Cuyahoga Regional HIV Prevention and Care Planning Council Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties

September 7, 2022

Dear Friend:

On behalf of the Cuyahoga Regional HIV Prevention and Care Planning Council, (known as the "Planning Council") thank you and thanks to the Case Managers funded by the Ryan White Part A Program for assisting many of you with completing our 2022 People Living with HIV (PLWH) Survey. The objective of the survey was to get your opinion as a client receiving HIV-related care about services that are important to keep you healthy. Overall, ninety-seven (97) people took the survey. Your responses and all the feedback received is a valuable part of the Planning Council's effort to make sure that HIV-related health care and support services are available in our region. In addition, many of you expressed the need for other HIV-related assistance like medical supplies, housing assistance, easy access to medications, specialized care for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and other similar needs. We want you to know that we heard you and we are working on addressing your needs.

As a Planning Council, we are a federally funded organization created because of a law that passed in 1980. The law was titled the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, named after a young male, *"Ryan White,"* who was diagnosed with AIDS after receiving a blood transfusion. The Ryan White Program is the largest federal program specifically designed to address the unmet care and treatment needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS who do not have health insurance or do not have enough insurance to meet their health care needs.

The Planning Council is made up of volunteers appointed by the Cuyahoga County Executive to help decide what HIV-related health care and support services are needed and how much funding to allocation for HIV-related services. We hold meetings each month that are open to the public. PLWH are encouraged to attend the monthly meeting of the Planning Council's **Community Liaison Committee** (known as the "CLC") so you can express your concerns directly to Planning Council members. All participants in the CLC meeting must be a person living with HIV. The CLC meets monthly from 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. (due to COVID, meetings are on ZOOM through the remainder of 2022). The following is the CLC meeting dates through the end of 2022:

- 1. October 5, 2022
- 2. November 2, 2022
- 3. December 2022 (No meeting due to Christmas Holiday break)

To participate in meetings and to receive the participation link and meeting documents, please contact Planning Council support staff members, Sharron Harris by e-mail at sharris@promesacgi.com or Antoinette Mallory at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health by e-mail at amallory@ccbh.net.

For more information, visit the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Homepage at: www.ccbh.net/ryan-white.

Warmest Regards Co-Chairs, Community Liaison Committee

Faith Ross

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