

District I PREP Newsletter

In This Issue

Agency Highlights

District Updates

Awareness Around HIV Stigma

Youth Plenary

Contact Us

HIV Stigma Language Guide

[Click Here](#) to download this free resource!



Agency Highlights



Thank you to Erie County Juvenile Justice Center for completing two PREP cohorts in June - both with 100% completion rates. We are exceptionally thankful of facilitator, **Jason Kessler**, for his ongoing support of the PREP program and for making it a priority at this agency.



Catalyst Life Services, in Richland County, just completed their first cohort of PREP. **Brianna McNeely** and **Jennifer Stahl** were recently trained in the curriculum at the end of May and already successfully ran a cohort with their youth. We are thankful to have them provide this program at their agency.

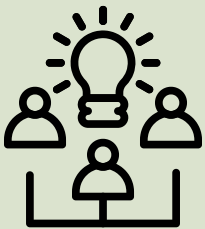


Our team of facilitators at Seneca County Youth Center, consisting of **Natasha Boyd**, **Brandi Clark**, and **Brittany Kleinhenz**, have recently completed their first cohort of PREP as well. These ladies were trained in the curriculum at the end of February and have already implemented this program to their youth. Thank you for choosing PREP at this agency.

District Updates



At our last Beyond Birds & Bees workshop on May 23rd, we trained 17 new participants in the material. We received positive feedback from multiple participants after the workshop, stating how they are excited to use this information with their own students, clients, and even their own children.



5 new facilitators were trained in the Making Proud Choices curriculum at our last training day on May 29th. Out of these 5 participants, 3 of them already have held their first PREP cohort at their agency.



Thank you to our partners over at Third Street Family Services here in Richland County, **Christina O'Millian** and **Tonya Vespo**, for speaking at our last coalition meeting on June 20th. They gave a wonderful presentation and training on LGBTQ+ Inclusivity, Title X, HIV, and PrEP 101.



District 1, and other colleagues of Ohio PREP, were well represented at the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention National Conference in San Francisco, California. The conference took place the last week of June, where there were over 700 PREP providers in attendance from across the country. There, we attended many beneficial seminars, our colleague's presented on a few key Ohio PREP topics, such as the importance of wellness days, and learned a lot from some keynote speakers.



Two staff members from District 1, **Catherine Rischar** and **Rebecca Coiner**, presented the PREP program at CHAP's coalition meeting on September 3, 2024. CHAP stands for the Community Health Access Project, which is a nationally recognized Pathways Community HUB model. This model is utilized from infancy to adulthood to assure accountable outreach to at risk individuals, documenting reduced risk, improved outcomes and reduced cost. This local HUB covers Richland, Ashland, Knox, Crawford, Huron, and Morrow counties.

HIV Stigma Awareness

HIV stigma consists of negative attitudes and beliefs about people living with HIV; the prejudice that comes along with labeling someone as part of a group that is socially unacceptable. This, in turn, can lead to discrimination which are the behaviors that result from those attitudes and beliefs. The stigma that comes with HIV can negatively affect the emotional well-being and mental health of people living with this ailment.



Nationally, up to 21% of people living with HIV reported being denied health care in the past 12 months.



47 countries still maintain travel restrictions for people living with HIV



Stigma index analysis found that HIV-related discrimination caused or contributed to job loss in more than 50% of cases in 7 out of 11 countries who reported such data.

[Click Here to watch the video on personal testimonials from individuals living with HIV](#)



Let's Hear From Our Youth

who have completed the PREP program

“I love this program its very helpful. Thank you!”

.....

“I liked how it explains to you how to prevent
HIV.”

.....

“My favorite part was learning how to save up
and budget in the economic market.”





Catherine Rischar - District 1 PREP Coordinator
crischar@richlandhealth.org

Andee Wildenthaler - Director of Community Health and Prevention Sciences
awildenthaler@richlandhealth.org