

HIV Community Planning Council
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 4th, 2026
Zoom Meeting
3:00-4:00 pm

Committee Members Present: Erwin Barrios, Lee Jewell, Thomas Knoble, T. J. Lee-Miyaki, Derrick Mapp, Laura Thomas

Committee Members Absent: Franco Chevalier [LOA], Jesus Guillen [A], Charles Siron [E], Richard Sullivan [LOA]

Others Present: Beth Neary, Nikos Pecoraro, Stephen Spano

Support Staff Present: Mark Molnar, Kira Perez, Kat Téllez

Minutes

1. Introductions and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm by CM Mapp. Everyone introduced themselves and quorum was established.

2. Review/Approve March 4th, 2026 DRAFT Agenda – VOTE

The March 4th, 2026 DRAFT Agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus.

3. Review/Approve February 4th, 2026 DRAFT Minutes – VOTE

The February 4th, 2026 DRAFT Minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

4. Announcements

- Stephen Spano announced that they will be unable to attend the April Community Engagement meeting. They will report on both the April and May HCAP reports at the May Community Engagement meeting.
- Beth Neary noted a formula change for Ryan White Part A resulting in a roughly \$500,000 per year budget decrease over five years. The state has added the loss to their Ryan White Part B award and attributed this to community advocacy efforts.
- CM Thomas provided a local budget update noting that DPH cut \$17M from CBOs, with several HIV-specific cuts on the CHEP prevention side, including clinical assistant training programs. She stated there was strong community testimony at this week's Health Commission meeting and the clinical assistant program cut was removed, but all other HIV-specific cuts remain. CM Thomas noted an additional \$20M in upcoming CBO cuts and raised concerns about reductions to harm reduction services and emphasized the need for continued community advocacy.
 - CM Knoble acknowledged the community advocacy efforts that took place. They noted that there are still tough days ahead.
- CM Knoble shared that they have the client survey information that was discussed as being part of the community feedback process for the Integrated Plan update and distribute flyers to those who need them.

5. Public Comment

- None.

6. HCAP Report

- Stephen Spano reported that he and Jonathan Frochtzwaig from San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) submitted a proposal to the Disability & Aging Services (DAS) commission requesting funding for long-term survivors and older adults living with HIV. They declined to extend funding this cycle but invited them to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Spano acknowledged this was an expected outcome given the current budget climate.

- Spano shared this month's HCAP report and highlighted a few cases. The first case they highlighted was one involving a client in a residential treatment facility who is unable to have their partner visit them due to a no outside guests policy enacted during COVID lockdown. Spano noted this is impacting the client's psychosocial health and they are working with the client. They will report back when they have more information.
- Spano shared a success regarding a client who had been terminated from dental care services for behavioral reasons. The client needed to access services before losing DentiCal/Medi-Cal eligibility in July due to immigration status. HCAP secured emergency dental services, which went well, and the provider is now willing to move forward with a treatment plan. Spano anticipates more clients will be similarly impacted in July.
- Spano highlighted that a client in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) has received indications that the SNF intends to discharge the client. Spano has successfully delayed this through advocacy and is continuing to push for any discharge to only occur to a permanent, ADA-accessible placement with adequate support and an ongoing subsidy. They highlight a secondary issue involving frequent wheelchair breakdowns and difficulty accessing the approved vendor. Spano is seeking the New Motion contract to better support further advocacy.
- Spano noted a client was led to believe they were on a housing subsidy waitlist after completing intake and being informed they were on a waitlist but found they had only received an eligibility check and were ineligible. The provider agreed to train intake staff on using clearer language to avoid misleading applicants about where they stand in the process. Spano highlighted this case to underscore the importance of using precise, clarifying language when interacting with folks trying to access basic needs.
 - CM Mapp asked, regarding the client experiencing wheelchair issues, if there was any reach out to DAS to see if they would be able to provide support?
 - ❖ Spano noted they are trying to be strategic and targeted in their approach to this matter. He highlighted the reason he is trying to get hold of the contract is to see who the oversight for this particular provider is. He added that even if there was another provider who could make the repairs, the SNF would not allow them onsite due to their exclusive contract with New Motion.

7. Needs Assessment/COLA Update – VOTE

- CS Perez previewed the draft 2025 COLA presentation, focused on cisgender women living with or at risk for HIV. A focus group with 9 participants was held in February and participation was incentivized with \$50 Safeway gift cards. CS Perez reviewed the service category prioritization results, with Primary Medical Care, Mental Health Care, and Dental Care ranking most important and Emergency & Transitional Housing, Hospice, and Home Health Care ranking least important. The service category discussion revealed participants concerns including high staff turnover and poor pharmacy fulfillment system follow through in Primary Medical Care; case managers who are not reflective of the communities they serve, particularly the Black/African American community, in Case Management; and funding cuts to transportation becoming a barrier to accessing medical care. CS Perez shared several other barriers to care, including a lack of welcoming, women-specific support groups, gaps in HIV education that add to stigma, confusing HIV messaging, childcare challenges, difficulties balancing employment with benefits, and challenges navigating the system of care. CS Perez concluded by reviewing key findings, noting that this population faces a unique set of challenges navigating the system of care, with concerns around the lack of HIV education and how that contributes to ongoing stigma. There is a need for more consistent support groups for this population. Lastly, funding cuts were top of mind for participants with many already seeing cuts implemented in social activities and transportation.
 - Stephen Spano thanked CS Perez for inviting HCAP to the focus group and added that this resulted in contact with new clients and was really appreciative of the group. Spano recalled

that they had previously been able to go to Stop AIDS and receive HIV education, and asked if this was still something that might be available elsewhere?

- ❖ CM Thomas noted that this is one of the services the Health Access Points (HAPs) can provide, noting that they do serve different populations.
 - CM Knoble seconded that the HAPs help meet this need.
- CM Jewell said it is intriguing that it continues to be a finding in Needs Assessments and COLAs that clients are challenged in accessing what services are available. He noted that there is an online program guide that sits at HHS, but it doesn't seem to be enough to get people the information they want.
- CM Lee-Miyaki stated that he has been in talks with someone at Gilead about them funding a variety of seminars again as the HIV Advocacy Network (HAN) has seen an increase in asks for this.
- CM Mapp said they are getting a sense that things like the plus seminar where people were gathered really made a big difference in how folks absorbed and disseminated information to the greater community.
- Beth Neary stated that HHS is going to do a printed version of the HIV resource guide, likely to be available in June, and noted that case managers have requested this.
- CM Knoble said they appreciated the COLA and had been curious about what participants would say.
- CM Jewell suggested he would like to discuss how to address distributing the resource guide.
- CM Mapp asked if there would be a way to expand the sample size of participants and hear from more people?
 - ❖ CS Molnar says the COLAs are done with focus groups and are intentionally a small sample size. He suggests if CM Mapp wants a more expanded version to choose this as a target population for the next Needs Assessment.
- CS Perez stated that there has been a new suggested COLA target population, which is people living with HIV between the ages of 40-55 years old. She added that the other current COLA target is people who inject drugs.
 - CM Thomas asks for clarification around the age band and what the reasoning behind the target population was.
 - ❖ CS Molnar noted that this was an idea brought forth by CM Blum and the idea that there might be a different experience amongst that age group that might be being lost.
 - CM Thomas added that many target populations are not age specific and that people in the 40-55 year old age group would have been included in other target populations. She said she would want to hear more about why CM Blum suggested this particular target population.
 - i. CS Molnar will invite CM Blum to the next Community Engagement meeting to provide more information.
 - Stephen Spano highlighted that this generation of people they are suggesting is one of the first generations of people living with HIV where it was treated more as a chronic illness. They speak to other key differences between this age band and other populations.

8. Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items – VOTE

The next Community Engagement Committee meeting will be scheduled for April 1st, 2026 via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm by CM Mapp.

Community Engagement Committee

HIV Community Planning Council

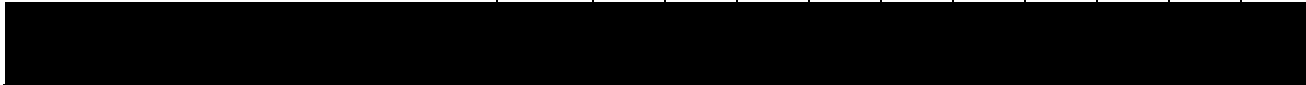
Roll Call: **P**=Present; **A**=Absent; **E**=Excused; **L**=Leave of Absence

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

March 4, 2026

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

1.	Erwin Barrios	P	Y	Y								
2.	Franco Chevalier	LOA	-	-								
3.	Jesus Guillen	A	-	-								
4.	Lee Jewell (Co-Chair)	P	Y	Y								
5.	Thomas Knoble	P	Y	Y								
6.	T. J. Lee-Miyaki	P	Y	Y								
7.	Derrick Mapp (Co-Chair)	P	Y	Y								
8.	Charles Siron	E	-	-								
9.	Richard Sullivan	LOA	-	-								
10.	Laura Thomas	P	Y	Y								



Ayes		6	6									
Nayes		-	-									
Abstain		-	-									
Recusal		-	-									
Total		6	6									