

HIV Services Newsletter

CCBH

JUNE 2022

*Check out our
updated website!*

Ryan White Part A:
[https://www.ccbh.net/
ryan-white/](https://www.ccbh.net/ryan-white/)

Ending the HIV
Epidemic (EHE):
[https://www.ccbh.net/
endinghiv/](https://www.ccbh.net/endinghiv/)



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HIV/AIDS Awareness Days

HIV LONG-TERM SURVIVORS AWARENESS DAY

June 5th - "This day honors long-term survivors of the epidemic and raises awareness of their needs, issues, and journeys."

NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

June 27th - "This day encourages people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment."

NATIONAL FAITH HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

August 29th - "This day intends to engage faith communities to work together for HIV/AIDS education, prevention, treatment, care, and support; and to reduce and eliminate stigma and discrimination."

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND AGING AWARENESS DAY

September 18th - "This day brings attention to the growing number of people living long and full lives with HIV and to their health and social needs."

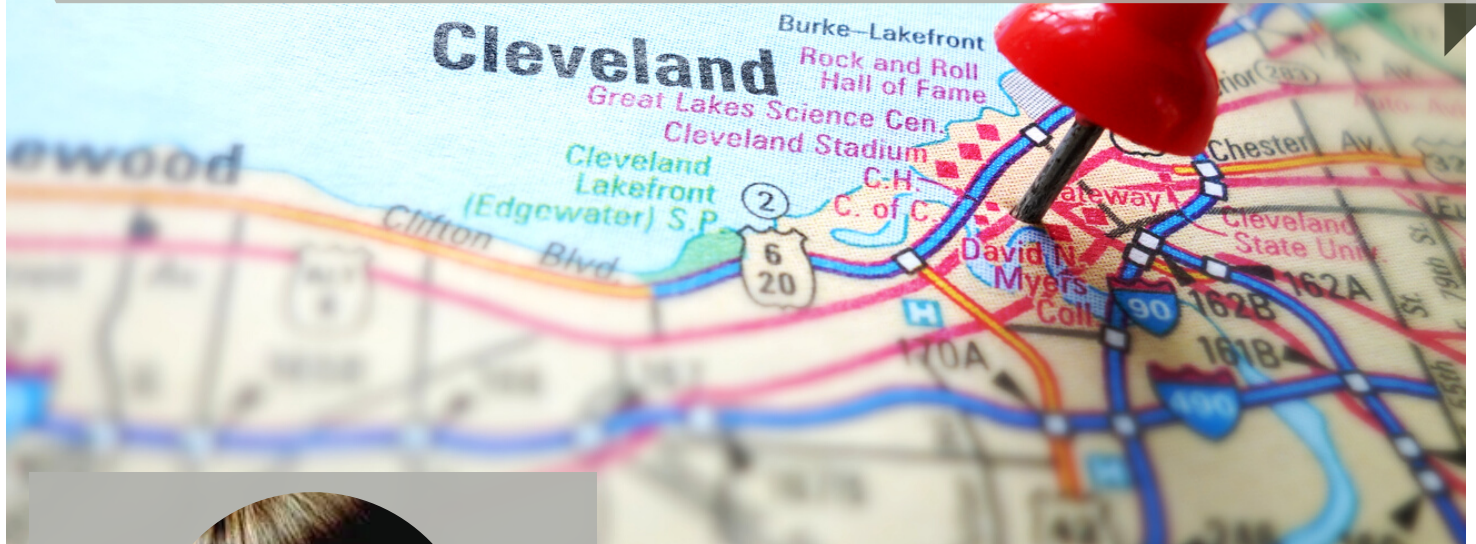
NATIONAL GAY MEN'S HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

September 27th - "This day recognizes the disproportionate impact of the epidemic on gay men."

NATIONAL LATINX AIDS AWARENESS DAY

October 15th - "This day is organized to build capacity for non-profit organizations and health departments to reach Latinx/Hispanic communities, promote HIV testing, and provide HIV prevention information and access to care."

Ryan White Part A



PART A UPDATES

Our Cleveland TGA Part A program has just entered the first year of a three-year funding cycle. This is the first time that HRSA has allowed for a three-year funding cycle. Later this fall, direct services will be out for bid via RFP (Request for Proposals). This is the time where agencies in our 6-county region can apply to be a part of the Part A network and deliver Ryan White services. More information to follow as we get closer to that time.

STATEWIDE INTEGRATED PLAN

The next Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan 2022-2026 is currently being developed in coordination with the Ohio Department of Health. This plan will provide direction for ways that our state can impact the HIV landscape for the next several years. Currently, there are 8 affinity groups targeting specific populations/topic areas that will meet over the next several months to inform the plan and ensure each population's barriers are adequately represented.

Those groups are:

- Centering the Voices of PLWHA
- Rural Issues and HIV
- HIV Workforce
- Growing Older with HIV
- Interventions
- Treatment
- Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder
- Youth and HIV

Ryan White Part A



We have also had shifts in our HIV services teams as of late, so please reference the below organizational chart for our most up-to-date structure.

Population Health

Martha Halko - Director

Zach Levar - Deputy Director

Monica Baker - Part A Supervisor	Gloria Agosto Davis - EHE Supervisor
Vacant - Program Manager	Vacant - Program Manager
La'Keisha James - Program Manager	
Danielle LeGallee - Grant Coordinator	Erin Lark - Program Manager
Toni Mallory - Admin. Specialist	Somer Walker - Grant Coordinator

Nursing and Clinical Services

Vacant - Director

Vacant - Deputy Director

Brandy Eaton - HIV/STI Prevention Supervisor

Melissa Kolenz - Program Manager	Rachel McDade - DIS Program Manager
Ta'Juanna Simpson - DIS	Alexa Geiger - DIS
LaJuanna White - DIS	Traci Scott - DIS
Lindsey Akpo-Esambe - DIS	Melissa Hansen - DIS
Clarence Williams - DIS	Ebony Beachum - DIS
Sonji Deal-Mason - DIS	Imani Tunson - DIS

Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS)



MEET THE NEW DIS TEAM

WHAT ARE DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS?

DIS are public health outreach workers who serve as patient navigators and network builders for people with sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. They assist with contact tracing, case analysis, interviewing, and counseling clients to ensure provider and community engagement.

ALEXA GEIGER

As a new DIS at CCBH, Alexa is thrilled to be working a position that allows her to work both for and within the community to aid in ensuring the health and wellbeing of the surrounding communities. In her spare time, Alexa enjoys spending time outdoors with her family, husband, and two children. Alexis is a recent graduate from Kent State University, where she obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Public Health.

Prior to completing her studies in public health, Alexa obtained degrees in both the Science and Arts field, as well as a certification in Dental Assisting and Radiography. She has previously worked at a local corrections facility in the receiving and distribution department, as well as an officer. Working as a DIS at CCBH will allow Alexa to serve her community in ways that she has always dreamed of doing. Alexa expressed excitement to begin this new journey working at CCBH, and she looks forward to learning and experiencing new things.

Meet the New DIS Team



EBONY BEACHUM



Ebony joined the CCBH DIS team on 04/25/22. Her background is in finance, and her previous role was a sales and use tax specialist. Ebony's other prior roles were in billing and property preservation. She is from Cleveland, Ohio and received her degree in business management from a local university.

Ebony's new role as a DIS is vastly different from any other role that she has had, and she looks forward to the challenge. In her free time, Ebony likes to garden, spend time with her son, and online shop.

MELISSA HANSEN

Melissa was born and raised in Orlando, FL. She recently joined the Prevention and Wellness team at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) as a Disease Intervention Specialist. Prior to entering this new role as a DIS, Melissa was enrolled at the University of South Florida, where she completed her undergraduate degree in Public Health. In her free time, you could probably find Melissa enjoying live music at one of the many venues here in Cleveland or out exploring one of the Metro Parks. Overall, she is incredibly excited to join the rest of the DIS team at CCBH and for this opportunity to contribute to improving HIV/AIDS outcomes within her new community here in Cleveland.

SONJI DEAL-MASON

Sonji was born and raised in Cleveland, and is a Navy Veteran. Sonji has been in the HIV/STI field for 3+ years; however, they have 20+ years in the clinical/lab setting. In Sonji's free time, they like to hike/backpack.

Meet the New DIS Team

IMANI TUNSON



Imani may be a new face to the Prevention and Wellness Department, but not to CCBH. She has been employed with CCBH since 2020, where she served as a Sanitarian-in-Training. While being open to change and new opportunities, Imani recently transitioned to the DIS position. In 2021, Imani obtained a Master's degree in Public Health from Kent State University. She hopes to use her knowledge and skills to improve the health outcomes of those impacted by adverse health outcomes.

To decompress from a long day's work, Imani enjoys indulging in self-care activities. In particular, she enjoys being creative with hair and makeup, relaxing at a local spa, and traveling the world.

TRACI SCOTT

Traci is a new Disease Intervention Specialist with the Prevention and Wellness program. She started on April 25, 2022 with five other great individuals whom she is learning so much from and about. Her professional background consists of ten plus years of experience in Intensive case management services with Homeless individuals and families at West Side Catholic Center.

Traci was born and raised in South Carolina and obtained her BA in Psychology from an HBCU (Historic Black College/University). Traci is a country girl who loves everything outdoors and she is super excited to be a new edition within the team and agency.

Clinical Quality Management



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs) are not currently being operationalized in our respective sub-recipient agencies. Along with the CQM program, QIPs are being re-designed with a more systemic, TGA-wide focus in mind. Once projects are finalized, respective sub-recipients will be notified.

CLINICAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Clinical Quality Management Committee (CQMC) is currently being restructured to be more intentional about our focus, and re-establishing the specific purpose as it relates to informing the CQM program overall. Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs) and monitoring data are not the only aspects of the CQM program, and we are excited to enhance in some other areas. One of those areas provides new opportunities for the development of our CQMC members.

By the end of 2022, we will be seeking a few individuals who are willing to become Quality Improvement Leaders in our region and are willing to take their knowledge of QI to the next level. More information on that to come! We're also planning to have a few expert speakers to join us and teach us about Quality Improvement methods and some best practices of CQM.

Clinical Quality Management



NATIONAL EVALUATION OF HIV PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE IN THE UNITED STATES

The purpose of this study is to measure the current and future HIV clinician workforce needs in the United States and its territories. We anticipate 5,000 subjects will take part in the research. Take the survey [here](#).

INTERNAL CQM COMMITTEE

As a best practice of the Ryan White Part A grant, a formal Internal CQM Committee was created in January 2022. This committee meets to develop the CQM program and provides direction to the overall Cleveland TGA.

The recipient CQM Program Manager is the Committee Chair and the Part A Supervisor is the Co-Chair. Along with the Supervisor, the Population Health Deputy Director provides oversight and champions the program to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) Senior Leadership Team.

Currently, this committee is undergoing TA (Technical Assistance) with the HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) consultant to revise the current CQM plan, and is being written as an 18-month plan, spanning through December 2023.

Planning Council Corner

REQUEST A PAPER COPY



You can request a paper copy of the survey from your case manager at your HIV healthcare provider's office, or by submitting an email request to:

Sharon Harris at:
sharris@promesacgi.com

Antoinette Mallory at:
amallory@ccbh.net

TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY

Click on the link below or copy and paste the link into your Internet browser to take the 2022 PLWH survey online:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MBV9WD7>.

DO YOU HAVE HIV OR NEED HIV-RELATED HEALTHCARE ASSISTANCE?

If your answer is yes, the Cuyahoga County Regional HIV Prevention and Care Planning Council wants to hear from you. The Planning Council's Community Liaison Committee is surveying persons living with HIV (PLWH) across the Cleveland Transitional Grant Area (TGA) to obtain feedback on the type of HIV-related healthcare services they need and services that are important to them.

The survey is available to take online in "Survey Monkey" or, if preferred, you may obtain a paper copy. To be eligible to take the survey you must be a PLWH and a resident of one of the following six (6) Ohio counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, or Medina.

Ending the HIV Epidemic: Care



ENDING THE EPIDEMIC WITH AHEAD

The availability of new data, such as quarterly data from the CDC on America's HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard (AHEAD), addresses the need for reliable and up-to-date data so EHE priority areas can better coordinate responses to the epidemic at local levels. Check out the latest Cuyahoga data [here](#).

We're getting **AHEAD** of HIV.

The AHEAD dashboard provides national, state, and local data for the EHE indicators: Incidence, Knowledge of Status, Diagnoses, Linkage to HIV Medical Care, Viral Suppression, and PrEP Coverage.

[EXPLORE LOCAL DATA](#)



Ending
the
HIV
Epidemic

AHEAD ➔

Ending the HIV Epidemic: Care

LGBTQ & EATING DISORDERS



Eating Disorders in **LGBTQ+ Populations**

Individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ are at increased risk for eating disorders due to a variety of circumstances. It is important to understand the risk factors, what to look for, and protective factors when caring for this population.

Common Risk Factors for LGBTQ+ Individuals

- ⓘ Anti-LGBTQ+ bias and stigma
- ⓘ Family and community rejection
- ⓘ Gaps in access to care
- ⓘ Media influences
- ⓘ Unrealistic pressure to assume certain appearance expectations

Protective Factors for LGBTQ+ Individuals

- ♡ LGBTQ+ affirming care
- ♡ Media influences that represent a range of LGBTQ+ bodies and appearances
- ♡ Family acceptance
- ♡ LGBTQ+ competent health care providers
- ♡ Emphasis on body neutrality and functionality
- ♡ Trauma-informed care

Ending the HIV Epidemic: Care



HIV

CRIMINALIZATION IN OHIO

“Currently, Ohio’s laws around HIV are not based in modern scientific research and are outdated, being written 20 years ago. The current laws do not promote public health and work against current public health initiatives. Lastly, these laws promote an unhealthy and problematic stigma to the individuals living with HIV in Ohio” (OHMM, 2022). The Ohio Health Modernization Movement (OHMM) hosts informational webinars and advocates for the revision of these harmful laws. Learn more [here](#).

ADVANCED MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN HIV CARE CONFERENCE

- A focus on management of patients infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- Who should attend?
 - Infectious disease and internal medicine physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurses, and other health care professionals who have an interest in HIV care.
- Sept. 15 , 2022 from 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Keynote Address:
 - Sept. 16 , 2022 • 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Conference location:
 - [The Glidden House](#), Cleveland, Ohio
- Registration: opens June 1, 2022
- Learn more: [2022 HIV Virtual Conference](#)
- Questions?
 - Email: medcme@case.edu

NATIONAL
RYAN WHITE
CONFERENCE
ON HIV CARE & TREATMENT

AUGUST 23-26, 2022

****[Register here](#)****

Ending the HIV Epidemic: Care

YOU'RE WELCOME: ANTI-STIGMA MEDIA CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT



The Cuyahoga County Board of Health launched a local social marketing campaign in December 2021 to communicate how lack of knowledge and understanding are barriers to both accessing HIV care and PrEP implementation. The campaign aims to educate both the general public as well as healthcare providers on how to lessen the stigma & identify biases around HIV & sexual health.

The campaign utilizes real world individuals who are living with HIV or taking PrEP to send a message to the public that they should not be devalued based on factors incongruent with providing equitable and high-quality care. Campaign materials are free to share and post on social media.

Learn more [here](#).

HIV Prevention



2022 HIV & STI PREVENTION SUBRECIPIENT CALENDAR

**If interested in attending any of the meetings, please contact Angela Street at: Angela.Street@odh.ohio.gov

HIV Combined Community Planning Group

February 9, 2022	Purpose: Community Planning Meeting to advise and consent to program activities Audience: Any community stakeholder is welcome, including community members, service providers, program managers, funders, and frontline staff	Team meeting invite: Held quarter 2 nd Wednesday 9:00am-12:00pm
May 11, 2022		
August 10, 2022		
November 9, 2022		

HIV/STI Prevention All Grantees Meeting

TBD on hold-currently conducting virtual meetings	Purpose: Service coordination and collaboration across programs within regions and the state Audience: Anyone funded by our programs or providing services under them	10-4pm- In Central Ohio
TBD on hold-currently conducting virtual meetings		10-4pm- In Central Ohio



Department
of Health

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, Director

HIV Prevention



2022 HIV & STI PREVENTION SUBRECIPIENT CALENDAR



HIV Prevention Workgroups

PrEP Navigation workgroup	February 1, 2022	Purpose: To address statewide activities, outreach efforts, capacity building, successes, and barriers to reaching the objectives related to providing effective services to the communities we service. Audience: Frontline staff	Team meeting invite: Held quarter 1 st Tuesday 1:00pm-2:00pm
	May 3, 2022		
	August 2, 2022		
	November 1, 2022		
Linkage to Care workgroup	February 8, 2022	Purpose: To address statewide activities, outreach efforts, capacity building, successes, and barriers to reaching the objectives related to providing effective services to the communities we service. Audience: Frontline staff	Team meeting invite: Held quarter 2 nd Tuesday 1:00pm-2:00pm
	May 10, 2022		
	August 9, 2022		
	November 8, 2022		
Community Involvement workgroup	February 15, 2022	Purpose: To address statewide activities, outreach efforts, capacity building, successes, and barriers to reaching the objectives related to providing effective services to the communities we service. Audience: Frontline staff	Team meeting invite: Held quarter 3 rd Tuesday 1:00pm-2:00pm
	May 17, 2022		
	August 16, 2022		
	November 15, 2022		

Training/Skill-Building Days (elective)

CTS HIV Prevention training	Quarterly	Audience: Any test counselors in Ohio, including DIS, clinic staff, EIS, and community-based testers New: 2-step process- self guided study & ODH Staff directed training	July 2022, October 2022, January 2023, Virtual invite/date TBD
Linkage to Care trainings	Quarterly 1:00pm-3:00pm	Audience: Anyone performing linkage or retention in care, including LTC, DIS, retention specialists, case aides, etc.	March 2, 2022, June 1, 2022, September 7, 2022, December 7, 2022 Virtual invite sent later
PrEP Navigation trainings	TBD	Audience: Funded EIS PrEP Navigators and Access Point agencies	
PAPI New User Training	As needed	Audience: Anyone working within the PAPI database, including PrEP Navigators and program evaluators	As needed

Feedback



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- What did you like in this issue of the HIV Services Newsletter?
- What would you like to see in future issues?

EMAIL DANIELLE
LEGALLEE AT
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CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION


Ryan White Part A
Cleveland TGA

