

Cuyahoga Regional HIV Prevention and Care Planning Council

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

Deairius Houston, Chair

HIV Prevention Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm



Start: 4:02 pm

End: 5:22 pm

Facilitator: D. Houston

Moment of Silence

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda: June 5, 2024

Addendum: To correct the agenda date from 2023 to 2024.

Motion: J. Patterson Seconded: J. Stevenson

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

Approval of the Minutes: March 6, 2024

Addendum: To add the names: Stephanie Young (formerly Manhoff), Holly Phillips, and Natalie Karn to the March 6th Prevention attendance list, as those names did not appear on the March 6th 'Teams' attendance recording.

Motion: J. Patterson Seconded: K. Dennis

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

Prevention Program Updates – M. Kolenz

The HIV Prevention grant funded through ODH was extended by two more months. Our end date is now July 31, 2024, and then we have a continuation for 10 months that will start August 1st until May 31, 2025. Our other big announcement, congratulations to the new additions to the team! We have three new DIS (Disease Intervention Specialist) that started with us on May 6th, Willie Swift, Evelyn Alfonso, and Tiffany Hatchett, who are on the call today. Additionally, former DIS members, Tiffany, Melissa Hansen, and Alexa Geiger left our team for promotions.

Community Health Update: Mpox – Vino Panakkal, Supervisor Epidemiology, Cuyahoga County Board of Health

This is a brief update on Mpox in our TGA (Transitional Grant Area). In 2022, we had more serious and higher numbers of Mpox outbreak in the second half of 2022. For a while things were pretty quiet and we weren't really having any cases. Then in February 2023, we started to see some cases trickle into the area. As of today, we now have 18 cases since the beginning of 2024, and we are seeing it spike back up again.

Mpox 2024 Response

Epidemiological Data

- Cuyahoga County saw an influx of cases starting in February. We currently stand at 18 cases, with the most recent case being reported in June.
- All cases have been in males, with most of the cases being between the ages of 25-42.
- About an even number of cases have been identified in Whites and Blacks.
- Five of the cases had a previous or current co-infection of HIV/STI.

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CCBH Clinical Response - Clinical

- CCBH can provide Mpox vaccines at their Parma and South Pointe locations. Appointments are required.
- CCBH will also be providing Mpox vaccines at the LGBT Center on June 10th and June 24th from 4-7pm., and are currently working on scheduling July dates.
- The following healthcare providers have Mpox vaccines as well: MetroHealth, Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Signature Health, Circle Health, Central Outreach, Neighborhood Family Practice, NEON, and Care Alliance.

Communications & Outreach

- CCBH will be starting a 6-week Mpox campaign on Radio One, consisting of PSA's and interviews on local Radio One stations.
- CCBH will also be starting an Mpox campaign with Better World Advertising to promote vaccines, and show people how to recognize signs and symptoms. Ads will be placed on gay dating apps and entertainment websites; will also use geo-targeting and geo-fencing.

<https://ccbh.net/mpox-overview/>
<https://ccbh.net/mpox-dashboard/>

***Question: K. Dennis** - For the two-shots, can you get them anywhere, and how many weeks apart?

***Response: V. Panakkal** - Wherever you get the first dose, the second should be two weeks apart, as it is being entered into a vaccine tracking system so local health departments can see where folks stand with their doses. It's basically a double-check to make sure no one gets too many doses, and to make sure health providers and other agencies who have capacity, will have vaccines available. However, you can go to any spot to get them.

***Question: J. Patterson** – It was heard people talking about summer Pride and how they will be doing Mpox awareness, vaccines, and letting people know about treatment. Would CCBH be able to do geo locating with the campaign on the 16th?

***Response: V. Panakkal** - We can let Better Advertising know about these events to help market and make this happen.

***Comment: D. Houston** - We also want to get the okay before promoting this in community events.

***Question: C. Brady** – What is the advice for people who receive the second shot after two weeks?

***Response: V. Panakkal** - It should be at least two weeks, but if it's 28 days apart, it is still okay.

***Comment: A. Whelan** – The Centers have it available, as long as persons are enrolled in medical.

***Comment: J. Patterson** – CLAW (Cleveland Leather Awareness Weekend) may be a good way to have others speak out about this.

***Response: D. Houston** – Central Outreach has done CLAW in the past and they've been receptive, but they are more about leather and their community. As we don't want to offend anyone, we have to be very cautious, because although it's a prime opportunity to engage people in healthcare, they are very open about their agenda, not conservative in their approach, and very protective of their community.

Summary

As having awareness is important, vaccines are available at CCBH's Parma and South Pointe locations, and we will be continuing this campaign through June. **Also, to clarify (sorry for the confusion), the Mpox is a two-dose vaccine, taken 4 weeks apart, not 2 weeks.** Last, there is a list of other agencies offering vaccines, so if interested please ask your providers.

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Prevention Community Highlight – Medina County, Holly Phillips and Stephanie Young, Medina County Health Department

As we are both part of the HIV grant for public health and prevention, our goal is to screen more people in Medina County. While Medina County is basically a conservative community, there is a lot of community support, particularly for naloxone distribution and overdose awareness, as well as a lot of support for our LGBT community. The community is very receptive, but there still seems to be this belief, “It’s not me, so I don’t have to worry.” Our big focus has been on education, and while we may not be getting the numbers as much through our community health portion, there are quite a few people visiting our Health Center to have STI and HIV screening. We also believe a lot of people are having those discussions with their primary care physicians during our educational events and when we’re present at community events.

As Medina is a smaller community with a smaller health department than most, there’s a lot of overlap and many of us wear a number of different hats. In addition to our harm reduction program, HIV screening, and naloxone education and distribution, we also have a tobacco prevention program. As far as our harm reduction program, we pull our harm reduction resources and information together and provide that to the community through our community events at our Tri-C location in Brunswick. We also support LGBT events, and a number of treatment and recovery locations, whether they’re inpatient or outpatient. Another great resource for us has been developing an excellent rack card, which has our QR code that takes people to our HIV information site and gives a couple options for screening. So, if interested, you can contact us and we can set up a room.

Last, our Sidewalk Chalk Art Event at Pride, which has grown larger every year, will be held on our Medina Square, June 13th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We will have information on Epi data and Mpox awareness, as well as information on all our harm reduction services and resources. We will also be dispensing naloxone and our Safer Sex kits, and we will be taking appointments for people who would like to have a confidential screening done.

***Comment: M. Kolenz** – Great work on really building the program and doing some impactful outreach in the community, to the fullest extent and for so long. We really appreciate all of the hard work that you all do, thank you.

***Comment: L.J. Sylvia** - Also, all events are free to attend, as well as all PC meetings and committees. We also ask to invite others, particularly to CLC meetings, to give input and join conversations on the needs of PLWH in our TGA.

***Question: H. Phillips** - Do you think it would be a good idea to put both the men's and woman's information in each kit?

***Response: D. Houston** - Would say so because people pass around information. This just keeps things simple and people can figure it out.

***Comment: J. Patterson** - Who are the PrEP champions out there in Medina?

***Response: H. Phillips** - Our Medical Director, Dr. Eldridge, prescribes PrEP and a lot of our LGBT community comes to him for services, physicals, and care. He is the “go to” for PrEP and has positive reviews from his clients.

***Comment: D. Houston** - Akeem Rollins, PrEP/Early Intervention Services Manager at MetroHealth, is also a good PrEP navigator resource as well.

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Agency Check-In – D. Houston

What outreach strategies are working for you, what challenges or barriers are you experiencing, and what support could/would help your work?

This portion is just a way we can check in on our agency affiliates and look to see if there are ways we can collaboratively support and provide better help to the community.

Cederick Taylor, Cleveland State University (CSU) Community Health Worker Program – Please be on the lookout for Taylor and Associates, as we are currently trying to capture a lot of the CHW's (Community Health Workers) who don't have their 130 volunteer hours, and assist them in completing those hours so we can have more licensed and trained certified CHW's in the field. Also, I'm proud to announce that one of our CHW's crossed the finish line, completed his hours and is now certified. Last, again be on the lookout as we are putting together a community health worker task force in trying to push our way through the community to provide assisting, testing, counseling and things like that. As we currently offer some kind of counseling and can get people into care, the main drive for Taylor and Associates is for this to become a full-circle process, in which people can get quality help and support every step of the way.

Jimmy Garcia, Prevention Outreach Coordinator, Nueva Luz – A big part of what the Prevention Program does at Nueva Luz, is for educational services at surrounding schools in the greater Cleveland area, and because this is very difficult to do with the public school system, most of this is done in the charter schools. The sessions are basically a part one and part two type of format, where we just touch on a different subject around HIV Prevention each week, along with some life skills. For now, we're looking to expand this curriculum, which will be on the Prevention side of Nueva Luz, and we'll see how it goes.

****Comment: D. Houston*** – Great work in knocking down a barrier that's really hard for Prevention or anyone to get into, as working with young people in public schools is basically kept blocked and locked. However, going the charter school route is always great and they really appreciate that.

Samyell Terry and Karen J. Bour-Boyko - Gilead Sciences, Inc. Distributor of Descovy

S. Terry – We look forward to engage with you all to see what services we can help offer in terms of this year or for the rest of the year, as we will be participating in Pride activities across the state of Ohio and Pittsburgh in working to build more relations across the Cuyahoga at TGA.

K. J. Bour-Boyko - We're trying to do everything we can to get a representative from our treatment team, as well as our prevention team at all of the Ohio Prides. We work with a lot of the clinics in the area as well, so if there's anything we can do with respect to education on a provider level, an allied healthcare professional level, or even at a patient level, please reach out to us. We have a lot of capabilities and a lot of different resources that we can share to help bring these numbers down to zero.

A. Whelan - The Centers - We hired another outreach worker and we're looking to hire a combination integrated nurse to work with our HIV harm reduction team, as well as our primary care to establish that linkage. We also have an indoor reduction vending machines and in those vending machines we have STI home self-test kits, as well as harm reduction kits, safe sex kits, condoms, and pregnancy tests. For our three that are indoor, one is in our west side Rocky River location with 24-hour access. Along with that, we are developing a needle repository program for our west side community, as we want to make sure that with 24-access, people have the ability to safely dispose of their syringes. To go with that, we have

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a new service line, which we hope to get up and running by July. We also got permission to go into East Cleveland, through a six-month petition process, and we will start this on the last week of June at Mount Nebo Baptist Church. We also have a health and safety fair on the 22nd at Neighborhood Family Pets, which is an organization that provides social services and helps take care of people's pets who can't afford to do so, such as for folks who are homeless.

Cielle Brady, Early Intervention Specialist (EIS), University Hospitals – The Zelma George Center in Cleveland will be hosting a Skate Wellness Fair, the Greater Friendship Baptist Church will be having an event August, and there are a bunch of other block parties and church and community events upcoming. If anybody is interested in attending any of these events as community partners, please feel free to let me or the SIU team know.

Next Steps – D. Houston - Our next meeting will be September 4, 2024, from 4-5:30 pm., and we will have more updates and some new educational pieces from our community partners that we can share.

Announcements

J. Patterson - The AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC) has put out a reimbursement incentive to enable folks to get PrEP certification or HIV Provider certification. The free course is offered online by Health HIV, and AFC will provide \$250 in grant funds for this. Also, AFC 's 2024 RFA's (Request for Applications) are out for annual responsive grants. More details will be provided.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Stevenson Seconded: K. Dennis

PREVENTION COMMITTEE JUNE 5, 2024 ATTENDANCE

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 30

PREVENTION MEMBERS PRESENT: 7

	PREVENTION MEMBERS	Jun 5, 2024	NOTES
1	Deairius Houston, Co-chair	X	
2	Tiffany Greene	X	
3	James Stevenson	X	
4	Julie Patterson	X	
5	Bryan Jones		
6	Tina Marbury		
7	Michelle Jackson-Rollins		
8	Jeannie Citerman-Kraeger		
9	Christine Osborne		
10	Cederick Taylor	X	
11	Akeem Rollins	X	
12	Rickey Lewis		
13	Holly Phillips	X	
14	Elizabeth Habat		
15	Kate Burnett-Bruckman		



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16	Pam Weiland		
17	Karla Ruiz		
18	Karen Hill		
19	Joye Toombs		
20	Leander Lovett		

PC Members: K. Dennis, B. Gayheart, C. Brady, D. LeGallee, S. Rivera

Attendees: T. Bertrand, K.J. Bour-Boyko, C. Kishman, S. Young, J. Garcia, N. Karn, S. Terry, A. Whelan, A. Dedek, Chaz M.

Staff: M. Baker, V. Panakkal, M. Kolenz, W. Swift, T. Hatchett, E. Alfonso, L.J. Sylvia, T. Mallory