



Joint Medicaid Oversight Subcommittee on Department of Health Programs

Testimony on the Ryan White Part B HIV/AIDS Program

April 27, 2016

Chair Sears and members of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Subcommittee on Department of Health Programs – Ryan White Part B. As you know, the full Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee in December 2015 released a statutorily required report which reviewed five programs administered by the Ohio Department of Health. Our report assessed the role of these programs in light of the full implementation of Medicaid expansion and the Affordable Care Act and offered recommendations to improve health outcomes and achieve efficiencies in this new healthcare landscape.

As part of this report, Executive Director Ackerman and I were asked to organize subcommittees to further review these programs, report on progress since the release of our report, and offer a framework for further implementation of the recommendations we put forth, with a particular eye toward the upcoming budget process. The Ryan White Part B subcommittee commences this process. The Ryan White Part B program serves as the payer of last resort for Persons Living with HIV (PLWH) with household income up to 300% of the federal poverty level, providing insurance coverage and medication to eligible individuals for the treatment of HIV and related conditions. The Part B program also provides case management and other core medical and supportive services to clients – these are crucial given the complex nature of HIV/AIDS and the high rate of co-morbidities experienced by PLWH.

Of particular interest to JMOC, the Ryan White Part B program serves a large number of Medicaid beneficiaries. According to an analysis done by Optumas, JMOC's contracted actuary, roughly 9,400 Medicaid recipients have a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. Further, the Medicaid program spends roughly \$200 million annually on this population, but provides little in the manner of HIV-specific care management.

Ohio's Medicaid expansion has provided a drastic shift in healthcare coverage for PLWH; the Ryan White Part B program has seen a significant increase in Medicaid coverage among its

clients as a result of Medicaid expansion. This paradigm shift in coverage provision presents a golden opportunity for linking Medicaid beneficiaries living with HIV to HIV-specific care management and other needed services in order to treat and manage their infection.

Such efforts are not possible without a sustained effort and buy-in from various stakeholders and state agencies. Fortunately, such effort is currently underway. As part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration guidance to states to develop a 5-year integrated HIV/AIDS care and prevention plan for 2017 through 2021, Ohio convened a statewide steering committee, in which JMOC has played an active role since inception. This steering committee includes participation from a wide array of stakeholders, including state agencies, Medicaid managed care plans, service providers, advocacy groups, and consumers. The steering committee originally convened with the sole purpose of developing a 5-year plan to submit to the federal government. Sensing the opportunity to achieve something much greater, however, the steering committee has developed a number of policy goals to tackle Ohio's HIV/AIDS epidemic head on; these policy goals include a number of the recommendations set forth in JMOC's report.

With that, I will turn it over to the other witnesses who will be providing testimony: Shancie Jenkins with the Ohio Department of Health; Patrick Beatty with the Ohio AIDS Coalition and Equitas Health; and Tara Britton with the Center for Community Solutions. All three are also on the statewide steering committee and will go into more detail with respect to the progress being made around the Ryan White Part B program and the state's HIV/AIDS plan more broadly.