

Cuyahoga Regional HIV Health Services Planning Council

Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties

Clifford Barnett, Deairius Houston – Co-chairs

HIV Prevention Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm



Start: 4:03 pm

End: 5:15 pm

Facilitator: C. Barnett

Moment of Silence

Welcome and Introductions

***Please note:** PC members who have a conflict of interest must inform the committee at the beginning of each meeting. A Conflict of Interest, as it pertains to the Ryan White Planning Council Bylaws, is defined as “an interest (actual or perceived) by a Planning Council member in an action that may result in personal, organizational, or professional gain for the member or his/her spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, or sibling.”- Conflicted: C. Barnett, N. O’Neal*

The two new Prevention Co-chairs, **Deairius Houston** and **Clifford Barnett** opened the meeting with a welcome and thanks to all. Clifford, a long-time PC member and former co-chair of Strategy & Finance, stated he is looking forward to chairing and getting work done.

Approval of Agenda: June 1, 2022

Addendum: To add the discussion on meeting people where they are with testing, the implications, and what providers are already doing so that we can contribute to those efforts.

Motion: J. Patterson

Seconded: K. Dennis

Vote: In Favor: All

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Approval of the Minutes: March 2, 2022

Addendum: To correct, under “Next Steps,” the time for next the meeting from 4:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Also, under “Attendance” remove duplicate listing of Rickey Lewis from the roster. (Rev 6.9.22)

Motion: L. Cornell

Seconded: C. Droster

Vote: In Favor: 18

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 1- F. Ross

Prevention Program Update – Recipient Report – B. Eaton

We are in the last cycle of this grant period and the next competitive release is due to come out in the summer, in which we will have to compete again. Our project officer from ODH has not received an update yet, but there is a possibility the criteria under the HIV grant may change to look more like Ending the HIV Epidemic (EtHE). We do not have a solicitation to refer to now, but it will move more towards risk-based testing and in order to utilize testing, a person has to meet the criteria. Their thought is to maintain community testing, but they would remove the criteria that people would need a high-risk score to qualify. We are still awaiting an update from ODH and if they do not end up doing a competitive selection, we will continue as with the current criteria. When there is a delay, it is usually about a year and we would do it again in the summer. We have added six DIS (disease intervention specialist) staff, making a total of ten. Nine will be dedicated to DIS work on new cases for HIV and syphilis and one will work on re-engaging and re-linking persons into care. For now, all are in training.

***Question: J. Patterson** – Is the 10th person doing data to care.

***Response: B. Eaton** – Yes.

***Question: C. Barnett** – Are you still seeing rises in syphilis?

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***Response: B. Eaton** - Yes. We also hired an epidemiologist so they will get a better idea on the regional numbers for HIV and syphilis, as there is a large rise in congenital (present at birth) syphilis. We will also be releasing RFP's (requests for proposals) for testing sites. The testing sites under EtHE is not risk-based and the vendors would just offer testing to all. We are looking for that release in June and will keep the group informed.

***Question: D. Houston** - Is this for HIV or all?

***Response: B. Eaton** - Testing is for HIV, but they ask testing for all though not sure if funding covers.

ODH HIV/STI Update – Pending Confirmation-Tabled

Presentation – Office of Homeless Services –S. Harris

We will add this to the next agenda.

Prevention Program Highlights – C. Barnett

We should clarify how to decide who will provide/present future community highlights or whether we just decide, as we go along. It would be more helpful to organize this process so that we can factor these presentations into our quarterly agendas.

B. Eaton - We originally started out asking funded agencies to come but it is also important to hear what others have to share.

S. Harris – It would be good to know about agencies that provide PrEP and present topics like that or something the co-chairs would like to share and put one of those items on the agenda each month.

B. Eaton - If someone wants to share info on Pride Month that would be good.

B. Gayheart – For Lorain Pride Month, we are having a June 25th celebration in the city of Oberlin, from 12-3:00 pm and then having an after-hours event, oriented to adults. To learn more, search LGBTQ Lorain County Task Force allies at: lgbtqloraincounty.com/events/pride-picnic. Lorain County will also provide testing and outreach, during the Pride event.

J. Citerman-Kraeger – The City of Cleveland Department of Health is attending Cleveland Pride this Saturday, we have a booth and are looking forward to this. Last year, we did a car parade, but this year it is a live parade and a live pride event, similar to 2019. The weekend, Saturday, on the 11th, we will attend the Lake County Pride fest and have a booth there.

C. Barnett - UH will have pride table this year and stuff to give out.

F. Allan - University Hospitals will be tabling Pride with information on PrEP, U=U, HIV care services, and giving out plenty of swag.

D. Houston - Central Outreach will be at Pride with a mobile clinic, providing tests, preps sites, and giveaways.

A. Rollins - MetroHealth will be at Pride in the CLE. Check out our tote bags, they are a gag!

J. Patterson – A couple organizations just received awards to do HIV self-testing. The CDC Foundation Group was one, the other one was Health Organizations Worldwide. This may be good to discuss later.

M. Jackson-Rollins – We will do a kickoff tomorrow and will have more information. We hope to have testing in place for the Juneteenth event. Will be at Walgreens for kickoff tomorrow.

Community Testing – Bring to the Community- D. Houston

We want to make sure we do this efficiently and that we physically do the work required. We want to know about agencies that provide testing, what they offer, who is eligible, and when and on what days testing is available. We want to wrap services around people instead of them coming to us.

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C. Barnett - One of the things mentioned was providing testing during non-traditional hours, going to clubs and bars, and reaching out and being available at events outside of our normal, 9-5 daily lives.

S. Harris - Maybe we can consolidate something with this information to circulate abroad.

D. Houston - That would be awesome to have in a central location.

C. Barnett – Now anxious to see what others are doing and piggyback off that so we can reach these people and work towards ending the epidemic.

N. O'Neal - Circle does care and prevention and has a van that goes out every week that does syringe exchange for people at risk, HIV testing, and testing for people who get needles. We will give details for Sharron to distribute. It is not just the van, but also provided at Circle Health and they work with other agencies and sponsor events.

D. Houston - Many people are looking for after-hour info and knowing where the van is would help.

B. Eaton - The syringe program in Cuyahoga is done at a couple sites thru EtHE we can provide that info.

A. Rollins - We work with syringe as well at Metro. Since summer is approaching and churches are back doing testing, people are asking for general screenings. We can also refer them to churches doing summer health fairs, as there were a lot before Covid.

M. Jackson-Rollins – There is also a name at Care Alliance for that event.

J. Toombs – As the AIDS Task Force Director of HIV services, we are doing a mobile unit, which will go out into the community. We also do free testing from 1-4pm on Wednesdays and Covid testing.

N. O'Neal - We should compile info on testers so people have names and resources, maybe even compiling different lists, especially for weekend events so as not to tax the same people/resources.

C. Barnett – The current testers just took a course, when is the next class?

B. Eaton - To clarify, the required tester trainings are only if you receive ODH funding or ODH tests. Currently, , there is a series of online prerequisites and we don't know if they are general or just for funded agencies and we don't know those training processes. Melissa Kolenz has tester list info.

C. Barnett - One of the things noticed is nobody offers anything late at night or after hours.

J. Toombs - Our mobile unit is out late and weekend at clubs and bars. We will check on the hours.

D. Houston - Central Outreach has STI testing Monday 11-7 pm and open Tues–Friday from 9-5. The mobile unit does STI testing, PrEP starts, and PrEP to me. We are also doing club events this weekend at U.S. Skating, the Interbelt nightclub, and upcoming events with We Think 4 A Change. If anyone needs a test, we are relentless about helping people. We can provide blood pressure and temp testing as well.

J. Patterson – Are they still doing testing at flex bathhouse?

D. Houston - Yes, they are open every day. There is also testing Mon-Fri at the LGBTQ Center and hopefully they will have more days, as we are seeing a rise in gonorrhea and syphilis.

C. Barnett - How does non-traditional hours look for you, are there many being tested?

D. Houston - We get a lot for testing because we work with club promoters who bring them straight to our bus. It has been a great turnout so far.

M. Jackson-Rollins - We Think 4 A Change does not do actual testing, we collaborate and it is limited to who can come out to the community. We will provide our June/July schedule for STI/HIV testing.

R. Lewis - Project SAFE, besides testing at fixed sites and our office at 6001 Woodland, we offer it by appointment, will come to a person, or be available to help anyone by contacting: (216) 563-2043. We are also available after hours and test at the LGBT center on Thursdays from 4:00-7:30p and Saturdays at a residential treatment center.

J. Patterson - Wow did you get these test kits and what is your plan?

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M. Jackson-Rollins - We will be ordering take home test kits. The kickoff is tomorrow and we have them stored to distribute. For people who test positive, we will get list of people to follow up with for care.

B. Eaton – How will you collect info?

M. Jackson-Rollins – We do not have all the logistics now, but we will know tomorrow.

C. Barnett - Once you get the information compiled, please send it to Sharon to update us.

J. Patterson - Is this in Cleveland?

M. Jackson-Rollins - Yes, all events take place in Cleveland and Walgreen's on Lee Road (east) and Clark (west), is doing National HIV testing.

A. Whelan - With linkage to HIV positive, are organizations also doing PrEP?

M. Jackson-Rollins - All these organizations will be listed and offer PrEP.

A. Whelan - Just interested in how this goes, as it's a new age, giving people control of how to deal with results and providing that leverage and linkage information.

S. Harris – Take home kits are important, as many pops will not go to clinics. This is a positive alternative, especially with options for follow up.

C. Barnett – Thanks all for the information today. We ask everyone to send these updates to Sharron for better dissemination.

Next Steps

The next Prevention Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 4:00-5:30 pm.

Public Comment

A. Forbes - Are we doing anything on House Bill 616 (regarding how schools talk about sexual orientation and gender identity) going into Columbus?

S. Harris - As a federally funded organization, we are not able to have political discussions at our meeting, but outside, you can discuss.

Announcements

M. Jackson-Rollins - Tina and Naimah will be presenting at the National Social Workers Convention.

J. Patterson - The AIDS Funding Collaborative emailed info released on applying for annual responsive grants. We will send again if you did not get an email. Letters of intent are due July 1, 2022.

J. Toombs - PAHA is next month, virtually, and we will send the agenda and link.

A. Rollins – As a partner with PrEP to Block, Melissa Crenshaw is an incredible promoter, effectively helping engage in the communities we are trying to serve. The event is the first weekend in August.

D. Houston - We will have a large group of people and looking for partners to help in this event.

T. Marbury – Thank you to our two co-chairs. This was a very well run meeting with time to go deeper into discussions. Glad you are our chairs and look forward to continuing with this group. Women We Think 4 A Change has an upcoming event that will discuss topics on gun laws, have other speakers, provide clothing to dress for success, and other things. There may be a few spaces available.

Adjournment

Motion: T. Marbury Seconded: J. Stevenson

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ATTENDANCE

	PREVENTION MEMBERS	Jun 1, 2022	NOTES
1	Clifford Barnett, Co-chair	X	
2	Deairius Houston, Co-chair	X	
3	Robert Watkins		
4	Julie Patterson	X	
5	Bryan Jones		
6	Tina Marbury	X	
7	Michelle Jackson-Rollins	X	
8	Ahlem Zaaed		
9	Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger	X	
10	Rebecca Strong		
11	Christine Osborne	X	
12	Logan Boyer		
13	Emily Tighe		
14	Akeem Rollins	X	
15	Loretta Cornell	X	
16	Rickey Lewis	X	
17	Holly Phillips		
18	Corry Freeman		
19	Elizabeth Habat		
20	Kate Burnett-Bruckman		
21	Pam Weiland		
22	Karla Ruiz		
23	James Stevenson	X	
24	Karen Hill		
25	Joye Toombs	X	
26	Leander Lovett	X	

Attendees: A. Forbes, B. Gayheart, C. Nicholls, K. Dennis, F. Allan, C. Droster, F. Ross, N. O'Neal, C. Lewis, A. Whelan

Staff: Z. Levar, B. Eaton, M. Baker, M. Halko, R. McDade, S. Deal-Mason, S. Harris, T. Mallory