

## Cuyahoga Regional HIV Prevention and Care Planning Council

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

**Naimah O'Neal, Faith Ross – Co-Chairs**



### COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE (CLC)

Virtual "Teams" Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 – 12-1:30 pm

CLC Committee Members		Planning Council Members	Community Attendees	Presenter(s)
1. Naimah O'Neal, Co-Chair	P	Clinton Droster	Brooke W.	
2. Faith Ross, Co-Chair	P	Billy Gayheart	Charles H.	<b>Part A Staff</b>
3. LeAnder Lovett	P		Thomas M.	Monica Baker
4. Talib Mahdi*	P		Jeff S.	Zach Levar
5. Kimberlin Dennis	A			Lisa-Jean Sylvia
6. Sahara Rivera*	A			Toni Mallory
<b>Total of 14 in attendance</b>	<b>P=Present EX=Excused Absence A=Absent O (Other) = Phone</b> <b>* Non-member Volunteer or Pending PC Member</b>			
<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>Co-chair, Faith Ross, called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.</b>			
<b>Moment of Silence</b>	In remembering all those past, present, and future in the fight against HIV/AIDS.			
<b>Quorum Determination</b>	Four (4) of six CLC committee members present - quorum of four (4) needed.			
<b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Conflicts of Interest</b>	All members, attendees, and guests welcomed, and asked to state names, affiliations, and conflicts of interest in the chat. Welcomed new support group guest.			
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>CLC Committee reviewed and approved the agenda for February 5, 2025.</b> Motion made by Naimah O'Neal, seconded by Talib Mahdi. In Favor: All; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0			
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>CLC Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from January 8, 2025.</b> Motion made by Naimah O'Neal, seconded by Talib Mahdi. In Favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 1-L. Lovett			
<b>Old/New Business Presentation</b>	<b><u>Self-Care and Community Care During Challenging Times – L.J. Sylvia</u></b> In looking at the current state of affairs, this portion of the meeting is to discuss ideas/suggestions on ways to stay healthy and promote self-care practices, during the current challenging times.  <b>T. Mahdi</b> – Staying in touch with primary doctors, caseworkers, is important, as it helps to talk more to those who can directly help you, like in support groups, rather than relying on the broader news for answers. <b>L.J. Sylvia</b> – Focusing on self-care can include eating healthy, disconnecting or limiting use of the social and IT media, connecting more with community, and reading the news or other resources for information. Also, yoga and keeping meds and health supplies on hand is helpful.			

	<p><b>F. Ross</b> - Drinking water, getting rest, and taking time to clear our mind of things.</p> <p><b>N. O’Neal</b> – As stated earlier, limiting time on social media to sharing things that are more positive or uplifting. Also trying to get more in tune with our faith, in being mindful of the importance of staying connected. Also, apps that provide soothing music, sounds, information, and fun games could be helpful to our overall well-being.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>*Comment: M. Baker</b> – For our Ryan White grant area representing persons living with HIV, we are awaiting feedback and more clarity on the new directives related to the suspension of federal grant operations, as to what they mean, where they are directed, and how to proceed. According to our most recent update about a week ago, we received a memo stating all new, upcoming grant-funded agreements have been tabled for a later date, and that all agreements that went before the board before they last met, for now, will still be honored. However, we are again awaiting further clarity on operations and how to proceed with funding, as February 14th will provide us with more developments.</p> <p><b>*Question: B. Gayheart</b> – With the grant year starting in March, has the grant come in yet, as it has been told by a sub-recipient that there are no transportation dollars as of March. If so, how can we make sure services don’t get suspended, and will our sub-recipients be updated so as to know where they stand?</p> <p><b>*Respond: M. Baker</b> - We generally get a partial award amount at the beginning of the grant cycle, and we did receive that. Anything beyond that, is part of the uncertainty in the way the messaging is going around, as we provided communication to our providers soon as we received the updates.</p> <p><b>*Question: N. O’Neal</b> - What does that mean for the HRSA site visit?</p> <p><b>*Response: M. Baker</b> - As far as we know, the visit in March is still taking place.</p> <p><b>*Comment: Z. Levar</b> – To add a few more points in looking at the uncertainty of things: We are now at the end of our three-year grant time period with HRSA. As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, we received and reviewed all of our 2025 RFP’s (requests for proposals). While these contracts are set to go from March 1<sup>st</sup> through February 2028, we cannot confirm if or whether they will continue beyond that point, as this process has been in place for years, but we are now being required by HRSA to provide a timeline update before knowing about future funding. Overall, there is concern across the board, particularly at the federal level, but we will continue to request money every quarter like we’ve done in the past, knowing that until we spend what we have, we likely won’t receive any additional funds.</p> <p><b>*Question: L.J. Sylvia</b> -CCBH submits our quarterly spending, can they also project money ahead?</p> <p><b>*Response: Z. Levar</b>- We get the grant money in portions, and we must first incur expenses, then ask for funding to pay them. However, if the feds deny funding, then our agency is unable to provide those potential funds to our sub-recipients. For now, however, there is no indication that this is changing, as we are looking to receive all 2025 grant funding throughout our agency. While there may be some disruptions in delivery, such as if agencies decide not to continue in this timeframe, we will work to make accommodations as needed, and just ask all to stay alert of any updates and/or changes.</p> <p><b>N. O’Neal</b> - We thank all for sharing, as the main purpose was to check-in, see if people are okay, and hopefully some sort of satisfaction from this.</p>
Survey Update	<p><b><u>Survey Extended to February 21, 2025 – F. Ross</u></b></p> <p>The survey has been extended to the end of February, and we are asking all to encourage not just any person living with HIV, but also young PLWH to fill out the survey. For an overview on this process, the CLC committee does a survey every year Ryan White program services, that asks those who use RW services what is most important to them, whether they use them often or at all, and if</p>

	<p>those services meet their needs. The survey also lists some open-ended questions that, depending on the responses, help us better know where we need to focus. The data from the surveys is then presented at our June with PSRA meeting, in helping the committee determine how, from the consumer side, the RW grant money should be spent.</p> <p><b>L.J. Sylvia</b> – As an update, we have 69 that have been entered online, another 28 that have not yet been reviewed, for a total of 97 surveys currently in hand. While we have made progress, we still have a way to go to exceed our 200+ goal from last year. To help in this process, the survey is available online in English: <a href="https://form.jotform.com/243233549598165">https://form.jotform.com/243233549598165</a>, as well as in Spanish and printed copies. Also, in the fall we have listening sessions on the needs of PLWH, as both of these projects are strategies we use to collect info on RW services on what's working and not working, so as to help us determine how to use RW money.</p> <p><b>N. O'Neal</b> - Also when we know concerns, we can better understand when going through our reauthorization process, where we need to focus most in providing RW services to the community.</p> <p><b>*Question: B. Gayheart</b> - Is the survey only for people in our RW jurisdiction?</p> <p><b>*Response: F. Ross</b> – Yes, the survey is for our TGA only, as we are currently not sending this data outside our area.</p> <p><b>*Comment: B. Willis</b> - The next EHE (Ending the HIV Epidemic) Care Subcommittee meeting is February 18<sup>th</sup> and presumably they could connect lots of POZ folks with the survey. Also, MyChart has put out info on the survey.</p> <p><b>F. Ross</b> – Again, we ask all to continue sharing the survey, and if anyone has other ideas, please let us know.</p>
<b>Cleveland Pride</b>	<p><b><u>Cleveland Pride 2025 – L.J. Sylvia</u></b></p> <p>We are looking at how to proceed on being a presence at the summer Cleveland Pride event. Last year we shared a table and it's been suggested to have a separate table for this year. Also, as CLE Pride table costs are approximately \$300, maybe we should focus on smaller events, where we may have more impact and where HIV may be more prevalent. Another takeaway from last year, was that there was great camaraderie in connecting with others in person at their tables.</p> <p><b>F. Ross</b> – We must also think about the coordination work, who will set up, participate, etc.</p> <p><b>N. O'Neal</b> – We also would like commitments on having tables and presenting our materials.</p> <p><b>B. Willis</b> - Lj sat briefly at various Pride tables and asked folks to fill out the survey, as this could be done in the same way for this year's events.</p> <p><b>B. Gayheart</b> – Again, we will need committed participation in order to achieve our efforts.</p> <p><b>Z. Levar</b> – Also, keep in mind that we are not clear in projecting future things for now.</p> <p><b>B. Gayheart</b> – With that, we ask for a motion to not have a CLE Pride table this year.</p> <p><b>Motion: To vote and approve not to have a Ryan White Planning Council table at this year's Cleveland Pride event.</b></p> <p>Motion: Naimah O'Neal   Seconded: Billy Gayheart</p> <p>In Favor: All; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0</p> <p><i>Motion passed.</i></p>
<b>Parking Lot</b>	None
<b>Adjournment</b>	<p><b>Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.</b></p> <p>Motion made by Naimah O'Neal, seconded by LeAnder Lovett.</p>