

**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)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 4, 2026 – 12:00-1:30 pm**

CLC Committee Members		Planning Council Members	Community Attendees	Presenter(s)
1. Naimah O’Neal, Co-Chair	P	Stephanice Washington	K. C.	Christy Nicholls
2. Faith Ross, Co-Chair	P	Billy Gayheart	Brooke W.	<b>CCBH Staff</b>
3. LeAnder Lovett	P		KBC	Lisa-Jean Sylvia
4. Talib Mahdi	P		T. E.	Brittanie Evans
5. Kimberlin Dennis	P			Zach Levar
6. Sahara Rivera	A			
<b>Total of 15 in attendance</b>	<b>P = Present A = Absent O (Other) = Phone</b> <b>*Non-member Volunteer or Pending PC Member</b>			
<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>Co-Chair, Naimah O’Neal, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.</b>			
<b>Moment of Silence</b>	In remembering all those past, present, and future in the fight against HIV/AIDS.			
<b>Quorum Determination</b>	5 of 6 CLC committee members present - quorum of 4 needed.			
<b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Conflicts of Interest</b>	All members, attendees, and guests welcomed and asked to state conflicts of interest in the chat. <i>Conflicted: Talib Mahdi – NLURC; Naimah O’Neal – The Centers; Brooke W. – UH; Faith Ross – Pegasus Transportation</i>			
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>CLC Committee reviewed and approved the revised agenda for February 4, 2026.</b> Motion made by Billy Gayheart, seconded by Talib Mahdi In Favor: all; Opposed: 0			
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>CLC Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from January 7, 2026.</b> Motion made by Talib Mahdi, seconded by Tony Elmore In Favor: all; Opposed: 0; Abstained: none			
<b>2026 Changes to Medicaid</b>	<b>Christy Nicholls, MNO, JD – Deputy Administrator – Medicaid, Hearings, and Records – Cuyahoga Job and family Services</b> <a href="mailto:Christy.Nicholls@jfs.ohio.gov">Christy.Nicholls@jfs.ohio.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Annette.Mosby@jfs.ohio.gov">Annette.Mosby@jfs.ohio.gov</a> (assistant) 216-987-6789  <b>Federal Changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid SNAP Changes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes for non-citizens: To be eligible for SNAP, must be: US Citizen, US National,</li> <li>• Refugees and asylees must be Lawful Permanent Residents but don’t have to wait the 5-year waiting period</li> <li>• CJFS will determine eligibility under the new guidelines and correct system errors when found</li> </ul>			

- SNAP work requirement definition changes: Able-Bodied Adults
  - Adds requirements for adults who are age 55 to 64 if they don't meet other exemptions; adds work requirements for parents whose children are age 14 or older; removes exemptions for veterans, homeless individuals, and former foster youth
  - June 2026 – the first month that the new Able-Bodied Adults will not receive SNAP
- SNAP work requirement exemptions
  - Age 60 – 64: pregnant, residing with another assistance group member under age of 14; a Native American, Urban Native American, or California Native American; Physically or mentally unfit for employment
  - Age 59 or younger, you must meet one of the above exemptions or one of the following exemptions: responsible for the care of an incapacitated person; applying for or receiving unemployment benefits; participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment program; a student enrolled at least half time; employed or self-employed and working a minimum of 30 hours per week
- Able-Bodied Adult Verification of Unpaid Hours – JFS 07410
  - Can be used to verify unpaid work hours to satisfy a work requirement to receive SNAP benefits
- Q: How much influence does a State have in the administration of this program? A: In this case, they are working with Food and Nutrition Services at the federal level and crafting the rules as far as how Ohio will implement it. If we have guidance, we could make some tweaks, but it's pretty limited.
- Q: If people meet the work requirements and don't have an exemption, are there suggestions where people can go to find work? A: we have 7 contracted providers if they want to go through us and they can do work activity that way. If they fail to participate, the federal rule is they can't use the contracted provider anymore.
- Q: What are they going to allow to buy on SNAP? A: There were changes made to SNAP benefits where you can't use your benefits to buy certain items that the government has now deemed as unhealthy, such as sugary drinks.

Medicaid Changes

- Medicaid Population: about 1/3 of the residents in Cuyahoga County receive Medicaid and more than half of children are covered by Medicaid.
- Medicaid Work requirements for expansion population – approximately 98,000 Cuyahoga County residents are in the expansion population. Those in the expansion population will be required to complete 80 hours per month of community service, work program or education program, OR they must earn the monthly equivalent of the federal minimum wage x 80 hours. They will be required to renew every 6 months.
- 65,000 residents in Cuyahoga County are likely to meet the requirement or qualify for an exemption
- 33,000 will need to meet an exemption or fulfill the requirement
- To learn more about work requirements, visit the ODM Work Requirements page: [Medicaid Group VIII | Medicaid](#)
- Exemptions: Medically frail; parent or guardian of disabled individual, dependent child under age 14, or foster youth under age 26; substance use disorder or disabling mental disorder, blind or disabled; pregnant women; in compliance with SNAP
- Retroactive eligibility period is changing from 3 months of retroactive coverage to 1 month for the expansion group and 2 months for other categories.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premiums and co-pays: States have been directed to update their plans to allow copays of up to \$35 per service for all expansion population customers with income greater than 100% FPL effective by 10/1/2028</li> <li>• Individuals on Medicaid Buy-in for Workers with Disabilities no longer have premiums</li> <li>• Medicaid Consumer Hotline 1-800-324-8680</li> <li>• Q: How does one find out when they're part of Group VIII? A: If someone is over age 64, you are not in group 8. If someone is receiving Medicare, you are not in group 8. If you are receiving supplemental services (SRS) you are not in group 8. If you are on SSI or Disability, you are exempt. Otherwise, you will have to contact your County to know for sure if you are in Group 8.</li> </ul>
<b>Listening Sessions &amp; Survey</b>	<p>We want to continue to have listening sessions where we are going to people. With the survey, we're going to focus in on the counties outside of Cuyahoga.</p> <p>LJ – PSRA process starts today with some presentations in Strategy and Finance. However, if you're interested, you are invited to participate.</p> <p>Naimah – the survey gets information about consumers and people living with HIV and what they think is important.</p>
<b>Open House</b>	<p>The Membership, Retention, and Marketing Committee is creating an in-person event to welcome new people, especially people living with HIV. What topics should we cover for people living with who want to learn more about the Planning Council?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Billy – we need to have some kind of training, but this is an opportunity for new members to meet everyone else and get to know the people that you're working with. As we go into this, I did submit a budget proposal to do this quarterly. We could create training not just on the basics of Planning Council, but on deeper topics. What do you want to learn about when it comes to PC and the RW Part A Program?</li> <li>• Stephanice – I feel like it will give newcomers a better sense of clarity and quality time to spend with one another.</li> <li>• Talib – I think in-person meetings gives us an opportunity to have more 1-on-1 conversations. Explain that you don't have to come to every meeting, but just get your feet wet. It can be overwhelming at first.</li> <li>• Lj – it could be a training about Ryan White services</li> <li>• Talib – The word "training" implies something that I have to practice or be mindful of, rather than just getting information. It might prevent some people from wanting to attend. We have Learning Days.</li> <li>• Stephanice – When I first started, I got more interested and what made me want to stay was the personal contact that we were having.</li> </ul>
<b>Parking Lot</b>	
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>Billy – Lorain County lost their only youth shelter.</p> <p>Kimberlin – I am participating in a National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on Friday 2/20 at 4pm.</p> <p>Stephanice – I am about to publish my book.</p> <p>Lj – Medicaid Listening session tomorrow at the LGBTQ Center.</p> <p>Lj – MetroHealth is now doing walk-in rapid testing.</p> <p>Lj – Congratulations to everyone at County Council yesterday and the new members being confirmed.</p>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>Meeting adjourned by Naimah O'Neal at 1:28 pm.</b>

**Reminder: Check your Email or the Website for Updates**

**Next Meeting: March 4, 2026 12:00 to 1:30 PM**

Visit the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Homepage at: [www.ccbh.net/ryan-white](http://www.ccbh.net/ryan-white)