

# **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, September 16, 2020**

**5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Start:** 5:35 p.m.

**End:** 7:01 p.m.

**Facilitating Co-chair:** T. Allan

### **Moment of Silence**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Co-Chair, T. Allan encouraged members to be kind towards one another during these critical days. Also best wishes and prayers for good health and recovery were sent out to PC member, Ronald Rolling, as well as for those that are alone in these times.

### **Approval of Agenda: September 16, 2020**

Motion: C. Barnett

Seconded: C. Nicholls

**VOTE:** In Favor: All

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2020**

Motion: C. Barnett

Seconded: C. Droster

**VOTE:** In Favor: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 3 – J. Patterson, J. McMinn, and C. Ritter

### **Flu & Covid Update – T. Allan, Dr. B. Gripshover**

**T. Allan** - We are at a critical juncture right now and staying virtual for meetings, as a good practice. We were at orange level, but the rate of positivity is dropping. The concern now is schools. We have made recommendations for remote learning but many are unhappy. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CDS) is currently remote and about 80% of the other districts are also remote. We are seeing a drop in risk level at the state. We now see that masks work, distancing works, and conducting virtual and remote meetings. The flu season is also upon us (*flu season Sept. 2020-April 2021*) and children are going back to school, there are a number of factors coming. Senior centers are opening back up. Flu season was milder in the Southern Hemisphere. A number of drive-thru flu clinics are available, as well as pharmacy centers, check [www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net) for more details. If there was ever a year to get a flu shot, this would be the year. As to the question, how long will this all last? Dr. Fauci says, probably the end of next year, which is discouraging and not something we want to hear. However, we are now at a lower point, so the advice is to get outside and enjoy the weather, before it changes. We have also been partnering with MetroHealth since May to do testing through churches, mostly in the eastern area suburbs. We have tested over 10,000 people to date, all free. So, for now, please stay safe, healthy, and wear masks.

**Dr. Gripshover** – For some other good news, we are down from 40 people in the hospital to six. The hospitalization numbers have gone down and the mask mandate seems to have made that possible. Masks really work. We want to prevent whatever we can, so getting the flu shot is a

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good idea, especially this year. As for vaccines, one trial is underway with Pfizer and in the next couple weeks, the Astra Zeneca trial allow HIV+ candidates. If anyone would like to get involved in these trials, a link can be sent to you on how you can participate. This will all take a while to come together, but it will get better. Meantime, please keep up with the masks, they really work.

*\*Question:* Is there flu vaccine around?

*\*Response:* Dr. Gripshover -Yes, there is plenty, we have the regular flu vaccine.

*\*Question:* Should they get the flu shot now or October?

*\*Response:* Dr. Gripshover – Maybe consider getting it earlier this year, just in case, possibly between now and the end of October, although it's never too late and you want it to last all season.

*\*Question:* How will the Covid vaccine affect HIV and older adults?

*\*Response:* Dr. Gripshover -They conduct large trials, extensive trials with candidates that include a large random sample of people. This eliminated factors such as issues regarding political influence. By the time a vaccine is available, we will know it's safe and effective, and that may happen by end of this year or the beginning of the next.

### **Grantee Report - September 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. Fourteen meetings have been conducted regarding quarter 2 data along with one-pagers sent back to all providers completed. 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 were requested for the Official FY2019 carryover into FY2020. . This is the 1<sup>st</sup> year below the allowable carryover.
  - d. CCBH is ramping up the FY2020 grant year. Reallocations November 2020.
  - 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.

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- 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.
- 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 August list was received by CCBH and will be compiled for the medical providers. This project is a funded Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative.
- i. CCBH continues to work with sub-recipients in regards to data completeness and productivity
- 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. Providers working on invoices and monthly 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. The situational analysis has been completed and presented to the local advisory committee.
- n. CCBH participated with the state regarding the prevention EtHE application. CCBH conducted a very successful listening session in which many projects were identified. Award notice released to ODH.  
The FY2020 grant. The allocations split is 74.16% core 25.84% Support the expenses are at 29.02% for five months which is underutilized. Five months should be 41.6% there are a few providers behind schedule. I would anticipate a major reallocation on November.

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### **Administrative Update – M. Rodrigo**

We received approval for carryover, \$101,950.89, which you directed to be targeted for Oral Health (dental). Scheduling AETC training will proceed. An EtHE committee met today, getting strategies for doing outreach. There will be more meetings in order to make deadlines. We got the contracts out and the projects are starting, beginning with Stigma and U=U. We will make sure to get targeted input. Also, Cleveland State University, Community Health Care worker project starts soon. For the Statewide Needs Assessment, and update was given today and we will be getting a regional report of the Needs Assessment findings for the Cleveland TGA from the contractor, S. DiCocco will discuss more in her update.

### **FY 2020 Utilization Update – M. Rodrigo**

Spending report currently at 29.02% but should be 41%. We are getting caught up on invoices, as many providers are off schedule, dealing with Covid. Everyone should be done soon to allow a good snapshot for allocations. We are overspent only in Mental Health Services. Because we haven't been able to hire additional staff, we'll put those dollars back into direct services. We also have two DIS workers in place at CCBH. The goal is to bring more data to the table. That has been a missing component which is needed so that the community is aware of all the numbers and can see how we can all move forward together.

*\*Question:* Are we seeing clients drop off dental and medical?

*\*Response:* Yes, with dental, we will see a reduction, expect to serve fewer clients. Also, other insurance is covering more dental services.

### **Medicaid Updates – C. Nicholls**

We are continuing to work remotely. One lobby is open at the Virgil Lee Brown building on Payne and East 17<sup>th</sup>. Lobby hours are from 9-4 and the number of individuals allowed in the lobby is limited; people must wear masks, get temperature checks, and social distance. The number of applications rose over 5,000, but 80% of the applications have been processed and we are still meeting the timeliness guidelines. One impact was in the number of SNAP applications, as we are still receiving twice the normal amount. Next month, we will be doubling up on processing the SNAP re-determinations. They were originally pushed back, but the fall ones are now coming due, as well as ones that were due this spring. The work coming in is challenging and, since Covid, Medicaid is not taking adverse actions on benefits. We are only closing cases if someone passes away, moves out of state, or request to have their files closed. However, we are taking actions to increase services, but any negative actions are being postponed. Also, details on three upcoming information sessions will be provided later.

### **Part B Update – S. DiCocco**

- Part B sent communications to the agencies regarding documents that will be accepted for enrolling in Part B services. (Email attached). We are trying to be flexible in what is accepted due to circumstances of social distancing and limited interactions directly with

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clients. If individuals encounter difficulties collecting documents, please reach out to a Part B coordinator.

- Jail Workgroup continues to be on hold. This workgroup was previously lead by Courtney Elrod. Until that vacancy can be filled, the workgroup meetings are not able to resume.
- Site Visits with Part B funded agencies will occur virtually over the next few months. The site visits will be conducted by the Case Management Coordinators and will be scheduled over the next couple of months.
- OHDAP formulary is routing to be signed off by the Medical director. The changes made are intended to make the formulary more user-friendly and easier to understand.
- Open enrollment for Medicare Part D begins October 7, 2020 through December 7, 2020, and ACA open enrollment begins 11-1-20 through 12-15-20. We are in the process of generating a list of clients to the Case Management agencies that are enrolled in these programs.
- We are also in the process of sending a list of clients to the Case Management agencies that have United Healthcare as their Managed Medicaid plan. The issue is that United Healthcare is not in network with CVS Caremark therefore we are paying a 100% for these medications. Open enrollment for Medicaid Manage Care plans this year is now until November 30, 2020 unless a client has had his or her plan under 90 days then they can change outside of open enrollment. We are asking Case Managers to contact their clients on the list to see if they would be willing to change to a Medicaid Manage care plan that is in network with CVS.
- The OHDAP survey is open for clients to complete through September 30, 2020, this survey is about are pharmacy benefit manager CVS.

*\*Question:* Regarding the competitive bid for Part B, will they be involved with Rapid Art and the self-attestation, will that keep going?

*\*Response:* An e-mail from Laurie is that the attestation could work for mid-year, but for annual, all the pieces need to be there, although there is flexibility in that.

*\*Question:* Will Courtney's position be filled soon?

*\*Response:* It's been hard to get that funding, as all non-Covid positions such as that one, are under a hiring freeze.

### **HOPWA Update- L. Clayton**

We will be putting together information from what was given at the QI meeting to provide an a monthly housing update. A couple points: The grant year started June 1. There was discussion around cell phone and internet assistance and there is funding for that. Those devices would be owned by the City and loaned out to clients. We will provide monthly info and updates, as well as an annual report to PC.

*\*Question:* Is something coming down for moving expenses assistance for PLWH/A?

*\*Response:* A personal follow up will be provided.

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*\*Question:* As for the new category for short term housing, what's the source and how many can be funded?

*\*Response:* It is not new, but was added to EDEN as a pilot. A small amount was allocated and about five to ten families were awarded. It was successful so we are looking to expand that program now. The term is 60 days to find permanent housing.

*\*Question:* Is there money for homeowner financial assistance?

*\*Response:* Yes, there is both short term rental and mortgage assistance available.

### **Planning Council Operations**

#### **Monthly Progress Report from HRSA Project Officer**

**S. Harris** – We gave a full report to the project officer of PC activities. HRSA is pleased and we told them we are refining our PSRA criteria for scoring the order of priority for funded services. This effort was not due to a problem but because we always look at ways to improve. The MRM committee is working on updating the Bylaws to integrate HIV Prevention and Care. We continue to get high praise for our efforts.

**M. Rodrigo** – As for the site visit that was previously set in late March-early April, 2020, it was rescheduled to March 1-5, 2021. This visit will be virtual, and it is not know who will attend yet, but we just want to keep everyone updated. A new project officer has been assigned for EtHE, but they will try and keep the same meeting schedule with the Part A Project Officer monitoring schedule.

#### **Coordination of HIV Prevention & Care**

For coordination of HIV and Care, the MRM Co-Chairs are looking for the best models to model for updated the Cleveland Bylaws to integrate prevention. We will be looking at other models such as Kansas Bylaws that looks good and we will bring that information back to the committee. We also are looking at forming a committee comprised of PC members and Prevention members to be a think tank on how the two groups can work in the most effective coordinated way to carry out their missions.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Community Liaison Committee (CLC) – N. O'Neal** - We met on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and had conversations on consumer input on housing/gaps, creating a mini survey, and getting housing case managers to provide assist with collecting feedback from their clients. Once the survey draft is complete, we will share it with L. Clayton, at CDPH before disseminating to feedback. We will also share the data collected with HOPWA to collaborate on how to address the findings.

The Lorain County forum was postponed due to Covid and we are looking at another way to do one. We would also still like to do educational session, probably virtual. There was also a discussion on recent events involving PC executive members and the need for transparency in addressing them.

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**Strategy & Finance (S&F) – C. Barnett** - We are continuing to work on things for the upcoming grant year, the procedures for scoring for which we have an outline and should finalize at the next meeting. Our work plan is caught up, and we are good to go with no major items on the plate, right now. We will provide more updates in a couple months.

**Membership, Retention & Marketing (MRM) – C. Ritter** - The main thing we discussed was Prevention and Care integration. It was agreed that a committee would be established to be the prevention think-tank and MRM would update the Bylaws to integrate HIV Prevention and PC. We are looking for a model that is close to our method of working in order to make those changes. We will give regular updates to the committee so we can finish the updates soon as possible. We are also checking in on new members, using our mentee program model to stay in touch, especially with new members. CLC co-chair, N. O’Neal agreed to call members, from her follow-up, some concerns were that some new members felt they were not in the loop, and that they were not aware PC meetings were being conducted virtually.

**Quality Improvement (QI) – R. Watkins** - The committee discussed what housing information the new HOPWA director, LaRaun Clayton will be providing in monthly reports to PC. We also voted and agreed to review the quality of the Oral Health Service category and discussed the Statewide Integration plan and the Statewide Needs Assessment. We will receive a report of the needs assessment finding for our TGA.

**Public Comments** -- None.

**Announcements** - C. Barnett – In my new position with NORA (Northern Ohio Recovery Association), in the Building to Bridges Recovery program, I will be personally working with young African Americans, between the ages of 13 through 24 and will work with the MRM Co-Chairs to bring young blood to committee. If you know or hear of any referrals, please reach out to me at my NORA e-mail: [cbarnett@norainc.org](mailto:cbarnett@norainc.org). Also, an updated PC contact list is needed so we can reach out to new members and stay in touch with all members. An updated roster will be sent out, following the meeting, to all PC members.

R. Watkins – As a reminder, the 2020 census still need to be done. The money that results from the census surveys goes to many needed services here in Cuyahoga County. If you still need to complete your form, please contact the Census Bureau at [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov), and pass this along to others.

J. Patterson – A reminder that there is an upcoming webinar program on HIV Aging this week. The flyer, sponsored by We Think 4 A Change, was sent out last week.

### **Adjournment**

Motion: R. Watkins                      Seconded: C. Barnett

In Favor: All    Opposed: 0    Abstained: 0

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**Attendance:**

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

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

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

**Guests:** C. Taylor, S. Sullivan