

EHE Planning Committee  
Meeting Notes for October 28, 2020  
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Registrants: Melissa Parker, Jora White, Josh Eyer, Warren O’Meara-Dates, Tony Christon-Walker, Joel Reed, Ashley Tarrant, Brittney Brooks, Kristi Stringer, Martha Robinson, Matt Pagnotti, Dr. Wesley Willeford, Dr. Danita Crear, Dr. Ritalinda Lee, Ashley Tarrant, James Duke, Carmarion Anderson-Harvey, Kim Love, Emma Kay, Shakina Wheeler-Cox, Tia Gilbert, Derrick Steverson, Lynn Zaris, Anthony Gardner, Shey Thorn, Steve Dellinger, Tony Hawkes, Adrinda Carter, Julie Hope, Morgan Farrington, Dr. LaTeisha Elliott

LaTeisha opened the meeting, and welcomed participants. Steve gave a Branding/Marketing sub-committee report and asked the Planning Committee if it would be appropriate to name the Jurisdictional Plan “**Ending the HIV Epidemic Alabama**”, reflective of the logo. A shortened logo that was created by Mark Moore free of charge was presented to the group. The logo that reads “End HIV Alabama” is a shortened version of the original to be used as a “button” for social media and could be a good choice for the name of the EHE Planning Committee. Members suggested a focus group be formed to discuss and approve these ideas.

Ritalinda presented an overview of Plan strategies organized by CDC pillar with their corresponding community input sources. LaTeisha reviewed each strategy with the group and asked that all comments be entered into the group chat for ease of capturing members’ input. The strategies were presented to the group along with input given during previous meetings to illustrate ideas that have been addressed in the Plan and those that have not. Alabama Partners for Health will meet with OHPC staff to incorporate additional suggestions into the Plan to the greatest extent possible. Please see accompanying documents.

There is a strong need for advocacy around Medicaid expansion and syringe services programs (SSPs). The EHE Planning Committee will form an advocacy/legislative sub-committee to partner with individuals, legislators, and organizations who are currently conducting advocacy efforts in the state. Several members expressed interest in working with specific issues. Anthony Gardner, CEO of Alabama Regional Medical Services raised a question about current advocacy efforts for Medicaid expansion in Alabama and Matthew shared that Cover Alabama has been advocating for Medicaid expansion. There has been some increased urgency for Medicaid expansion due to COVID-19 and renewed interest in the Alabama House of Representatives. Matthew suggested that sub-committee members join the Cover Alabama coalition.

Final comments reflected a strong desire for the Plan to address stigma, social determinants of health, and cultural sensitivity.

LBE