

Cuyahoga Regional HIV Prevention and Care Planning Council
Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties
Deairius Houston, Co-Chair and Sahara Rivera, Co-Chair



HIV Prevention Committee Minutes
Wednesday, March 4, 2025 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Prevention Committee Members		Planning Council Attendees	Community Members	Guest Speakers
Deairius Houston, Co-Chair	P	Billy Gayheart	Brittany Freese	Dr. Prakash Ganesh
Sahara Rivera, Co-Chair	P	Christy Nicholls	Stephanie Young	
Cielle Brady	A	Naimah O’Neal	Elizabeth Habat	Recipient Staff
Tiffany Greene	P	Tony Elmore	Natalia Rodas	Lisa-Jean Sylvia
Julie Patterson	P	James Stevenson	Natalija Pasalic	Brittanie Evans
Kimberlin Dennis	P	Stephanice Washington	Victoria Ma	Melissa Kolenz
Karla Ruiz	A	LeAnder Lovett	Jordi Luke	Erin Janowski
			Michelle Jackson-Rollins	
			Kenyetta Cloud	
			Adriana Whelan	
Total of 27 in attendance.	P = Present A = Absent O (Other) = Virtual, Phone *Committee Member or Pending PC Member			
Call to Order	Chair, Sahara Rivera, called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.			
Moment of Silence				
Quorum Determination	5 of 7 Prevention committee members present - quorum of 4 needed.			
Welcome, Introductions & Conflicts of Interest	All members, attendees, and guests welcomed and asked to state conflicts of interest in the chat. ----- <i>Conflicted: Brittany Freese – Signature Health; James Stevenson – NLURC; Deairius Houston – UH; Sahara Rivera – Metro; Naimah O’Neal – The Centers; Elizabeth Habat – UH; Natalia Rodas, NLURC; Adriana Whelan, The Centers; Prakash Ganesh – Neighborhood Family Practice</i>			
Approval of Agenda	Prevention Committee reviewed and approved the agenda for March 4, 2025. Motion made by Stephanice Washington, seconded by Julie Patterson In favor: All; Opposed: 0; Abstained: none			
Approval of Minutes	Motion to table this item until the next meeting. Motion made by Julie Patterson, Seconded by Stephanice Washington In Favor: All; Opposed: 0; Abstained:			
Planning Council Update	Lisa-Jean Sylvia: - We are seeking new members! Billy – We want to put forth the voices of the HIV community, especially those that are living with and unaffiliated. We are a little bit short of the 33% reflectiveness requirement. Lj – we are also seeking a mental health provider. - There is an in-person event on April 29th and everyone is invited to join us. - The CLC has a survey and we are especially trying to reach people under 40 and people living outside of Cuyahoga County.			

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	• CCBH did receive their partial award and they expect level funding for FY26. • Prevention grant update – Melissa Kolenz – level funding is expected on the HIV Prevention side. • EHE Update – Erin Janowski – EHE Care received their partial award.
Prevention Community Highlight	A Community-Based System Dynamics approach to Eliminate HIV Transmission Disparities – Dr. Prakash Ganesh • I was recently awarded a grant to research how we can best use our resources to address things at a system level. • My background is that I work at Neighborhood Family Practice as an HIV Physician and serve as the Medical Director at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. I also worked internationally doing work in HIV and TB. I saw huge gaps in care and disparities. When I came back to Cleveland in 2020, I saw some of the same disparities here. • The problem: HIV transmission persists in high-risk populations despite effective interventions. • The innovation: Community-Based System Dynamics Approach. Moves beyond isolated interventions to address root causes. • Goal: To eliminate HIV transmission in Cuyahoga County; to shed light on the complexity of HIV prevention. • Your knowledge and experience are essential. Whether you are living with HIV, providing healthcare or case management services, working in public health, or engaged in policy and planning, you bring unique insights into the factors that drive HIV transmission in Cuyahoga County. • Here's what you're signing up for: \$75 paid per session; meeting 4 times over the course of a year for 2-3 hours; food is provided. • The insights we generate will be used locally. • If you are interested in joining the study, send me an email. • Q: Do we know if someone's patient is part of your study, as a social worker, can we give them transportation assistance to be part of your study? A: I'm not sure. Anastassia – I will have to double check and get back with you. • Q: We are learning about doing a Needs Assessment and I'm curious if you thing that this process could inform future needs assessments. A: I think if we can address QI work as well as strategic planning, I think that's the goal of this.
2026 Changes to Medicaid and SNAP	Christy Nicholls, NMMO, JD, Deputy Administrator – Medicaid, Hearings and Records • House Resolution 1 was signed into law on July 4, 2025 • To be eligible for SNAP, customers must be in one of these categories: US citizen; US National; Lawful Permanent Residents after 5 years; Granted Cuban and Haitian Entrants; Compacts of Free Association (COFA)

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	• SNAP work requirements for adults who are age 55 to 64 if they don't meet other exemptions; adds work requirements for parents whose children are all age 14 or older; removes • March 2026 – The first month that is countable towards the time-limit for impacted groups and those that may be subject to work requirements. You can have 3 months without participating in the work activity requirements, then you lose your SNAP benefits. • Work requirement exemptions: Age 60-64 and pregnant, residing with another assistance group member who is under the age of 14, a Native American, or physically or mentally unfit for employment. Age 59 or younger and responsible for the care of an incapacitated person; applying for or receiving unemployment benefits; participating in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment program; a student enrolled at least half time; or employed or self-employed and working a minimum of 30 hours per week. • Medicaid work requirements for expansion population: Expansion population (group 8) 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. Group 8 will be required to renew Medicaid benefits every 6 months. • Medicaid work requirements 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 • Medicaid changes to retroactive eligibility period: effective 1/1/2027, Group 8 will have potential eligibility for up to one month; all other Medicaid categories have potential for eligibility up to 2 months prior. • For SNAP, about 1 in 3 individuals who are due for renewal fail to complete it on time but are reinstated within a few months. This is without extensive work requirements. • Q:
Agency Check-In	What barriers are you experiencing in getting services to your clients given the extreme weather? How are you working through that? • Melissa - On behalf of the DIS team, we had some people scheduled to come into our clinic. Instead of having anybody coming in here, we went to their house. • Liz - We switched to virtual appointments for some people • Jordi – we are creating a directory here: www.hotheal.org
Announcements	Michelle – We Think 4 A Change women's retreat April 10 – 12. Resource and Health day on April 9 – sign up to be a vendor. Adriana – The Centers is hosting an event on 3/13 for Women and Girls Day Julie – I was fortunate enough to be a co-chair of an affinity group for ODH and we had to come up with some goals. I would be happy to share that with this committee next time. Billy – Reminder that April 29th is our in-person event. More information will be sent via email. This Saturday, NXTGEN will be meeting in-person.

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	Sahara – The LGBT Student Center and African American Society at Case Western partnered last month and taught them about the history of ballroom. Kimberlin – I was part of an event at NLURC and we had an awesome turnout. The panelists were great.
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned by Deairius Houston at 5:31 pm.

Reminder: Check your Email or the Website for Updates

Next Meeting: June 3, 2026

Visit the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Homepage at: www.ccbh.net/ryan-white

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