

# **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) Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 2, 2023**

**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

**Start:** 12:05 pm

**End:** 1:00 pm

**Facilitator:** N. O'Neal

### **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."*

### **Updates/Check-in**

**Naimah** – "Summer was good, won't complain."

**Rhonda** – "Summer's been busy and grateful."

**LeAnder** – "Been a summer, nothing happened."

**Faith** – "Summer was horrible, fell down stairs, got a concussion, just hope it gets better."

**Billy** – "Summer no over with, check in next month, about to go on vacation."

**Jeff** – "Ain't No Mountain High Enough", to keep me from keeping on."

**Tina** – "Here in the present, summer scary, had health scare, lived through, and will keep pushing with Jeff."

**Monica** – "I'm well."

**Zach** – "Summer swell so far, got to meet Naimah's granddaughter, was awesome, and hopefully got her some Taco Bell on the road'.

**Kimberlin** – "My summer's been well, enjoying vacation and time off. Had chance for "me" time, time with family, and spoke on Teen pregnancy, always awesome for that. Also visited the African American Museum.

**Bryan** – "Summer, was a "Wang Dang Doodle", all night long."

### **Approval of Agenda: August 2, 2023**

**Motion:** J. Mazo      **Seconded:** F. Ross

**Vote:** In Favor: All      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0

### **Approval of the Minutes: June 7, 2023**

**Motion:** F. Ross      **Seconded:** J. Mazo

**Vote:** In Favor: 9      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 1- B. Jones

### **Old/New Business**

#### **Meaningful Community Listening Presentation & Discussion – L.J. Sylvia**

This presentation is based on community work done over the last 15-plus years. To begin, would like to start with everyone thinking of a time when you felt someone truly listened to you and asking the question, how do you know other person was listening and what did it feel like for you?

**\*Comment: Tina** – Felt like they were looking at me in my eyes.

**\*Comment: Jeff** – Like relief.

**\*Comment: Bryan** – Validation.

**\*Comment: Naimah** – Felt warm.

**\*Comment: LeAnder** – It felt good to know someone listened to you.

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### **Listen Deeply → Communicate Results → Take Action - L.J. Sylvia**

The CLC's primary goal is to serve as a liaison between planning council and the community, wherein a liaison's role is to facilitate communication and cooperation, and often this will happen outside CLC.

### **Deep Community Listening Requires Relationships, Trust, and Patience- L.J. Sylvia**

In building relationships, often we must give and get, or show up even when you don't need something, as those qualities are good for personal and business relationships. We must also be aware of our reactions, so as not to jump into blaming or contradicting, as people don't want to just be taught things.

**\*Comment: Tina** – We should follow through.

**\*Comment: Bryan** – Consider cultural competency.

**\*Comment: LeAnder** – We get too busy. We have to spend time to build trust, also goes for providers.

### **Over Time We Want to Develop a Strategy for Deep Listening – L.J. Sylvia**

We can use the wheel as a framework, as deep listening is important, an ongoing process, and is not linear. We need to do a lot of communicating and then have these actions brought back to PC.

When developing a strategy, tools must be put in place. With one-on-ones, things were learned from people who knew the 'lay of the land', so it's often best to do small group sessions when possible.

Another piece is to create an environment where people want to be. If we are not having fun, chances neither are others. Also, if people are not feeling welcomed, we may need to make changes.

**\*Comment: Jeff** – Since coming out of Covid, we may need this as a vital component in moving forward.

**\*Comment: L.J.** – We can still do online and do small things to engage, but having cameras on also helps.

### **Mobilizing for Listening Sessions – L.J. Sylvia**

In the workgroup, we decided on 3 listening session in cluster, to make easier than separate, schedule all at once. Need to come up with design and promotion plan. For the listening session design, a link will be provided in a follow-up email. With this tool, there is no right or wrong answer, but more a guide to help in the planning process which will involve: Scheduling session(s), Creating a Promotion Plans, Reviewing Agendas & Setting Roles, and Debriefing and Wrapping Up discussions. Looking ahead, one question to keep in mind is: what is the purpose for having another listening session?

**\*Comment: Naimah** – To hear from the community.

**\*Comment: Rhonda** – To streamline our services and make them better.

**\*Comment: Kimberlin** – Have a safe place for PLWH to express their concerns.

**\*Comment: Jeff** – Gain perspective.

**\*Comment: L.J.** – A chance to meet people, start relationships.

### **Create an Environment Where People Want to Be - L.J. Sylvia**

To quote Maya Angelou in part, "People won't always remember what you said but they will always remember how you made them feel." In creating an environment, we want to be clear on the intention, or what we want people to gain from this, and the next step will be to take the process already used and see how we can create a comfortable, safe place where folks feel validated.

**\*Comment: Naimah** – We want people to feel empowered and to promote self-advocacy.

**\*Comment: Rhonda** – They should feel heard and supported, like they have community.

**\*Comment: Bryan** – We need to change the culture because people do matter and voices matter. U=U has also helped in this process, as people need to understand that people will listen to you. We need to change the perspective of our allies about us.

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**\*Comment: Jeff** – Acceptance and validation.

**\*Comment: Billy** – To be heard and have a sense of belonging.

### **Next Steps for the Listening Session**

**1. L.J. - We can focus on an October date. We can also add two workgroup meetings in Sept and Oct, or maybe August, to take the design and move into action. One meeting should also be in an outlying community.**

**2. Bryan** A recommendation is for the Sankofa Initiative to host one of the sessions, as this could be part of an after the Healing Weekend event, making it more of a gathering where there will be food, incentives, giveaways, and etc. As an overview, the Sankofa Initiative, created for Persons Living with HIV (PLWH), provides information, trainings, and HIV sessions to community-based organizations. They also offer stipends, home-delivered meals, and other kinds of assistance.

**3. Naimah** – The following members: Jeff, Rhonda, Bryan, Leander, Tina, Naimah, and Faith are in agreement for CLC to collaborate with the Sankofa Initiative in developing the next listening session, so we will go with Sankofa hosting the event.

**4. L.J. – All will be contacted on setting up a date for the next workgroup meeting.**

### **Federal Funding Update – L.J. Sylvia**

This current proposed bill includes cuts to the HIV budget and potentially for Ryan White funding. We want to draw attention that this, being a proposed budget, may be difficult to get these cuts approved, as efforts work to prevent this. Also, this is the proposed budget for 2024, and does not mean a 10% cut just for us, but for the entire program, nationwide. For more info, contacts are available for further reading.

### **Standing Business**

#### **Agree on CLC Committee work activity (if any) to be reported at the August 16, 2023 Full Planning Council Meeting – N. O'Neal**

Today's updates on the next listening session will be given at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Announcements –**

**B. Jones** - The Sankofa Initiative is sponsoring two Healing Weekend Retreats on Friday, September 22 through Sunday, September 24, 2023. One celebrates Persons Living with HIV (PLWH) of all ages (18 and older), all races, all genders, all sexual orientations, and all abilities. The other event is for Black Same Gender Loving Men age 50+ who are living with and HIV+ diagnosis. Both gatherings will take place at the Retreat at Sandusky in Sandusky, Ohio. Flyer info will emailed to all, or for more info, contact Bran Jones at (216) 640-3404. For sharing, perhaps email the info so people can just click on the link.

**K. Dennis** – The Ministry of Hope is having a Healing Weekend for Women Living with HIV (WLH) on Oct 27-29, 2023 at the Doubletree Hotel, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, OH 44131. Registration due by September 29<sup>th</sup> at Ministry of Hope, P.O. Box 202301, Shaker Hts., OH 44120, or by clicking on the link at: <https://tinyurl.com/2oobg88f>.

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### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** J. Mazo

**Seconded:** T. Marbury

### **Attendance**

	<b>CLC Members</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June PSRA</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>
1	<b>Naimah O'Neal, Co-chair</b>	20	20	20	20	20	20	20			
2	<b>Faith Ross, Co-chair</b>	20	20	20	20	20	20	20			
3	Tina Marbury	20	20	0	20	20	20	20			
4	Stephanice Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
5	LeAnder Lovett	0	20	0	20	20	20	20			
6	Bryan Jones	0	20	0	0	20	0	20			
7	Peter Scardino	20	20	20	0	20	20	0			
8	Jeff Mazo	20	20	20	0	20	20	20			
9	Rhonda Watkins	20	20	20	0	0	20	20			
	<b>Total in Attendance</b>	6	8	5	4	7	7	7			

**PC Members:** K. Dennis, C. Droster, B. Gayheart

**Attendees:** T. Moyel, B. Willis, C. Taylor

**Staff:** M. Baker, Z. Levar, L.J. Sylvia, T. Mallory