

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, March 17, 2021 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Start: 5:45 pm

End: 7:02 pm

Co-chair: B. Kimball

Moment of Silence

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda: March 17, 2021

Motion: C. Barnett Seconded: J. Mazo
In Favor: All Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Approval of the Minutes: February 17, 2021

Motion: C. Barnett Seconded: J. Mazo
In Favor: 19 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 2 (*R. Rolling, C. Droster*)

Flu & Covid-19 Update

Dr. Sherrie Williams, M.D., Pulmonologist at MetroHealth Medical Center, CCBH Board member, and recognized as the first person to be vaccinated in the community, presented insight with respect to getting vaccinated. To begin, nobody really knows the long term effect, nor does anyone know what will happen in the future. We do know, however, that the science behind the vaccine has been studied for many years. We also know that the long-haulers syndrome is a side-effect of the Covid disease and we are trying to learn more about this. This has been a challenging year, one about learning from all of us. Hopefully, we see light at the end of tunnel and encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

Dr. Barbara Gripshover, MD, Medical Director of the John T. Carey Special Immunology Unit of University Hospitals presented an informative COVID vaccine update to all in attendance. It began with the question, what do we want to accomplish?

Purpose of the vaccine

- *Prevent deaths from COVID*
- *Prevent hospitalizations and long-term sequelae of severe COVID "long haulers"*
- *Stop transmission to end the pandemic (get life back to normal)*
- *To stop infection or re-infection*
- *But also must be SAFE!*

Listed are the three types of vaccines currently available in the U.S. They all work by developing an immune response to recognize the spike protein on the coronavirus.

The Three (3) Vaccine Categories

1. **mRNA Vaccines** – produced by Pfizer and Moderna (*both are 2-dose vaccines*)
 - a. **Pfizer** – 95% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 disease.
 - b. **Moderna** – 94% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 disease.

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2. **Adenovirus Vector Vaccines**— produced by Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca
 - a. **Janssen/J & J** - A single-dose vaccine. There was a reduction in COVID-19 requiring medical intervention; no deaths after 14 days after vaccination; absence of hospitalizations and deaths even in countries with high level of variants.
 - b. **AstraZeneca** – NOT approved for use in the U.S.

3. **Protein Vaccines** – produced by Novavax – This vaccine is NOT approved for use in the U.S.

Questions & Comments

**Question:* J. McMinn – How long does it last?

**Response:* Dr. Gripshover - They are still measuring. For all of them, 100% develop antibodies but more time is needed to how long immunity lasts.

**Question:* S. Harris – Have there been any reports of re-infection if you’ve been vaccinated?

**Response:* Dr. Gripshover – We have not heard reports of re-infections after the vaccine, yet.

**Comment:* T. Allan – It’s also understood to mean you’ve completed both doses.

**Comment:* Dr. Gripshover – With both, it’s 95% effective, but we haven’t heard of re-infections.

**Question:* B. Glass – What about the reports of blood clots from the Astra-Zeneca vaccine?

**Response:* Dr. Gripshover – That’s looking at Europe where it was approved. However, when comparing those side effects with the millions of people there that have been vaccinated, it’s a small number. They say the rate is no higher than expected, but they’ve put it on hold for now.

Comment:* S. Harris – Also, the Astra-Zeneca vaccine has **NOT been approved in the U.S.

**Question:* J. McMinn – Is the Astra-Zeneca vaccine going to be available for people in the U.S.?

**Response:* Dr. Gripshover – They might be at some point, but we’re not there yet.

**Comment:* Dr. Williams – We know the disease itself tends to cause blood clots in people. The disease is a pretty nasty disease. However, keep in mind that the vaccine is safe, well researched and understood, and that it prevents the disease which we know causes severe outcomes for people.

**Question:* J. McMinn – What kind of improvements will be made, like covering different strains or other things that might be added?

**Response:* Dr. Gripshover – Continuing to make sure it works for the new variants and with time, trying to maintain herd immunity so as to be ready for new variances.

**Comment:* T. Allan – We are working to increase the available site and through outreach efforts, we are identifying more groups every day. For those that want to become vaccine site providers, they must apply on a survey form.

**Comment:* M. Rodrigo – The goal is to get a community organization on the East and West side to get slots to register people for vaccines who are people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A) and get them to the Wolstein Center for vaccinations. The thought is to do this after March 29th and open it to everyone so we can get as many folks vaccinated as possible. Also, we can always expand the time for people who may have difficulty getting the vaccine.

**Comment:* B. Kimble –We just want to encourage everyone to get the vaccine.

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**Comment:* M. Robinson-Statler – A lot of people have used the County access code, 211 to get registered. Additionally, local libraries and senior centers are providing bus tickets to get vaccinated, and for the senior centers, the clergy alliance is collaborating with them to provide transportation.

Grantee Report – March 2021

Grantee Report - March 2021 – Planning Council

1. Grantee Report

- a. ODH State Integrated Plan no update. ODH filling key positions.
- b. Clinical Quality Management committee continues to meet with the efforts focusing on disparities in viral suppression. CCBH is finished 2021 project meetings with all providers as well as one-page summary reports for the providers.
- c. Grantee team is starting 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 late April.
- h. Data to Care – ODH is reviewing its D2C process. CCBH will need to update our protocol in regard to 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 almost complete. CCBH completed a RSR training for all providers during two separate meetings. CAREWare was upgraded so the report could be submitted to HRSA.
- 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

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expenditures are coming due to close 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 is March 3rd 2021.
- m. 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.
The FY2020 grant - The allocations split is 79.57% core 20.43% Support the expenses are at 76.36% for ten months which is underutilized. Ten months should be 83% there are a few providers behind schedule.

Administrative

We are starting the fiscal year 2021

Annual Kickoff meeting was held Friday, March 12, 2021

Annual provider Showcase of Services set for Friday, March 26, 2021

Trainings via Community Partners and the ADAMHS Board on Mental Health, HIV/Prep, and Oral health

Working on closing out 2020 grants

FY2018 Utilization Update

We are trending low, some agencies doing last minute allocations.

Some funds will be left over.

Many vacancies due to Covid, it has been hard to fill them.

Ryan White Part B Update – S. DiCocco

We have a new community-based program manager (Carla R.) that started this week. Three new positions have also been posted:

- 1). an epidemiology 3, application due Mar. 25th; and
- 2). Two ODAP coordinators due Mar. 24th.

Medicaid Update –C. Nicholls

We are continuing to stay current on Medicaid and seeing an increase in applications due to the marketplace. It will remain open until May 15th and next month we will have more info. There will also be a system shutdown at the end of April and we will update that info later. Also, we want to inform those that have contacted our administrative offices directly in the past, that Alison McLinn will be leaving and moving on to the next phase of her career. For future Medicaid issues, e-mail me and you will be properly directed.

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**Question:* J. McMinn – How long is the marketplace Medicaid application processing for the state?

**Response:* C. Nicholls – We are outside of the state marketplace. It is said that they notify people directly, but the County does not see that process. Ideally, it should happen within a 24-hour period, but we have seen with the marketplace, that it can take months for the County to receive applications. It seems to be more of a systems issue, although it is better than in the past. As a suggestion, if you don't hear from anything in 30 days, reach out to the County.

HOPWA Update – J. Citerman-Kraeger

We are currently setting up site visits with HOPWA partners and looking forward to seeing how the year has gone. We will also have a new RFP out in the next 2-3 weeks and Technical Assistant at the end of April.

Planning Council Operations

Monthly Report from HRSA Project Officer – S. Harris

We reported monthly activity for March, talked about where we are in the priority setting process, the new Prevention committee roles and vetting process, the plans for Oral Health and the work that the QI and CLC committees are doing to support that, as well as our continuing Covid discussions for full PC. We had a good response for Planning Council and no issues. We also reported that we received an application to serve on PC from Care Alliance, a Ryan White Part C funded organization, and that there are no vacancies in mandatory categories for Planning Council at this time.

HIV Prevention & Care Update - S. Harris

The committee had its first official meeting March 3rd. Brandy Eaton, CCBH Supervisor of the Prevention Program, gave a Prevention Program overview and we discussed projects and talked through the work plan and goals for the committee. We are still looking for applications from new members to serve as Prevention Committee co-chairs. As of today, we only have four applicants and are looking for others interested in joining. We will submit all the applications we receive to the executive co-chairs by the end of month. The next Prevention meeting will be April 7, 2021, from 4-5:30 p.m. After this meeting, the committee will go to quarterly sessions and the next meeting will be in June. We are looking to establish our base group of active members, so if you know of interested applicants, please submit them soon as possible.

**Question:* J. Patterson – Do current members of PC need to fill out another application for Prevention?

**Response:* S. Harris - It makes it official for Prevention, you can just let Sharron or Toni know via e-mail that you are interested in also serving on Prevention and that Prevention will be your 2nd committee.

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

Every year we affirm from PC members the commitment to comply with Ryan White legislative requirements and HRSA policies and procedures. Annually, we remind members of the several forms that need to be completed.

- a. Code of Conduct
- b. Confidentially
- c. Conflict of Interest
- d. Ohio Ethic Laws (*acknowledgement of receipt*)

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We only need the signature page of each form and they can be returned by either e-mail or U.S mail. Afterwards, we will confirm receipt of the forms and catalog them.

PSRA Update – S. Harris

Next month, we will be prioritizing the Ryan White services funded in the Cleveland TGA at the April 7th 1:00 p.m. Strategy & Finance (S&F) committee meeting. Those wanting to participate, please join the call. The service allocations will be done at the June meeting.

Committee Reports

Community Liaison Committee – N. O’Neal

We met on March 3rd 2021. We tabled the majority of agenda to accommodate the Covid presentation by Dr. Gripshover and discuss the input on the QI Oral Health initiatives. We are also still working on trying to have a virtual event in Lorain County.

Strategy & Finance – C. Droster

We received several informative presentations on HOPWHA, Part A and Part B Utilization services, as well as gathered some information for the upcoming priority setting process. We will the conduct priority setting next month to prioritize all of our funded services. Everyone’s invited to join us.

Membership, Retention & Marketing – B. Glass

At our March 3rd meeting, we reviewed how to recruit for PC and strategies to collaborate with the community to reach Hispanic populations. We also made plans to begin the interview process In April, starting with the candidates that care currently on file and we will send reminders for those needing to re-apply. For anyone interested in participating on the interview panel, please let us know.

Quality Improvement – J. McMinn

We met this afternoon and had presentations given by two dental providers one from MetroHealth and the other from UH Case Dental school, followed by a Q&A session. Afterwards, we had a conversation on the dental services in our transitional grant area (TGA). The committee will now take that information, along with other data around oral health and continue on with our service category review.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

None

Announcements

B. Glass – There is an upcoming forum discussion on the American Relief Plan Funding Opportunities, set for March 23, 2021. Further details and registration info will be sent out after today’s meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: K. Dennis

Seconded: N. O’Neal

In favor: All

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Attendance

	Planning Council Members	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June PSRA	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	Kimberlin Dennis – Co-Chair	20	20	20							
2	Terry Allan – Co-Chair	20	20	20							
3	Brian Kimball – Co-Chair	20	20	20							
4	Clifford Barnett	20	20	20							
5	Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger	20	20	20							
6	Michael Deighan	20	20	20							
7	Clinton Droster	20	0	20							
8	Billy Gayheart	20	20	20							
9	Brenda Glass	20	20	20							
10	Barbara Gripshover, MD	20	20	20							
11	Deairius Houston	20	20	0							
12	Tracy Johnson	0	0	0							
13	LeAnder Lovett	20	20	0							
14	Tina Marbury	20	20	20							
15	Jeffrey Mazo	0	20	20							
16	Jason McMinn	20	20	20							
17	Christy Nicholls	20	20	20							
18	Naimah O'Neal	20	20	20							
19	Julie Patterson	20	20	20							
20	Chris Ritter	0	0	0							
21	Marlene Robinson-Statler	20	20	20							
22	Ronald Rolling	20	20	20							
23	Faith Ross	20	20	20							
24	William Simpson	0	0	0							
25	Robert Watkins	20	20	20							
26	Stephanice Washington	0	0	0							
27	Leshia Yarbrough- Franklin	20	20	20							
	Total in Attendance	22	22	21							

PC Attendees: S. DiCocco, Dr. Sherrie Williams, M.D., B. Jones, J. Stevenson, L. Schaefer, K. Rodas, B. Anderson-Freese, L. Boyer, M. Jackson-Rollins, S. Gurloch, S. Sullivan,

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