

**Prevention Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

Start: 4:02 pm

End: 5:32 pm

Facilitator: S. Harris

Moment of Silence

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda: April 7, 2021

Motion: C. Barnett Seconded: K. Dennis

Vote: In Favor: All Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Approval of the Minutes: March 3, 2021

Motion: C. Barnett Seconded: K. Dennis

Vote: In Favor: 21 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 2- R. Rolling, U. Carter

Covid 19 Impact on Testing, Outreach (Idea Sharing)

E. Habat, University Hospitals – One challenge for UH (University Hospital) is that we have had to limit space and clinic hours, which are now Mon-Thurs 8a-4p. That limits the number of people in the building and patients must have appointments. To schedule one, you can call (216) 844-5316, the direct line of E. Habat.

B. Jones, "DIRT" Advocacy Movement, Sankofa Initiative - Concerns with data being gathered that it may show numbers are reduced for new diagnoses. Also, how testing numbers will be reported, maybe we can look at trends, not hard numbers or maybe something can be compiled from all sites on testing and protocols, etc.

Comment:* **M. Kolenz, Cuyahoga County Board of Health – We think these concerns aren't isolated because it's a global pandemic. So there are many unknowns and data sources may never show accurate pictures with HIV or other rates. We did a lot of hard work making changes to the process, but 2020 may be a wash.

R. Watkins, Recovery Resources – How is UH marketing their hours and availability to the public?

**Response:* E. Habat – We've been on networks and we inform people when they visit. However, current marketing efforts haven't been as frequent or broad, due to time and space.

E. Tighe, Signature Health - It's been difficult with Covid.

N. Marrero, Cleveland AIDS Task Force – At the Task Force, we've kept an average of 10-12 youths engaged in sessions Mon-Thurs, 5-8 pm, via Zoom meetings. We recently opened and limited the number for sessions but made it aware that we are open for testing at any time during office hours. We make sure to accommodate youth and clients, in general. We've also been encouraging testing on Tuesdays and giving incentives.

**Question:* B. Jones – Is that testing for Covid or HIV and can anyone come in?

**Response:* N. Marrero – HIV and yes, it's open to everybody.

U. Carter, Care Alliance – Care Alliance is moving along, it's been rough. We're now assisting with prostate cancer month for men. We'll also be doing testing in barber shops and following up on HIV tests, just using any crutch to get in the door then we go back.

S. Harris, Cuyahoga County Board of Health– With emergency rooms, is there opt-ins for HIV testing? **Response:*

B. Eaton, Cuyahoga County Board of Health - No, Ohio is not an opt-in state, and not all are up to speed with offering that.

**Comment:* B. Jones – Emergency rooms are offering PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis), but seeing demographics, are they referring them to ASO's?

Response:* **A. Zaeed, Circle Health - We are doing walk-in testing at Circle Health for HIV and the regular public. For PEP, some have come outside the 72-hour window, then came to our site. This may be because they're not informed to come in beforehand, so education needs to be given on that.

Comment:* **N. O'Neal, Circle Health - The people came to Circle due to not having insurance. Some don't know, but you can go to the manufacturer to get it. A social worker could help with that process.

**Comment:* E. Habat - Our ER also does do PEP, but it may not happen each time.

**Comment:* B. Jones – It seems PEP would be available with or without insurance. Is it mandatory for health departments to have this available? Maybe they should offer funding to ASO's to assist those zip codes where impacts are prevalent because PEP hasn't been out there like PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).

**Response:* S. Harris – It may be the education network, and not all are informed on this. Maybe broadening that campaign could be part of the solution.

**Comment:* B. Jones – It lacks consistency, a solid plan should be in place with how it's implemented.

**Comment:* R. Watkins – Centralizing information should be the effort, breaking it down into categories, all ER's, all agencies and what they offer, their hours, contacts, and/or websites. This could be a catalyst to get the info out.

**Comment:* B. Eaton - We entered a partnership with the three major medical systems: Cleveland Clinic (CCF), MetroHealth (Metro) and University Hospitals (UH) to opt out. However, we can always have a discussion with those systems and see where the breakdowns are. We will also work with CCF's satellite offices.

J. Patterson, AIDS Funding Collaborative – We also funded in collaboration with UH to build protocols. Maybe we could invite that person to a future meeting to discuss this. Also, PEP is basically a rapid prescription, so having those meds on hand could be a stumbling block.

**Response:* B. Eaton – Yes, they are definitely invited to participate.

C. Barnett, NORA (Northern Ohio Recovery Association) – What are we doing to increase the number of testers within organizations, so we can go to them versus waiting for someone to come?

**Response:* B. Eaton – There are no solidified plans, a lot of data and paperwork goes along with, after which that data needs to be fed back to ODH (Ohio Department of Health). So, it may be attractive to some and not others.

**Response:* M. Kolenz – We did a class last month but, in the past, it's always been an annual class because of the amount of paperwork.

**Comment:* B. Jones – A lot of community-based organizations have to rely on federally-funded agencies for testing, in places that may not be as accommodating to the community.

**Comment:* M. Kolenz – The current testing sites available are: AIDS Task Force, Circle Health, Cleveland Treatment Center, Lorain County Public Health, Medina County Public Health, Signature Health, and Care Alliance.

**Comment:* S. Harris – For now with testing, we have to accept fact that Covid is forcing us and everyone to be less active than we want, even in the interest of being safe.

D. Houston, Cleveland AIDS Task Force – AIDS Task Force is still actively testing.

DIS Update and Data Extractions from ODRS – B. Eaton

We report that the current data is preliminary, based on the updates that have been provided from our DIS (Disease Intervention Specialist) staff. In their role, which involves skilled extensive investigation and communication efforts, the DIS determines if the cases received are accurate cases for reporting. To date, the most recent reports show both Cuyahoga and Lorain County leading in HIV and syphilis cases. The question now is what data does the committee want to receive moving forward?

**Comment:* B. Jones – Maybe data on zip codes, and women vs. men. We also have to start being able to put this out in the community that syphilis is running rampant.

**Response:* B. Eaton – It is a barrier and frustration. Once numbers are finalized, this could guide how we look at Prevention activities, as a lot of the specific information comes from DIS client interviews.

**Question:* R. Watkins – Could we be more specific in target populations, like youth, age group, so as to get a better grip on where transmissions are happening?

**Comment/Question:* J. Patterson – Maybe look at the transgender population and testing risk assessments. Also, can the numbers be run separately?

**Response:* M. Kolenz – This data is from anyone reporting to the State of OH. We don't have that real time data, ODH has to run that and they're mostly dealing with Covid now. It will happen eventually.

**Question:* R. Watkins- We're doing all this testing, how about offering a one-stop shop for everything?

**Response:* A. Zaaed – At Circle we test for all, HIV, STI's, and Covid. We also have a pharmacy, labs, case managers, and a dental office. So, the capabilities are there.

**Question:* R. Watkins – How does linkage to care work?

**Response:* A. Zaaed – They get a follow-up call for positive results and then receive basic education and treatment options.

**Comment:* N. O'Neal – If someone tests positive for HIV, they're started on a process right away, and given meds.

Presentation & Submission of Mandatory Confirmation Forms

Listed are the four (4) mandatory confirmation forms tied to codes of conduct and bylaws on how Ryan White planning councils must operate. They are:

1. Ohio Ethics Laws Acknowledgment Form – This form acknowledges receipt and review of the official 60-page Ohio Ethics law booklet which is to be maintained for your records. Only the acknowledge form is to be signed and returned upon completion.

2. Code of Conduct Affirmation & Pledge– This form which affirms your agreement to abide by the code of conduct principles, is to be signed and returned.

3. Member Confidentiality Policy & Pledge – This form affirms your agreement to maintain confidentiality of meeting discussions and to refrain from sharing confidential information with outside parties. It also is to be signed and returned.

4. Conflict of Interest Confirmation Pledge – This form affirms your pledge to disclose any conflicts (such as having a current affiliation with a RW funded agency) that may impact or influence the meeting discussions and/or the voting process. This form is to be signed and returned.

**Question:* C. Barnett – Do the PC members have to duplicate the forms?

**Response:* S. Harris - No, for current PC members that have submitted their forms, they don't have to be done again.

Prevention Membership Update

The Prevention program is operated by the Center of Disease Control (CDC), whereas the Ryan White program is funded by the federal government under HRSA (Health Resources Services Administration) and operates under strict laws and guidelines for providing its Part A services to clients. As the Prevention Committee is a new group still in its formation stage, anyone interested in participating is welcome to join, including multiple staff members from one agency.

Application Update

An updated application, specifically for Prevention, will be re-submitted for Prevention Committee applicants to complete. Those that received and completed the old applications will get new ones and we are asking that these applications be completed and returned by June. When completing the application, please remember to check Prevention as your primary committee. However, if you decide

to check any of the RW subcommittees: Community Liaison, Strategy & Finance, Membership, or Quality Improvement, keep in mind that you will be required to go through the RW application protocols. Prevention committee nominees will have their applications reviewed and will receive final selection by the three Planning Council Executive Committee members: Kimberlin Dennis, Terry Allan, and Brian Kimball. These nominees will not have to go through the County process mandated for Ryan White Planning Council nominees.

Prevention Co-Chairs

We are actively seeking two co-chairs for the committee. So far, only Clifford Barnett has applied. However, there were past concerns that some preferred current RW Planning Council co-chairs not be allowed first consideration as Prevention co-chairs. A co-chair nomination was suggested for Bryan Jones.

The Voting Process

All official Prevention Committee members will be allowed to vote in Prevention meetings.

When multiple agency staff committee members attend meetings, only one person per agency will be allowed to vote and the agency staff will determine the staff representative who votes on behalf of their organization.

Any and all Prevention members may attend Planning Council meetings. However, they are not permitted to vote in any Planning Council matters.

Any official Planning Council member can vote in Prevention meetings. However, any official Planning Council member who wants to become a Prevention Co-chair, will lose the privilege of voting on the Planning Council committee, as the Prevention committee will become their primary committee.

Any official Planning Council member or PC co-chair that maintains the Planning Council committee as their primary committee will be allowed to vote in all the Planning Council committees.

Next Steps - The next Prevention meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 from 4-5:30 pm. The committee will receive prior updates.

Announcements - B. Jones – An upcoming HIV is Not a Crime virtual event, sponsored by the Sero Project, will be held June 7-10, 2021. Further details will be provided after the meeting.

D. Mitchell – There will be an Earth Day event in East Cleveland on Woodward Avenue, April 22, 2021. If anyone is wants to come out and participate, please do so.

Adjournment

Motion: R. Watkins Seconded: R. Rolling

Vote: In Favor: All

Prevention Committee: R. Watkins, C. Barnett, J. Patterson, B. Jones, R. Rolling, U. Carter, M. Robinson-Statler, Nestor, B. Gayheart, S. Sullivan, Prince J., K. Dennis, D. Houston, K. Hildreth, D. Mitchell, E. Tighe, E. Habat, C. Osborne, L. Boyer

Staff: B. Eaton, M. Kolenz, S. Harris, T. Mallory