

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, February 7, 2024

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Start: 12:03 pm

End:

1:00 pm

Facilitator: F. Ross

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."

Approval of Agenda: February 7, 2024

Motion: N. O'Neal **Seconded:** B. Gayheart

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

Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes: January 3, 2024

Addendum:

Motion: P. Scardino **Seconded:** N. O'Neal

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

Motion passed.

Old/New Business

CLC Survey Update

N. O'Neal - The surveys have surpassed what was expected, as last heard there were 132 which means we are getting the word out more and people are participating more.

F. Ross - It was actually 132 in English and five in Spanish.

N. O'Neal – This means we should do both, so people can have them in their own language.

L.J. Sylvia – To date, there are 137 English and five in Spanish. Also, for those doing paper surveys, please make sure to review them first so we can enter the data accurately as possible., and please encourage all of your contacts to get in their surveys.

Review Listening Session Data to Prepare Presentation for S&F – L.J. Sylvia

We will now review the past listening sessions to get feedback on making changes and/or on improving them on how we want them to look in the future, as these listening sessions will add value to the CLC survey in providing key data needed for PSRA ranking and prioritizing of Part A services.

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) hosted three listening sessions in 2023, as a way to better hear from people living with HIV (PLWH), to discuss their health care needs, as well as provide information about resources available to them.

- The committee hosted one (1) in-person, one online, and an impromptu session at a women's retreat.
- Eleven (11) participants at the in-person session
- Nine (9) participants in the online session
- Twenty-two (22) participants at the Women's retreat

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Question #1: As a person living with HIV, what makes it easier for you to stay healthy?

Responses

- Medical case manager - "They check in on me, remind me of appointments, and educate me."
- Support from family members and trusted friends
- Finding safe spaces - "Spaces where people accept me no matter who I am."
- Connections to other PLWH - Peer support, a way to stay updated, informed and educated
- Staying on track with medication – "Shots make it easier for me", "Getting into a routine."
- Strong relationships with doctors, nurses, and the care team
- Access to care – Being insured, and the ability to get care through the VA or outside that system

Question #2: What makes it easier or better for you to get services and stay in care?

Responses

- Help navigating the system
- Support groups
- Case workers
- Access to services
- Sobriety & prioritizing myself
- Dental services
- Other professionals who work with doctors – nurses, non-medical case managers, peer navigators

Question#3: What challenges do you face as a person living with HIV?

Responses

- Housing – This was echoed by many and identified as the biggest barriers.
- Stigma:
 - Not being noticed
 - Acceptance in relationships- family, friends, and partners
 - Stereotypes
 - Stigma in medical community- "Finding out you have HIV, tie that to everything else."
 - Finding specialists who will treat me as a person
- Difficulty finding a primary care doctor - This was especially an issue for people who are older and have multiple medical conditions. Stigma makes it especially difficult to find a primary care doctor who can effectively support patients who have HIV. They need to be willing to accept PLWH and then collaborate with specialists.
- Also difficulty finding an LGBTQ-friendly primary care provider

Question#4: What challenges to you face as a person living with HIV?

Responses

- Intimate Relationships - "Even with U=U, difficult to find someone on same wave length not biased."
- Lack of transportation is a barrier – It can be difficult getting bus tickets.
- Lack of information and education about Ryan White services
 - Not getting accurate info about eligible services, you have to know what to ask to get info.
 - Difficult to know eligible RW services available to you, if you have insurance
- Access to care and support in outer counties
 - "Lake County is a Ryan White desert and stigma is greater."
 - Difficult getting counseling when working and having income

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- “Being in the VA system, is sometimes difficult to get care needed. Had to go outside the system to get Mpox vaccine, it is difficult to navigate other systems.”
- “As a PLWH, having served on boards and worked for an ASO, it can be difficult to wear many different hats and focus on myself.”

Question#5: If you **did not** have access to insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, what would be your top three (3) important services to maintain your health?

Responses in ranking order.

Ryan White Part A Services
Primary Medical Care****
Oral Health*
Mental Health
Medical Case Management*
Legal
Non-Medical Case Management*

Question#6: If you **did** have access to insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, what would be your top three (3) important services to maintain your health?

Responses in ranking order.

Ryan White Part A Services
Primary Medical Care**
Oral Health
Mental Health*
Home Health Care
Housing***
Nutrition

F. Ross – If there are more comments or feedback, please drop it in the chat or get in touch with LJ and let her know.

2024 Outreach Planning – L.J. Sylvia

Brainstorm 2024 Events where CLC will attend

This is to plan with MRM and Prevention on doing a list of events and ideas for outreach we hope to participate in and have coverage attending. We also want to keep in mind that quality is just as important as quantity, so as not to create a list that is too comprehensive and hard to accomplish.

N. O'Neal - Cleveland Pride would be one.

F. Ross - Would like each CLC member to attend at least one event, as we all had fun at events last year. Also Lorain Pride is another one and we had good conversations there.

L.J. Sylvia - Maybe look at events that are fun for us, and invite people or friends who share in your fun.

P. Scardino - June 15th is Ashtabula Pride. For contact, get in touch with Becky Beeman at 440-226-2207 or Michael Riffe at 440-789-9134.

B. Augiriano - Ashtabula Pride, June 15th 11am-9pm in the Historic Ashtabula Harbor.

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N. O'Neal - World AIDS day, talk on what we do as a committee, get people's opinions, introduce PC subcommittees, etc.

S. Washington - Metro is opening up an outreach at 2200 MetroHealth Drive, Villa Sana apartments. Last meeting, two vans came, gave a testimony and gave out info. Maybe they have space to do some in-person connecting. Mary Lee Santiago is a contact.

L.J. Sylvia - We have a PC member feedback form out, we are working on a new application as we want to recruit more youth, 30 and under, and we are also looking to create an in-person orientation which will include a meal.

B. Gayheart - This would be a great opportunity as there are still members some have never met in person, and just a great way to finally see each other, face to face.

N. O'Neal - Maybe Prevention can go to opposite events than those we attend to do testing, community outreach, etc.

L.J. Sylvia - We would like to see overlaps and how PC and Prevention can work together, so all doesn't fall solely on PC. Also recommend Neighborhood Connections, as they do great events and provide grant funding, as well as space for events and organizing in community-building.

F. Ross - For the college events mentioned, are there any in particular?

B. Gayheart - White at Task Force few days ago for discussions on trans issues going on in Ohio, they brought up Case Western, LGBTQ Center, and Oberlin as places and colleges that might have spaces for connecting with folks.

B. Willis - The Minority Men's Health Fair is Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 11:00 am-4:00 p.m., at two locations: MetroHealth Cleveland Hts., 10 Severance Circle, and Tri-C Metro Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. To register, call (216) 957-3862, or for more info: <https://www.metrohealth.org/mmhf>. Also, Neighborhood Connections small grants: <https://www.clevelandfoundation.org/grants/impact-areas/neighborhoods/>.

T. Mahdi - Homeless Stand Down is April 20, 2024.

S. Washington - Michelle at WeThink4A Change, is doing HIV testing on Friday at the game downtown.

T. Marbury - WeThink4AChange does a lot of outreach. This may be another collaboration to look at for a resource.

N. O'Neal - The Men's Health Fair also offers testing. Maybe we can connect and be part of their program or find out from the organizers if we can be a part, offering RW services. For church health fairs, however, they have all kinds of events but we must tread lightly so as to be respectful of their practices. Also, perhaps we can coordinate with Prevention to do testing at a health fair, or people can look at grant opportunities to help sponsor events and/or offer incentives, as a way to bait people. Also, agree with looking at a zip codes, asking those areas if we can offer testing, info, condoms, etc. Last, as CLC members, we'd like all to be involved in these efforts because we need everybody.

F. Ross - If anyone has other comments or suggestions, please just email me, Naimah, or LJ.

Brainstorm 2024 Events

1. Cleveland Pride Event
2. Lorain Pride
3. Ashtabula Pride -June 15th - (Biffy, Peter) For Ashtabula Pride, Becky Beeman at 440-226-2207 or Michael Riffe at 440-789-9134.
4. World AIDS Day @ UH - Try to be on the agenda to talk about CLC and what we do.

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Work with Prevention Committee to connect to new audiences, such as community health and neighborhood events.

- Look for zip codes with highest rates of HIV
- Also look at similar events in outlying counties

5. Metro Outreach at Villa Sana <https://www.viasanaapts.com/metrohealthpartnership> - check in with Marilee.

Agree on CLC Committee work activity (if any) to be reported at the Executive and Full Planning Council Meetings – F. Ross

Today's CLC updates will be given at Exec and Full Planning Council meetings.

Announcements - None

Adjournment

Motion: S. Washington

Seconded: B. Gayheart

Attendance

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

PC Members: B. Aguiriano, C. Droster, B. Gayheart

Attendees: J. Mazo, T. Mahdi, B. Willis, T. Marbury

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