

Cuyahoga Regional HIV Health Services Planning Council

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



Combined Executive and Full Planning Council Minutes Wednesday, April 21, 2021 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Start: 5:35 pm End: 6:43 pm Co-chair: T. Allan

Moment of Silence

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda: April 21, 2021

Motion: C. Barnett Seconded: K. Dennis

In Favor: All Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Addendum to the Agenda: To remove Item 6a, Reallocation Final Vote from the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes: March 17, 2021

Motion: C. Barnett Seconded: L. Yarbrough-Franklin

In Favor: All Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Special Announcement

A bittersweet farewell was extended on behalf of CCBH Deputy Director of Prevention & Wellness and Part A Project Officer, Melissa Rodrigo, as she is leaving the Board of Health at end of this month. Melissa has worked over 15 years for the Board of Health and was the lead person for the Ryan White grant program. During her tenure, she contributed a vast wealth of knowledge in grant funding processes, while demonstrating outstanding analytical and leadership skills, creative energy, strong work ethic, and genuine kindness. The entire RW planning Council expressed their appreciation for the many things she did, not just for the Ryan White program and the Board of Health, but also for all those whom she touched, personally. Melissa expressed appreciation to everyone for all their support over the years, and she is confident that the new RW team will do a fantastic job. We wish her the best, as she will be greatly missed. Martha Halko will now be the Project Director, Zach Levar will be the Supervisor for Part A, and Brandy Eaton will be the lead person for Prevention.

Flu & Covid-19 Update

Terry Allan, Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) Commissioner – We want to start by extending appreciation to Dr. Sherrie Williams, CCBH Board member and Dr. Barbara Gripshover for their wonderful and informative Covid presentations. As for where we stand in Ohio, we are currently seeing greater positivity numbers, from two percent to about eight percent more positivity. We've also seen a jump in nursing home numbers from eight to eleven percent. Although fatality rates have dropped, we are still watching closely, as we have averaged 177 cases per day in Cuyahoga County.

B. Kimball – The City of Cleveland is averaging 60% cases of individuals under 40-years old hospitalized with COVID. They have moved up slowly, two percent in county have been vaccinated overall, must keep moving forward. The Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine is currently on pause and the government is getting more data on side effects caused by the J&J vaccine. Clinically, keep social distancing, masking, and encourage all to get vaccinated. More positives have been in younger people, as opposed to

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November's surge with older people. Need to be vigilant. Encourage more people to get vaccinated and continue to wear face coverage and physical distance.

Dr. Barbara Gripshover, M.D., Immunology Medical Director, University Hospitals – To update, variants are just viruses that have developed resistance. HIV clients are familiar with this. With COVID, when viruses multiply, they mutate to new viruses which are more transmittable and harmful. One reason to vaccinate is to stop viruses from spreading into variants. Also, some variances may cause vaccine-resistance to them. Then they may have to tweak vaccines or make boosters.

S. Harris – had my second vaccine and I'm doing great!

L. Yarbrough-Franklin- thanks to Brian and Terry for working with them in Cuyahoga County.

Approximately 900 consumers and staff have been vaccinated in group homes and residential homes.

Grantee Report - April 2021 – Planning Council

1. Grantee Report
 - a. ODH State Integrated Plan – HRSA announced guidance for 2022-2026 Integrated Plan in June 2020, due December 2020; ODH filling key positions.
 - b. Clinical Quality Management committee continues to meet with the efforts focusing on disparities in viral suppression. – developed projects in January 2021, holding Q1 meetings throughout April
 - c. Grantee team is continuing to work on the 2020 closeout.
 - d. Due to delayed hiring due to COVID life-saving and response throughout the TGA when vacancies occurred, it is anticipated funding shall remain at the end of the grant year.
 - e. ODH sponsored needs assessment update. The report is being vetted through ODH before it can be shared statewide. A preliminary was presented February 3rd to S&F committee.
 - f. Grantee completed version six of the newsletter and it was sent out on December 1st. Feedback welcome. Next version June 2021.
 - g. The AETC presented at Planning Council in October. This met the PC directive of the grantee. Gilead presented February 23rd HIV 101 and a PrEP 101, Mental Health within COVID times was March 2nd and Oral Health training is scheduled for April 27th.
 - h. Data to Care – ODH is reviewing its D2C process. CCBH will need to update our protocol in regard to potential changes. This project is a funded Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. This project is potentially getting additional TA from a HRSA sponsored agency for best practices pertaining to RX to Care project expansion.
 - i. CCBH continues to work with sub-recipients in regards to data completeness and productivity. All data is requested to be ready for submission by February 5th. RSR submission is complete.
 - j. 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. Final expenditures are coming due to close

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- out the grant. A small amount of funds will be requested to be carried over due to agencies leaving some funding unspent.
- k. The partial Ending the Epidemic award was received. The following projects are expected to continue: social media campaigns for U=U/stigma reduction for HIV positive clients. 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.
 - l. Prevention Committee – The first official meeting to integrate activities with the PC structure was March 3rd 2021, next will be April 7th, 2021
 - m. **Full Part A award received 4/5/2021** – beginning to work on allocations and contracts for Part A providers
 - n. Ending the Epidemic Plan update:
Community Solutions completed the plan and it was submitted by ODH to the CDC for review. Thank you for participating in the plan development.

Administrative Update & Fiscal Report

FY2020 Part A Grant:

Allocations split - 79.73% Core - 20.27% Support

Expenses are at 92.02% for 12 months (Underutilized)

Target for 12 months should be 100%, there are a few providers behind schedule (projections used for those providers).

Note: the first column is based on the percentages from the priority settings for last year.

Medicaid Update – C. Nicholls

There have been some changes to Medicaid in relationship to application signatures and authorized representatives. We will be conducting a series of trainings. The information was sent out to all. Also, please inform others that these are short, virtual trainings that will cover the new application process for signatures and for authorized representatives, or people who helped individuals apply for Medicaid. In the past, there was greater flexibility on who could sign for the applicants when they applied for Medicaid. That will no longer be valid, and we are trying to get the word on how that will now work. For unmarried couples, they used to be allowed to submit one application per household. Now, if they don't file taxes together, they must each file separate applications. Also, it used to be that an informal signature from someone acting as a person's Medicaid representative was allowable. However, that no longer applies. Applicants must now individually sign for themselves and their authorized assistant must also sign. There is also other specific information and steps involved with that process. Last, for organizations acting as authorized representative, there is also an additional step. The training will cover the new application and signature process, details on submitting information that formerly worked and now does not, as well as other any related updates. We want to make sure all future applications submitted to Medicaid are valid and completed properly so timely determinations can be made. One final note, the Federal Marketplace continues through May 15th, the last month of additional enrollment.

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**Question:* R. Watkins – For scanner issues trying to send information, how should we submit?

**Response:* C. Nicholls – Most of the sites are not currently accessible. We still have drop boxes at the Virgil Brown building 24/7. Also, individuals can drop off info anytime at any of the other buildings with drop boxes. However, if someone has issues, please let us know. Additionally, please note that all self-service portals and eligibility systems will be down from April 22-April 27, 2021, and nothing can be submitted online, the system will be back up after Tuesday. This will be a statewide outage. The call centers will also be down, but drop boxes will still be available.

Ryan White Part B Update – S. DiCocco

Part B and OHDAP updates for April 2021 meeting:

- Karla Ruiz is the new Community-Based Program Manager. She will also be the new Part B Liaison for the Planning Council. She will be on vacation in May but will attend the June meeting.
- The OHDAP program will be interviewing for two (2) vacant OHDAP Coordinators later this month- there are two vacancies.
- The Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) is meeting next Wednesday to discuss adding the recently FDA approved Cabenuva (long-acting injectable) to the OHDAP formulary. If recommended by the MAC, it will need to be routed for approval by the medical director and have CVS add the medication to the formulary.
- Part B received a no-cost extension to continue spending down the COVID CARES funding. The dollars were allocated to each region and available through the third party administrator to pay for gift cards for food and supplies. The end date to expend these dollars is now 3/31/2022.
- Regional EtHE solicitation was recently posted for funding the CDC prevention services. These dollars will support health departments in Hamilton, Franklin and Cuyahoga counties. This grant begins June 1st. Funding awards will be announced once reviewed and approved by ODH.
- HRSA will be conducting a comprehensive virtual site visit of the Part B program between the week of June 14-17, 2021. A notice will be sent to agency supervisors to assist with identifying consumers who would be interested in participating in a consumer meeting. The consumer meetings will be scheduled on June 15th and June 16th between 12:30-2pm both days.

**Question:* B. Jones – Received info on a community listening session with HRSA, any info?

**Response:* S. DiCocco – Yes, it's from HRSA, they're doing national regional listening sessions.

**Question:* J. Patterson – For CDC EtHE funds granting to local health departments, will they re-grant?

**Response:* S. DiCocco – Not sure.

**Comment:* M. Rodrigo – We submitted a formal application to ODH on behalf of the region and we are waiting to see if we'll receive those funds. Those activities would be for June 1st.

HOPWA Update – J. Citerman-Kraeger

An RFP was released two and a half weeks ago. Proposals are due back April 26th and we are looking forward to receiving new applications from nonprofits and programs they are proposing.

Planning Council Operations

Monthly Report from HRSA Project Officer- S. Harris

We presented an update on the activity of each committee. They appreciate the work we do. All reported out well. We hope it continues for the next few months.

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Approve 2021 Planning Council Activity Timeline (PCAT)

The PCAT is the list of all the yearly activities for the PC subcommittees. It is formatted into this one document, so it can be monitored by the committee on a central level, throughout the year.

Motion: To approve the 2021 Planning Council Activity Timeline (PCAT) as written.

Motion: K. Dennis Seconded: C. Droster

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

Motion passes.

HIV Prevention – Membership Update- S. Harris

We are still getting in applications. We are using the non-member RW applications for the Prevention committee, because Prevention applicants aren't required to go through the Cuyahoga County-Executive appointment process for membership that RW Part A Planning Council members must complete, and the rules are not as stringent as for RW committee nominations. Terry, Brian and Kimberlin will approve Prevention nominees and in June, we hope to have a list submitted to co-chairs so we can move forward with designation of a core Prevention group.

Update on Receipt of PC Mandatory Confirmation Forms – S. Harris

We are still getting forms. An e-mail will be sent on outstanding forms. As we get members confirmed, we will re-submit to others to sign.

PSRA Update – S. Harris

We have completed the priority ranking process for the majority of all the RW services. We still must rank in order of priority, four (4) support services and four (4) services that are not funded in our Transitional Grant Area (TGA). If you want to participate, please join Strategy & Finance next month. Finalizing directives and allocating funds will be the only things remaining to complete the PSRA.

**Question:* J. Patterson – For the June meeting, is this the same as regular PC or longer?

**Response:* S. Harris - We usually try to go from 12-4pm, using the date previously set-aside for the Quality Improvement, Executive & Full Planning Council meetings.

Committee Reports

Community Liaison Committee, N. O'Neal – We met on the 7th of this month. We were asked to work with QI to assist in creating a short survey (10) questions to obtain feedback on PLWH/A dental issues. This resulted after a meeting with dental providers. We are hoping to further assist QI on this effort.

Strategy & Finance, C. Droster – Most of meetings was spent on Priority Setting and we still have a couple more to do for that. The goal is to complete PSRA in June.

Membership, Retention & Marketing – B. Glass – The majority discussion was about the open nomination process. We also looked at finding ways to recruit individuals in the 25-49 age group and the Hispanic population, we discussed the application process for new applicants and re-applicants, and we suggested potential trainings such as mental health and on the acuity scale process. Additionally, we

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have a new candidate interview for the Part C slot scheduled for Friday with Uleta Carter from Care Alliance. As a note, our MRM co-chair, Chris Ritter, has notified us that he will be resigning from PC and will follow up with a written letter. All expressed best wishes and extreme gratitude for his vast knowledge, professionalism, and dedication to the RW Planning Council as a leading HIV advocate for the Cleveland TGA. That position is now currently open and we will be looking for another co-chair for Membership, Retention & Marketing (MRM) Committee.

Quality Improvement – R. Watkins – We met today and talked about potential directives for 2021-22. Those two directives are cultural competency training for dental providers and oral health training for dental providers. Working with the CLC committee, they reported on the feedback info received from their meeting with Lorain County Support Group members about their oral health experience. Also, Zach gave a presentation regarding data on dental services and on the continuum of care. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

*Comment: S. Harris – Zach also went over oral health exception requirements that providers submit to the grantee to get approval for clients who need more complicated services.

Public Comments - None

Announcements - N. O’Neal - There is still room for registrations for HINAC events. We are trying to use up pre-registrations that were provided pre-Covid.

T. Allan - On April 27th, there will be a clinic in the Word Church in Warrensville Hts., OH, and 1,000 appointments are available. Other private appointment will also become available. This will be for the Moderna vaccine, the first dose.

*Question: B. Glass – What about positive testers?

*Response: Dr. B. Gripshover, M.D. – The 90 days is only if someone was treated with antibodies or for co-infections, if out of quarantine, you are okay.

Adjournment

Motion: K. Dennis **Seconded:** J. Patterson

Attendance

	Planning Council Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June PSRA	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	Kimberlin Dennis – Co-Chair	20	20	20	20						
2	Terry Allan – Co-Chair	20	20	20	20						
3	Brian Kimball – Co-Chair	20	20	20	20						
4	Clifford Barnett	20	20	20	20						
5	Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger	20	20	20	20						
6	Michael Deighan	20	20	20	20						
7	Clinton Droster	20	0	20	20						
8	Billy Gayheart	20	20	20	20						

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9	Brenda Glass	20	20	20	20						
10	Barbara Gripshover, MD	20	20	20	20						
11	Deairius Houston	20	20	0	0						
12	Tracy Johnson	0	0	0	0						
13	LeAnder Lovett	20	20	0	0						
14	Tina Marbury	20	20	20	20						
15	Jeffrey Mazo	0	20	20	0						
16	Jason McMinn	20	20	20	20						
17	Christy Nicholls	20	20	20	20						
18	Naimah O'Neal	20	20	20	20						
19	Julie Patterson	20	20	20	20						
20	Chris Ritter	0	0	0	0						
21	Marlene Robinson-Statler	20	20	20	0						
22	Ronald Rolling	20	20	20	0						
23	Faith Ross	20	20	20	20						
24	William Simpson	0	0	0	0						
25	Robert Watkins	20	20	20	20						
26	Stephanice Washington	0	0	0	0						
27	Leshia Yarbrough- Franklin	20	20	20	20						
	Total in Attendance	22	22	21	18						

PC Attendees: B. Jones, E. Tye, K. Ruiz, U. Carter, S. DiCocco

Staff: M. Rodrigo, Z. Levar, M. Halko, P. Conti, S. Harris, T. Mallory