

HIV Community Planning Council
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, June 5th, 2024
Zoom Meeting
3:00-4:30 pm

Committee Members Present: Ed Chitty, Jesus Guillen, Reina Hernandez, Thomas Knoble, Derrick Mapp, Richard Sullivan

Committee Members Absent: Franco Chevalier [E], Lee Jewell [E], Juba Kalamka [A], Charles Siron [E], Gwen Smith [LOA], Laura Thomas [A]

Others Present: Stephen Spano

Support Staff Present: Kira Perez, Kat Tajgeer

Minutes

1. Introductions and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm by CM Mapp. Everyone introduced themselves and quorum was established.

2. Review/Approve June 5th, 2024 DRAFT Agenda – VOTE

The June 5th, 2024 DRAFT Agenda was reviewed and approved.

3. Review/Approve April 3rd, 2024 DRAFT Minutes – VOTE

The April 3rd, 2024 DRAFT Minutes were reviewed and approved.

4. Announcements

- CM Guillen announces today is AIDS Long-Term Survivors Day.

5. Public Comment

- None.

6. HCAP – Stephen Spano

- Stephen Spano notes this month's HCAP report is comprised of data from April and May, as the Community Engagement committee did not meet in May to review April's data.
- Spano highlights two cases which reflect challenges that folks who are Veterans are experiencing. He details a case in which a female-identifying client, who goes to the VA for HIV services, felt as though the clinic was not set up to support female-identifying folks.
- Spano highlights another case of a client who had to adopt their two minor grandchildren. They are reliant on housing support and housing subsidies, the children receive benefits that have been counted towards their income, which has effectively doubled the client's rent. He wanted to bring up this issue as it doesn't show a lot of adaptability on the service provider's end.
 - CM Guillen asks what the steps are before clients come to Spano for services.
 - ❖ Spano says he is a fan of clients coming to him at the first sign of discomfort. He likes to be involved in a case from the beginning in the hopes of making sure relationships are repairable.
 - CM Sullivan asks if the grandchildren's benefits are being counted as income because the client oversees their benefits and if they're running into a stonewall with the grievance process.
 - ❖ Spano notes the client has gone through some portion of the grievance process, but the service provider's resolution has not changed. Spano is at the second stage of advocacy and has resubmitted the grievance and engaged in conversation with the

service provider. They are waiting for their client to sign additional paperwork before engaging in further advocacy. Spano intends on speaking with DPH and the Mayor’s office to find out what rules are in place. If needed, they will refer the client to one of their Housing partners.

- Spano highlights a large need for Emergency Financial Assistance. Last year advocated for additional subsidy money, which was approved, but it was not put into the budget for this year.
 - CM Mapp clarifies if this will be part of the agenda around HIV funding and if there will be an additional call for funding.
 - Spano says they’ve been continuously fighting for extra money for subsidies.
 - CM Guillen asks what the HCAP client process looks like and asks if Spano holds all the clients or if he refers them out to other lawyers at HCAP.
 - Spano says he holds all the clients. He provides an example of what the process looks like. He highlights that there are times when his mediation tactics are no longer successful or service providers or the service provider’s lawyers want to go in a different direction and it becomes a litigious issue. Once a case has become litigious, that’s when Spano passes issues like that onto the legal time. He notes that it is rare that he refers to legal services.

7. Needs Assessment/ COLA Update

- CS Perez updates that we are still continuing outreach efforts. We have one focus group scheduled at the end of the month to conduct 1:1 interviews.
 - CM Sullivan asks for clarification on the target groups for the Needs Assessment and COLA.
 - ❖ CS Perez states the target group for the Needs Assessment is the Black/African American community, and the target group for the COLA is youth.

8. Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items – VOTE

The next Community Engagement Committee meeting will be scheduled for July 10th, 2024 via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm by CM Mapp.

Community Engagement Committee

HIV Community Planning Council

Roll Call: **P**=Present; **A**=Absent; **E**=Excused; **L**=Leave of Absence

Votes: **Y**=Yes; **N**=No; **B**=Abstain; **R**=Recused (deduct from quorum)

June 5th, 2024

roll [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10]

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|----|------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | Franco Chevalier | E | - | - | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | Ed Chitty | P | Y | Y | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Jesus Guillen | P | Y | Y | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Reina Hernandez | P | Y | Y | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Lee Jewell | E | - | - | | | | | | | | |

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|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 6. | Juba Kalamka | A | - | - | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | Thomas Knoble | P | Y | Y | | | | | | | | |
| 8. | Derrick Mapp (Co-Chair) | P | Y | Y | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | Charles Siron | E | - | - | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | Gwen Smith | LOA | - | - | | | | | | | | |
| 11. | Richard Sullivan (Co-Chair) | P | Y | Y | | | | | | | | |
| 12. | Laura Thomas | A | - | - | | | | | | | | |



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|----------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ayes | | 6 | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| Nays | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Abstain | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Recusal | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | 6 | 6 | | | | | | | | |