

>>> JUNE 2024 <<<

HIV SERVICES NEWSLETTER

Presented by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health



BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

CCBH

**LET'S TALK
ABOUT PRIDE!**



HIV Prevention & Pride Month

Ryan White Part A

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>>> PRIDE MONTH

June is Pride Month, and CCBH is ready to join the community in celebration!

On June 28, 1969, law enforcement raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City. Patrons resisted the raid due to a long standing history of unwarranted police brutality, and law enforcement became violent, which sparked a five-night rebellion of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. This event, known as the Stonewall Riots, set the stage for future shifts in approach and visibility of the LGBTQ+ community.

Throughout June, people around the world come together to celebrate Pride Month, and to commemorate the LGBTQ+ community in honor of the Stonewall Riots. While this is a time of celebration, it is also a time of recognition and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community, and the long and hard-fought battle they have faced to live openly and honestly. It is important to understand all aspects of sex, gender, and sexuality, and acknowledge that these self-identities are natural and real.

The Cleveland Transitional Grant Area (TGA) boasts a wide variety of Pride events all month long in Ashtabula, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties. Click the event links listed, and join us in solidarity!



[PRIDE IN THE CLE](#)

Saturday, June 1st

[LAKE COUNTY PRIDE](#)

Sunday, June 9th

[PRIDE PICNIC & CHALK THE SQUARE](#)

(Medina County)

Thursday, June 13th

[ASHTABULA PRIDE FESTIVAL](#)

Saturday, June 15th

[GEAUGA PRIDE](#)

Saturday, June 15th

[LORAIN COUNTY PRIDE FESTIVAL](#)

Saturday, June 29th

RYAN WHITE PART A

>>> PROGRAM UPDATES

The Cleveland TGA is looking forward to another successful year of service delivery and providing support to the six-county community of thrivers and survivors! We've got several projects on the horizon to kick off the year. In order to ensure that we have the funding to continue providing support to service providers throughout the TGA, we will be completing a three-year competitive HRSA grant application.

INTEGRATED PLAN

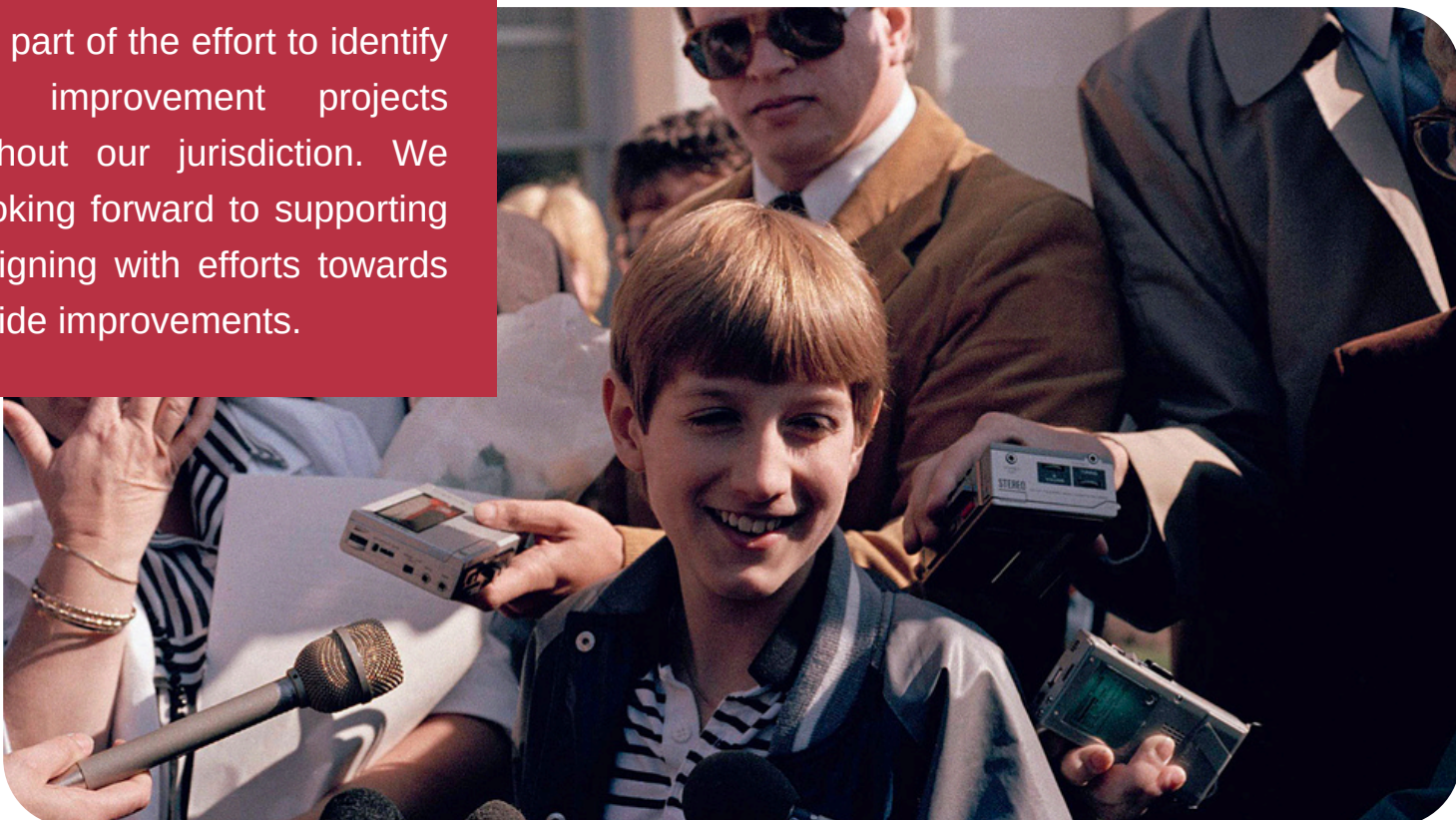
Designated workgroups continue to make progress on the initiatives outlined in the statewide integrated plan. They have begun mapping ODH processes in anticipation of a broader review of our overall systems-wide needs assessment.

This is part of the effort to identify quality improvement projects throughout our jurisdiction. We are looking forward to supporting and aligning with efforts towards statewide improvements.

>>> PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

In addition, our annual monitoring season will begin in June. Also, be sure to check us out at the upcoming Pride in the CLE activities. We're eager to meet the community, our partners, and stakeholders in celebration of Pride.

Lastly, the Ryan White Part A recipient office will be releasing Request for Proposals (RFPs) for service providers this fall. Stay tuned for details!



ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

>>> PROGRAM UPDATES - CARE



A huge thank you to our Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) partners, community stakeholders, and clients who attended the client and stakeholder meetings with representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in January and The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in February. These listening sessions are vital in amplifying local EHE success stories, as well as providing opportunities to voice continued needs on a federal level.

ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

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>>> PROGRAM UPDATES - PREVENTION



EHE Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Sonji Deal (*pictured right*) has been working to diversify EHE's outreach and testing efforts in the community. Recent large-scale outreach events include the Cleveland All-Star Fitness Expo at the Cleveland Browns Stadium, hosted by Cleveland Browns player Denzel Ward's Make Them Know Your Name Foundation, and the Valentine's Day Cleveland Cavaliers game as part of the Cleveland Cavaliers' Black Heritage Celebration.

As of March 1st, CCBH and partners have distributed 285 HIV self-test kits to the community thus far in 2024. If your agency is located in Cuyahoga County and interested in partnering with EHE to become a distributor of HIV self-test kits, reach out to EHE Grant Coordinator Erin Janowski at ejanowski@ccbh.net. Please note that there is a simple data collection component to the distribution of HIV self-test kits.

Please see the flyer below for a list of recurring EHE outreach and upcoming outreach events. Recurring tabling, condom bowl locations, and upcoming tabling events are tentative and subject to change.

>>> OUTREACH EFFORTS

EHE DIS OUTREACH

RECURRING TABLING:

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, MARTIN LUTHER KING BRANCH.....	1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER CLEVELAND.....	1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
ORIANA HOUSE.....	2ND WEEK OF THE MONTH, DAYS VARY
CITY MISSION.....	3RD WEEK OF THE MONTH, DAYS VARY
CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, MEMORIAL-NOTTINGHAM BRANCH....	3RD WEEK OF THE MONTH, DAYS VARY

CONDOM BOWL LOCATIONS:

EUCLID HIGH SCHOOL (BOTH CLINICS)
FLEX SPAS CLEVELAND
URBAN KUTZ (2 LOCATIONS, 3RD ON THE WAY)
PHASE II
DIAMOND CUT
LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER CLEVELAND
BEAUTE BOUTIQUE

UPCOMING TABLING EVENTS:

CLEVELAND BLACK MEN'S WELLNESS DAY.....	AUGUST 24TH 7:00AM-12:00PM
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IF INTERESTED IN EHE TABLING, HIV SELF-TEST KITS, OR POC TESTING, CONTACT EHE DIS SONJI DEAL	SONJI DEAL EHE DIS SDEAL@CCBHNET 216.201.2000 X1714
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ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

>>> CURRENT & UPCOMING CAMPAIGNS

In honor of Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7th, Better World Advertising implemented a media buy on behalf of EHE throughout the month of February to raise awareness among the African American MSM community and to promote the normalization of testing and self-care.

The media strategy utilized three platforms: MSM dating/hookup apps, social media apps, and geofencing. The ads reached a substantial audience with 1,235,266 impressions, and successfully drove 2,043 individuals to www.Loveleadshere.org/TestMe and www.LoveLeadsHere.org/YoureWelcome for further information.



To recognize HIV is Not a Crime Awareness Day on February 28th, Better World Advertising implemented a media buy on behalf of EHE to raise awareness of outdated and discriminatory HIV laws in Ohio.

The media strategy utilized three platforms: MSM dating/hookup apps, social media apps, and geofencing. The ads reached a substantial audience; they were seen 508,781 times and successfully drove 1,518 individuals to www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/hiv-is-not-a-crime-awareness-day/ for further information.

In honor of Pride month this June, Better World Advertising will be implementing a media buy on behalf of EHE to promote the normalization of testing and self-care. Keep an eye out for Test Me and I Take PrEP campaigns around the city and county this summer!

>>> COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

The EHE Community Advisory Group (CAG) kicked off 2024 with its first meeting on April 10th. Interested in learning more, connecting with our network of stakeholders, and joining future meetings? Contact EHE Grant Coordinator Erin Janowski at ejanowski@ccbh.net to be added to the CAG listserv.

>>> UPDATED STAFF DIRECTORY

EHE Staff Directory



EHE Supervisor
Erin Lark Turcoliveri (she/her)
e | elark@ccbh.net
p | 216.201.2000 x1326

EHE Program Manager
Brian Lutz (he/him)
e | blutz@ccbh.net
p | 216.201.2000 x1543

EHE Grant Coordinator
Erin Janowski (she/her)
e | ejanowski@ccbh.net
p | 216.201.2000 x1502

EHE Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS)
Sonji Deal (she/her)
e | sdeal@ccbh.net
p | 216.201.2000 x1714

EPIDEMIOLOGY

>>> OVERVIEW

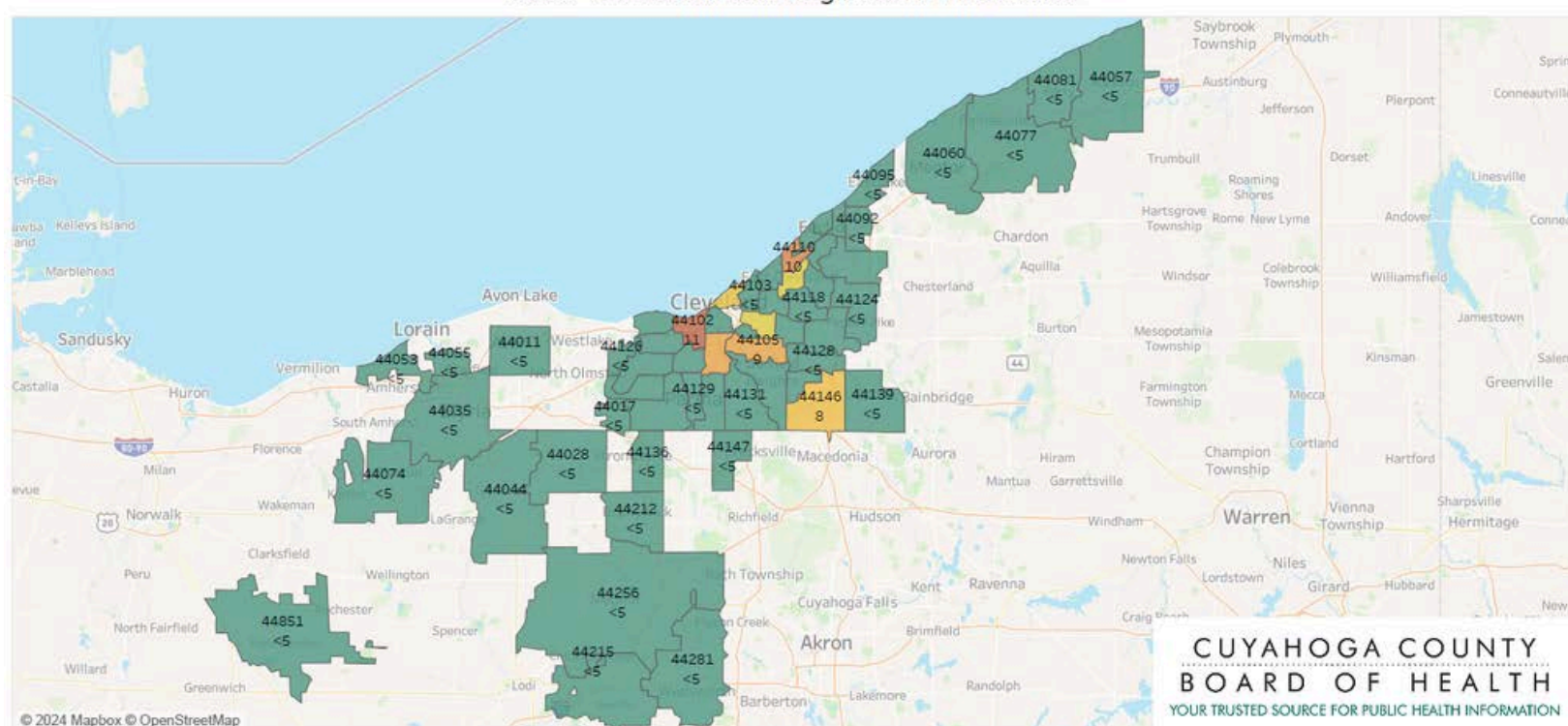
At the end of 2022, there were 6,037 people living with HIV (PLWH) in the Cleveland TGA (counties of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina in Northeast Ohio).

Eighty percent of PLWH were males, 52% of those were over 50 years old, and 52% were Black/African American.

In 2023* there were 171 new cases of HIV in the Cleveland TGA, an increase of 2.4% from the number of new cases in 2022. This equates to 7.92 new infections of HIV for every 100,000 people in the population of the counties in the Cleveland TGA[^].

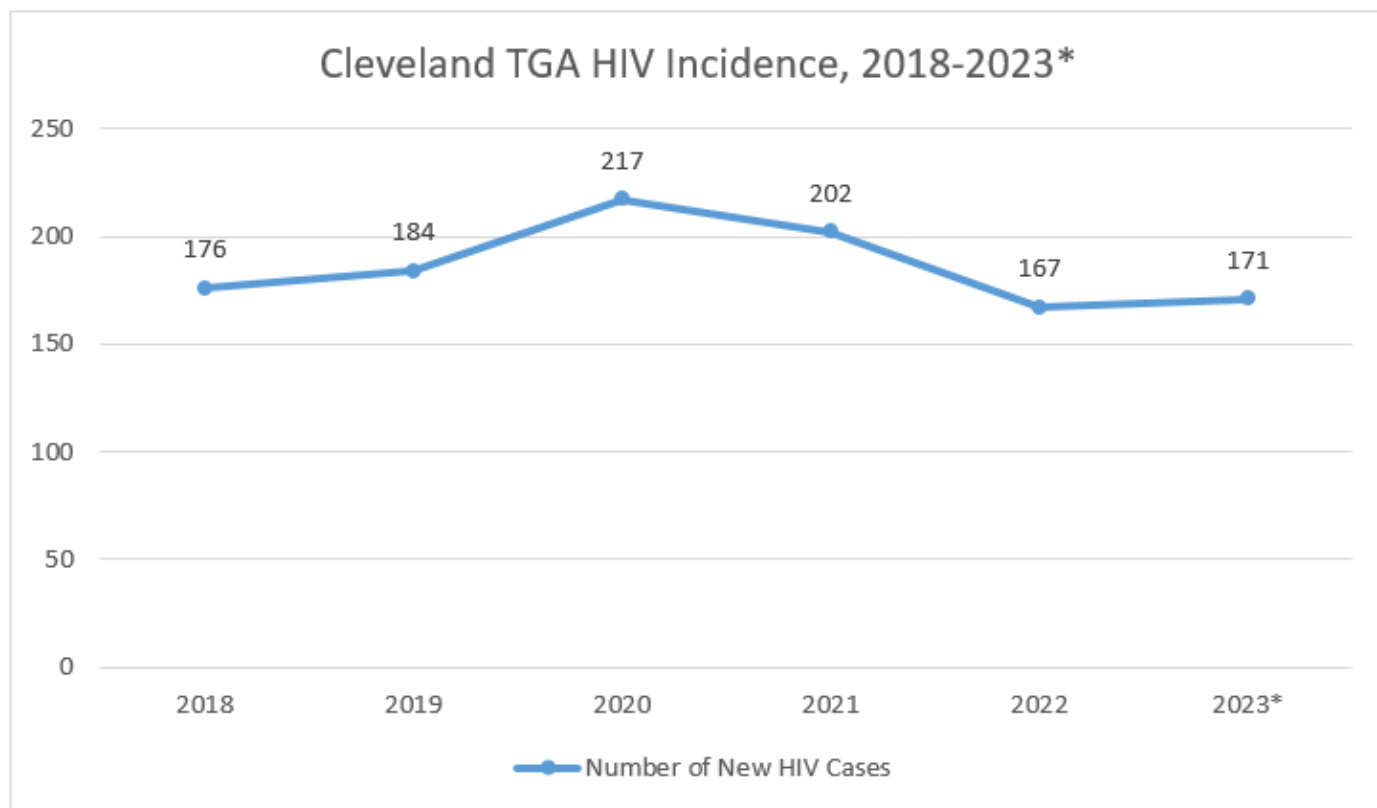
[^]U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey population estimates for 2022.

2023* Cleveland TGA Region 3 HIV Incidence



*Data for 2023 as of 5/7/2024. Data is preliminary and subject to change as new/updated information becomes available. Zip code reflects residence at time of diagnosis. Data Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS). Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows suppression. The marks are labeled by Diagaddress Zip 9. Details are shown for Diagaddress Zip 9. The view is filtered on Latitude (generated), Longitude (generated) and suppression. The Latitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only. The Longitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only. The suppression filter includes everything.

>>> HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023* DATA



- Average age of new cases was 33.44 years old. New HIV cases ranged in age from 16-71 years old.
- 58% of new cases were between 20-34 years old.
- 94 (55%) new HIV cases were among those who are Black. This is a 7.8% decrease from 2022 totals.
- 15 (9%) new HIV cases were among those who are Hispanic/Latinx. This is a 28.5% decrease from 2022 totals.
- 82% of new HIV cases were male, 14% were female, and 2% were transgender (male-to-female or female-to-male). Gender was unknown for 2% of cases.
- 36% of cases were in males who noted sexual contact with another male (MSM).
- 2% of new HIV cases noted injection drug use (IDU).
- There were no cases of perinatal HIV in 2023*.

*2023 data as of 5/7/2024. HIV case data downloaded from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS). Data is preliminary and subject to change as new/updated information becomes available. Analysis completed by the Department of Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

NEW RYAN WHITE PROGRAM STAFF

>>> BRITTANIE EVANS

Brittanie has worked at CCBH since 2018. Prior to her current role as the Ryan White Part A Grant Coordinator, she was a Registered Environmental Health Specialist working in water quality. Brittanie transitioned to her new role in December 2023 and she is loving it. In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her husband and two kids, gardening, camping, and hiking.

>>> MELISSA HANSEN

Melissa recently joined the Ryan White Part A team at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health as the new Clinical Quality Management (CQM) Program Manager. She has been with the Board of Health for over two years, previously working as a Disease Intervention Specialist in the HIV/STI Prevention program.

Before moving to Cleveland in 2022, Melissa completed her undergraduate degree in Public Health at the University of South Florida. In her free time, she enjoys seeing live music at local venues and exploring the Metro Parks. Melissa is excited for the opportunity to serve as the Quality Improvement program lead for the Cleveland TGA in her new role.



NEW DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS

>>> EVELYN ALFONSO

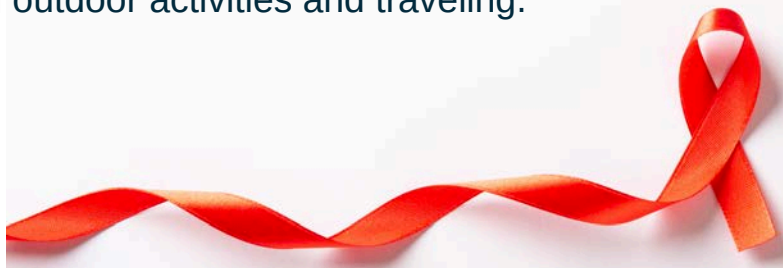
Evelyn joined the CCBH team on 5/6/2024 as a Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS). She has a background in healthcare with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from CEM College in Puerto Rico. Evelyn worked as a Medical Data Abstractor in a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Puerto Rico Department of Health during the Zika virus epidemic on the island. She did volunteer work in Syringe Exchange Programs in Puerto Rico, and participated in support services for people experiencing homelessness. In her free time, she enjoys playing with her two dogs, Pancho and Bella; hiking in nature; and traveling, especially to Puerto Rico!

>>> TIFFANY HATCHETT

Tiffany is a previous DIS from the City of Cleveland Health Department. She worked for the City of Cleveland Health Department for six-and-a-half years. Tiffany started as a Community Health Worker in 2014 and received a promotion to become a DIS in 2017. She left the City in 2020 and started working for University Hospitals with neurosurgery doctors. Tiffany recently accepted a position as a DIS for CCBH. She enjoys family, music, shopping, meeting new people, and traveling. She hopes to gain more knowledge at CCBH.

>>> WILLIE SWIFT

Willie graduated from the University of Mount Union with a Bachelor's of Arts in Public Health and received a Master of Health Science in Community Health from Clark University in Massachusetts. He loves to watch true crime television shows and documentaries. Willie enjoys doing outdoor activities and traveling.



>>> COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES NOMINATIONS

On April 30th, members of the Planning Council and new applicants spoke before the Cuyahoga County Council, seeking approval of their nominations for membership or renewal. Congratulations to everyone for their approved nominations! (*Pictured below*)



The Planning Council seeks new members, especially people living with HIV in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties. If you are interested in learning more, consider joining a meeting of the Full Planning Council or one of the subcommittees. For meeting schedules and connection info, go online at:

<https://ccbh.net/ryan-white-hiv-aids-planning-co/>

For more information or an application, contact Lisa-Jean Sylvia or Toni Mallory.

Lisa-Jean Sylvia

Planning Council Facilitator

lisajeane@upwardspiralconsulting.com

Call or text: 216-264-9858

Toni Mallory

Planning Council Support

amallory@ccbh.net

216-201-2000 x1309

PLANNING COUNCIL CORNER

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>>> NEW MEETING SCHEDULE

Beginning in August, the Planning Council and subcommittees will have a new schedule.

First Wednesday of every month:

Community Liaison Committee -- 12:00-1:30 PM

Strategy & Finance -- 2:00-3:30 PM

Prevention -- 4:00-5:30 PM (*Quarterly in June, September, & December*)

Third Wednesday of every month:

Quality Improvement -- 2:30-3:30 PM

Membership Retention & Marketing -- 4:00-5:00 PM

Full Planning Council -- 5:30-7:00 PM

The Planning Council and Subcommittees do not meet in July or December.

>>> ARE YOU A PERSON LIVING WITH HIV?

Meetings of the Planning Council and subcommittees are open to the public, except the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which is a place to connect and learn with other people who are living with HIV. Upcoming topics at CLC include:

MyChart Tutorial

June 5, 2024 from 12:00-1:30 PM

*Learn how to connect
and use MyChart.*

Heart Health for People Living with HIV

August 7, 2024 from 12:00-1:30 PM

*Dr. Yendewa will share new research that
will help people living with HIV lower their
risk of heart attack and stroke.*

The CLC works to make sure that the hopes and concerns of people living with HIV are at the center of the Planning Council's decisions. Join us to be part of the process!

The monthly meeting is open to all people living with HIV in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties. Join us on the first Wednesday of the month from 12:00-1:30 PM for this virtual meeting. To participate, contact Lisa-Jean Sylvia (*information provided on previous page*). To receive information about Planning Council, sign up for our newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/iz3xdA>

FEEDBACK



>>> WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- What did you enjoy reading about in this issue of the HIV Services Newsletter?
- What would you like to continue to see in future newsletters?
- What content do you think could be added to the newsletter?

Please email all feedback to Danielle LeGallee at dlegallee@ccbh.net.

>>> RESOURCES

GLAAD. (2011, September 5). *Stonewall at 40 resource kit*. GLAAD Publications. [https://glaad.org/publications/stonewallkit/?](https://glaad.org/publications/stonewallkit/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw0ruyBhDuARIsANSZ3woLnouSHJtJmnf1WtLi3_YwIHp6g6aVeOM1jNg6sv08dVnD9O1uKn8aAn6QEALw_wcB)

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Sherrow, H. (2022, May 26). *Sex, gender, and sexuality: What the Science says*. OpenMind Magazine. [https://www.openmindmag.org/articles/lgbtq-a-guide?](https://www.openmindmag.org/articles/lgbtq-a-guide?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw0ruyBhDuARIsANSZ3wrXpdeycE4f6LsNO-ZtJY8WAYzjriEzYJy249W14zrOax5wYw-jlPYaApy3EALw_wcB)

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