

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, March 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	D. Lucero	Dr. Prakash Ganesh
2. Faith Ross, Co-Chair	P	Billy Gayheart	Jeffrey Mazo	CCBH Staff
3. LeAnder Lovett	P		T.E.	Lisa-Jean Sylvia
4. Talib Mahdi	A		KBC	Brittanie Evans
5. Kimberlin Dennis	P		K.C.	Anastassia Idov
6. Sahara Rivera	A		Brooke Willis	
Total of in attendance	P = Present A = Absent O (Other) = Phone *Non-member Volunteer or Pending PC Member			
Call to Order	Co-Chair, Faith Ross, called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.			
Moment of Silence	In remembering all those past, present, and future in the fight against HIV/AIDS.			
Quorum Determination	4 of 6 CLC committee members present - quorum of 3 needed.			
Welcome, Introductions & Conflicts of Interest	All members, attendees, and guests welcomed and asked to state conflicts of interest in the chat. <i>Conflicted: Naimah O’Neal – The Centers; Faith Ross – Pegasus Transportation; Brooke Willis - UH</i>			
Approval of Agenda	CLC Committee reviewed and approved the agenda for March 4, 2026 with the caveat that we are waiting for our speaker and will give him the floor when he joins the meeting. Motion made by Naimah O’Neal, seconded by Leander Lovett In Favor: all; Opposed: 0; Abstained: none			
Approval of Minutes	CLC Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from February 4, 2026. Motion made by Naimah O’Neal, seconded by Stephanice Washington In Favor: all; Opposed: 0; Abstained: none			
Co-Chairs Needed	Lj: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe that people living with HIV should be at the center of the work of Planning Council. An important part of this is to include people living with HIV in leadership. • Due to term limits, we need new people to step into leadership roles in the following committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-Chair for Membership, Retention & Marketing ○ Co-Chair for Strategy & Finance ○ Co-Chair (or two) for Community Liaison Committee ○ Co-Chair for Quality Improvement ○ Consumer Executive Co-Chair • To serve as a committee chair, you have to be a fully appointed member of Planning Council. The co-chair of the CLC must be someone who is willing to publicly disclose their status. Ideally, you will have been a member of that committee for at least 6 months. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal is for each committee to have 2 co-chairs, including one person who is living with HIV. • Committee Chair commitment includes: serve a 3-year term; work with Lj to plan the meetings and manage the work plan; facilitate committee meetings; participate in the Executive committee. Co-chairs work with the other committee chairs and the Executive chairs to manage the Planning Council as a whole. • Naimah – It’s important to give back, but it’s also important to learn. This committee is important because we’re the voices of people living with, but ours shouldn’t be the only voice. For me, being a co-chair helps me understand where the money is going. Brian used to say if you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. We need somebody to work with us and help us understand the information. • Faith – I have really grown as a person and stepped out of my comfort zone because of being a co-chair. It is one of the most fulfilling things I’ve done with my life. It does help you if you have a fear of public speaking. It helps you in a lot of aspects. This would be a great self-growth role. I’m not a better advocate. I can speak for myself and for others better. • Consumer Executive Co-Chair: you must be a person living with HIV who is willing to publicly disclose your status; be a fully appointed member of the PC with a positive attendance record; have at least 3 years left on your term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commitment includes: attend all meetings of the Full PC and Executive committee; alternate with other exec co-chairs to facilitate full PC and Exec committee meetings; attend one monthly call with HRSA representative; attend one monthly planning meeting with other exec co-chairs; stand in to facilitate other committees if a co-chair needs support; it is also helpful to have your attendance at the CLC whenever possible • If you are willing to serve, please contact Lisa-Jean
<p>Eliminating Disparities in HIV Transmission Rates</p>	<p>Dr. Prakash Ganesh spoke at the Full Planning Council about a project he is working on. He will share more information and answer questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a Ryan White provider at Neighborhood Family Practice, but I also serve as the Medical Director at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Today I’m here to speak to you about a project that I was funded for. • I primarily did HIV care and treatment in a country in Africa where I trained a lot of medical providers in managing HIV and TB. The disparities that we saw between those that had the means versus those that did not have the means was very sobering. When I moved back to Cleveland in 2020, I started working for Neighborhood Family Practice. I saw the same type of issues where patients were falling through the cracks. I want to see those things stop. How do we use the resources we have to stop this epidemic? • The problem: Current treatments and prevention programs work, but they’re not reaching everyone who needs them. We’re missing a way to see and act on the whole picture at once. • The innovation: Community-Based System Dynamics (CBSD) Approach. Instead of fixing one problem at a time, this approach looks at the whole picture and attacks the root causes. • The goal: To eliminate HIV transmission in Cuyahoga County and to shed light on the complexity of HIV in Cuyahoga County • What your participation means: Your knowledge and experience are essential. By participating in this study, you will contribute to a deeper understanding of HIV

	<p>transmission disparities in our community; point us toward solutions that fix root causes; help us find answers that reflect what our community needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation: about \$75 per session • Meeting 4 times over the course of a year for 2-3 hours in-person, likely midtown. • Who can join: no one will ever be asked to share your status or your medical history to be a participant. No research experience needed. • Contact information: Prakash Ganesh, MD, MPH Email: Prakash.ganesh@case.edu • Q: Planning council covers counties outside of Cuyahoga County. Does this study cover those counties? A: Right now it is limited to Cuyahoga County. • Q: Is your grant limited to Cuyahoga County? A: No, it is only limited to the Institutional Review Board, but I can change that. This is a board that ensures safety for the participants. • Q: Because I work in the field and live with HIV, is there any limitation? A: no, I think that brings a great perspective. • Q: The title deals with health disparities. Could you provide the list of health disparities that you have listed in your study? I want to make sure we're inclusive for the area we're in. A: In terms of the disparities, it aims at the disparities we see in new infections. We do need a diverse group of participants. I am kind of looking at that, but I'm not excluding people based on that. • Q: What about disparities that we can't really influence, like housing? A: This study builds off of the resources that we do have available, so it would incorporate it as a factor but we know that we are limited there. • Q: You mentioned that you were planning on doing 4 sessions. How long do you expect to have results? A: I'm already working on that, but the information that participants provide, we will create diagrams to work off of together after each session. My goal is to teach you this methodology.
<p>Listening Sessions & Survey</p>	<p>Lj:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every year in the past, we've had a consumer survey. This year, we are shifting our model to go to a multi-year approach. We're using the same survey, but trying to get more people from Ashtabula, Lake, Lorain, Geauga, or Medina Counties. • http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PR55VGL • The deadline is Monday, March 23rd. • If people filled it out last year, they should not fill it out again this year.
<p>In-Person Event</p>	<p>Save the Date: In-Person Event on April 29th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billy – In the past we've done new member orientation in person, but now it is online. We still wanted to keep something in person. We're going to bring everybody together and provide a training as well as socialize, meet everybody that you see online all the time, etc. Food will be provided. Hopefully, next year we will have 4 events. • Lj – one of the reasons that we're having this in-person is to welcome new people. We will have a component specifically for connection and new people. • Stephanice – where is this located? Lj – Neighborhood Connections in Midtown. I will share all of that information with everyone in an email. • Faith – I'm going to try to bring some members from Lorain County. • Naimah – I was going to invite some people who have been on Planning Council before and are able to re-apply.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leander – I might invite some people from a group that I go to at the VA. • Brooke – I can ask some younger folks from the yoga class. • Kimberlin – There are a few women from a women’s group.
Deep-Dive: Medical Transportation	<p>What are the questions you think should be explored or answered during the deep dive about Medical Transportation?</p> <p>Lj – QI is doing a deep dive to learn about the service category and make recommendations about way to improve service delivery or whether the category should be funded.</p> <p>Motion to move the deep dive conversation to next month. Motion made by Stephanice Washington; seconded by Leander Lovett In favor: all; Opposed: 0; Abstained: Jeff Mazo</p>
Parking Lot	
Announcements	<p>Naimah O’Neal – Friday 3/13 there is an event @ The Centers from 1-4PM to honor Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day</p> <p>Brooke Willis – We Think 4 A Change event April 10-12 at Stanford House</p>
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned by Faith Ross at 1:32 pm.
<p>Reminder: Check your Email or the Website for Updates Next Meeting: April 1, 2026 12:00 to 1:30 PM Visit the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Homepage at: www.ccbh.net/ryan-white</p>	