as well as distributed funding to all providers based on Part A eligible clients served. Working closely with providers regarding budget and data/reporting requirements.
- l. The Ending the Epidemic award was received in the amount of \$750,000. The following projects have been moving forward social media campaigns for stigma reduction and U=U reengagement in care. Community Health Worker Certification program in coordination with Cleveland State University, Data 2 Care program support, Intensive MCM program support, Medical Transportation program support and Rapid Art program support.
- m. Ending the Epidemic Plan update - Community Solutions is the selected vendor of the ODH to write the three EtHE plans within the state of Ohio. There have been preparation meetings. An EtHE advisory committee meeting was conducted. Community Solutions completed a community engagement meeting virtually. The plan was granted an extension now due end of the year.
- n. CCBH participated with the state regarding the prevention EtHE application. CCBH conducted a very successful listening session in which many projects were identified. The notes were provided to ODH so local project requests could be added to the prevention EtHE grant application submission. Award notice release to ODH was recently released.

The FY2020 grant. The allocations split is 80.81% core 19.81% Support the expenses are at 12.70 for three months which is underutilized. Providers are just starting to get invoices submitted.

Administrative Update – M. Rodrigo

Thanks were extended to the S&F committee for their reallocation efforts in getting the money out the door. We are now in the process of writing 2020-21 grant applications and continuing the work with data to care issues, with ODH identifying those not receiving lab tests within the last year. The Ending the Epidemic (EtHE) plan formation is underway and we have a steering committee in place to come up with plan for each project. We identified seven (7) projects, among them are: A Community Health Worker Program w/CSU; Rapid Start of ART, a social

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media campaign for reducing stigma, etc. Currently underway, the Community Health Worker Certification Program is specific to HIV, is being done through CSU and is designed to provide certification for employment as community health workers. The final applications were due on Monday, but if you or someone you know is still interested, please contact CSU as soon as possible.

FY 2020 Utilization Update – M. Rodrigo

To date, we have received four months of expenditures. There are not many updates, as we will look closer at things in September and possibly do a reallocation in October and maybe again in January. We are okay with regard to the anticipated split. We did get more funding than we are able to grant, so we should have good spending this year, despite COVID. We also received an additional \$281,000 in supplemental funds.

Ryan White Part B Updates – S. DiCocco

Sonia Muse filled the vacant OHDAP Administrator position on July 20th. Sonia has 15 years of experience with the OHDAP team and we are excited to see her promoted into the administrator role.

The OHDAP formulary is under revision. Proposed changes were discussed with the Medical Advisory Committee on August 5th, and the final draft will be routed through ODH for approval. The formulary changes are intended to make the formulary easier to understand and more user-friendly.

A team of individuals comprised of representatives from the OHDAP, Quality and Community-Based teams worked together to create an OHDAP Survey that will be distributed to clients who receive OHDAP services. The goal is to gain feedback on individual experiences with the pharmacy benefit manager. The survey went through the IRB process and an exempt letter was issued. The survey is routing for final approvals at ODH and the hope is to have it released via Survey Monkey to the clients by the end of the month.

An OHDAP Survey was sent out to the case management agencies on August 12th with the goal of collecting case manager feedback on their experiences with the pharmacy benefit manager. This was a request of case managers who reviewed the survey created for the clients and the case managers indicated they would like to offer feedback too. The survey will remain open for the case managers for the next couple of weeks.

The Community-Based Program Administrator position became vacant in May 2020 (formerly held by Courtney Elrod). This position oversees the case management services and other core services such as outpatient ambulatory, oral health and mental health services. Courtney was the co-chair of the Combined Community Planning Group and this role has been temporarily designated to Jennifer Sims, Medical Case Management Trainer. Courtney also represented

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Part B updates at the Part A Planning Council which will now be temporarily covered by Susan! Due to the hiring freeze, we are not permitted to post/fill this vacancy.

Ryan White provider agreements are being renewed for all outpatient ambulatory services, oral health and mental health services. Provider Agreements expired on June 30, 2020. Once new agreements are signed, they will be good through March 31, 2025.

Also, Laurie Rickert has updated our fee schedule on what providers will charge for services. A new fee schedule was posted with expanded CPT codes and reduced rates. The fee schedule can be found on the ODH web page under Ryan White Part B Services

(<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Ryan-White-Part-B-HIV-Client-Services/Community-Based-Program/>).

Needs Assessment – S. DiCocco

There are two Needs Assessment Surveys underway - 1). HIV care and 2). HIV care Prevention. OU is the contractor, the survey is closed, and a preliminary review of the data is underway. There will be a statewide report produced first, and regional reports forthcoming by the end of 2020.

ODH is also conducting two (2) ODAP surveys, one for clients; and one for case managers. The purpose is to hear back on their experiences with pharmacies, CVS, and their overall experience to understand the process. Case manager survey was already sent out. The one for ODAP clients should be out next month or so.

ODH has been taken over by COVID response. ODH has pulled an inordinate number of people over to the COVID-19 response and due to the hiring freeze and COVID reassignments, we are working hard to minimize any delays related to Ryan White Part B. So we ask that you let us now if something needs to be addressed, Susan.DiCocco@odh.ohio.gov for contact.

Medicaid Updates – C. Nicholls

The Medicaid rolls are changing and there are now 400,000 on Medicaid. Everything has been modified, due to the health emergency, so there are no adverse actions being taken on benefits. The only negative action is if someone passes, moves out of state or request to close their case. Individuals should have received their renewal packets in July. For now, we are only processing positive changes and new applications, which keeps increasing but are being processed timely.

**Question:* What about renewals?

** Response:* Medicaid renewals started in July, most have received their packets and August packets are about to go out. However, people should re-submit, because there is no automatic continuance. We are not doing any negative actions, just trying to make sure people have coverage. Additionally, the phone center is going well, with 92% of staff working from home. One lobby has been opened for those unable to go online, but only a few people are allowed in

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at a time, and they must wear masks and be screened. Things are going well, although for food assistance, with current unemployment rates and the loss of the \$600 stimulus, we are seeing each day more than double the regular amount of SNAP applicants. So while there mostly no wait times for Medicaid, SNAP customers have experienced over hour-long wait times. So, if you know someone who may be stuck in the process, they can contact us for assistance, preferably not Monday, but later in the week. Please stay healthy and stay safe.

Planning Council Business

Review /Approve 2020 Planning Council Meeting Schedule

The final allocation decisions were presented by facilitator on screen.

Outlining the approved directives for the upcoming grant year. Directives were for Training (reducing clinical bias, fighting stigma), improving client satisfaction for dental services, and research and present training on peer-led models.

HIV Prevention and Care

The MRM committee will be incorporating HIV Prevention into the HIV Care Bylaws updates, at the next MRM subcommittee meeting on September 2, 2020 at 2:30 pm. The committee has not outlined a schedule yet, but will start putting a schedule together at the meeting next month.

Virtual vs. In-Person Meetings

Until further guidance, all meetings will remain virtual and we will look to next year for in-person meetings.

**Question:* What about member voting? Do we need to change the Bylaws, now with virtual meetings, to accommodate voting?

**Response:* Your vote is counted, based on participation, either in-person or virtually and we are following Ohio's Open Meetings law as regards to meetings. T. O'Donnell, CCBH Legal Counsel, will review this further and get back to the committee.

Committee Reports

Community Liaison Committee (CLC) – N. O'Neal

The Lorain forum was cancelled for this year and we will be working with members of the PC from Lorain County (B. Gayheart & F. Ross) and their case managers, looking to do something at an outside venue there or possibly something next year.

Strategy & Finance (S&F) – C. Barnett

We reviewed the committee's work plan and are on track. We discussed the PSRA process going forward now in virtual world, we just finished PSRA and we are back on track. Also, we discussed defining criteria for our numbering system for prioritizing service categories. For the AEAM, we reviewed the assessment questions from HRSA, answered all five questions, which

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resulted in a pretty lengthy conversation. Things are working effectively. The committee voted to approve the AEAM and will present it to Full PC for final vote.

Motion: To approve the review of the AEAM.

Motion: C. Barnett Seconded: R. Watkins
In Favor: 15/unanimous Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0
Motion carried.

Membership, Retention & Marketing (MRM)- B. Glass

The Committee suspended the open nomination process for the year, but will continue to recruit new members. We are also looking at tools for evaluating candidate applications to planning council. The main activity will be to put a plan in place to update the bylaws. This was the committee's first meeting since COVID's onset in March, and we really played catch up.

Quality Improvement (QI) – R. Watkins

Again, extending prayers to Co-chair, Jason, who tested positive for COVID, but has a mild case. Pray for his speedy recovery. We are currently on task with deliverables and goals. The committee discussed the following Part A services: Emergency Financial Assistance, Home & Community-Based Health Care, and Home Health Care for review & consideration for continued funding.

M. Rodrigo was also acknowledged and thanked for doing a wonderful job on the QI portion of the grant guidance. Susan DiCocco provided updates today on the ODH Statewide needs assessment effort and shared that the reports would be completed by end of 2020. She reported the Integrated Plan meeting for July was cancelled, due to COVID, but will Kate Shumate will be the lead for ODH. Melissa Rodrigo also informed the committee that HRSA has authorized suspension, due to COVID of all provider site visits, so CCBH has postponed them.

Public Comments

T. Marbury – raised a question on the validity of COVID numbers due to conflicting information they were hearing. Some have shared news from the CDC, and are questioning it and looking to committee members for answers. The PC facilitator agreed to look into and follow up to schedule an Executive Team conference call if needed.

Announcements

The Sankofa Wellness Day is set for Saturday, August 22, 2020 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Rid-All Green Partnership, 8129 Otter Avenue (near Kinsman) Cleveland, Ohio 44104. They will be practicing social distance, limiting the number of attendees, and masks will be provided and required upon entry. For more details, contact B. Jones at (216) 640-3404.

Adjournment

Motion: T. Marbury called the meeting to an end at 7:03 pm. Seconded: K. Dennis

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Vote in Favor – Unanimous Opposed-0; Abstention-0

Motion carried

Attendance:

	Planning Council	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June PSRA	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	Kimberlin Dennis – Co-Chair	20	20			20	20	20			
2	Terry Allan – Co-Chair	20	20			20	20	20			
3	Merle Gordon – Co-Chair	20	20			20	20	20			
4	Clifford Barnett	20	20			20	20	20			
5	Michael Deighan	20	20			0	20	0			
6	Clinton Droster	20	20			20	20	20			
7	Brenda Glass	20	20			20	20	20			
8	Barbara Gripshover, MD	20	20			20	20	20			
9	Tina Marbury	20	20			20	20	20			
10	Jason McMinn	20	20			20	20	0			
11	Christy Nicholls	20	20			20	20	20			
12	Naimah O'Neal	20	20			20	20	20			
13	Chris Ritter	20	20			0	0	0			
14	Marlene Robinson-Statler	0	20			0	20	20			
15	Ronald Rolling	20	20			0	0	0			
16	Robert Watkins	20	20			20	20	20			
17	Leshia Yarbrough- Franklin	20	20			0	20	20			
1	Nicole Carter					0	0	0			
2	Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger					20	20	20			
3	Billy Gayheart					20	20	20			
4	Deairius Houston					0	0	0			
5	Tracy Johnson					0	0	0			
6	LeAnder Lovett					0	0	0			
7	Jeffrey Mazo					20	0	0			
8	Earl McCray					0	0	0			
9	Julie Patterson					20	20	0			
10	Faith Ross					20	20	20			
11	William Simpson					0	0	0			
12	Stephanice Washington					20	0	0			
	Total in Attendance	16	17			18	19	16			

PC Attendees: S. DiCocco, L. Clayton, B. Jones, M. Jackson-Rollins

Staff: M. Rodrigo, M. Halko, T. O'Donnell, S. Harris, T. Mallory