

## HIV Community Planning Council

### FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

25 Van Ness Ave Room 610

4:00-6:30 pm

**HIV Community Planning Council Members Present:** Chuck Adams, Erwin Barrios, Leroy Blea, Bill Blum, Anna Branzuela, Elaine Flores, Ron Hernandez, Lee Jewell, Thomas Knoble, Nga Le, T. J. Lee-Miyaki, Derrick Mapp, Marco Montenegro, Irma Parada, John Paul Soto, Laura Thomas

**HIV Community Planning Council Members Absent:** Robert Arnold [E], Franco Chevalier [LOA], Ed Chitty [E], Zachary Davenport [LOA], Elyse Griffin [E], Jesus Guillen [E], Helen Lin [LOA], Jon Oskarsson [LOA], Charles Siron [E], Richard Sullivan [LOA], Manuel Vasquez [E]

**Others Present:** Shelley Facente, Michael Freeman, Ric Mendiola, Nikos Pecoraro, Emily Raganold, Stephen Spano

**DPH Staff Present:** Natalie Basha, Hanna Hjord

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

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### *Minutes*

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call. Introduction of Public. Co-Chair Welcome.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by CM Parada. Roll Call was called; everyone introduced themselves and quorum was established.

#### **2. Review and Approve February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 DRAFT Agenda – VOTE**

The February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 DRAFT Agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus.

#### **3. Review and Approve January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 DRAFT Minutes – VOTE**

The January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 DRAFT Minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

#### **4. Announcements**

- None.

#### **5. Public Comment**

- Ric Mendiola introduced himself as the new account manager for California for OraSure Technologies.

#### **6. Staff Announcements**

- CS Perez reminded folks to fill out the meeting evaluations, noting that the feedback is reviewed by the Steering Committee and is considered. She will be handing out the evaluations during the break.

#### **7. General Updates**

- Ryan White Conference – CM Blum
  - CM Blum provided an update that the Ryan White formula will be changing and noted that it is important to start planning now.
    - ❖ CM Jewell asked what the process is for reviewing the modeling?
      - i. CM Blum said they will not know for a few months.
  - CM Blum noted that Ryan White holds a national conference every other year and the conference will be held this year from August 2-August 4. He added that there is interest in

having one unaffiliated consumer join the conference. He asked that any interested parties please reach out to Council Staff.

- CHEP, CPG, ETE – CM Knoble
  - Hanna Hjord provided the CHEP update on CM Knoble’s behalf. She highlighted that CHEP is supporting efforts to raise awareness and prevent harm around the recent harm Death Cap mushrooms have been causing. Hjord highlighted the upcoming event, Vibes for Wellness – A Youth Jam, and the upcoming test counselor training. Hjord noted that CHEP has been supporting the San Francisco Transgender Alliance of Health Resources (STAHR) Health Access Point (HAP) with technical proficiency training in STI testing. Hjord noted that the Ending the Epidemics (ETE) leadership meeting would be taking place tomorrow, February 24.
  - Hjord concluded by addressing the proposed funding cuts. She stated that CHEP has not received final notice of General Funds cuts, but they would likely find out on Friday. She added there will be a public comment portion at the meeting on Monday. Hjord noted there was an \$8M cut at the federal level and they received a termination letter for four grants. However, there is a temporary restraining order in effect until March 12.
    - ❖ CM Hernandez stated that programs will be cut and asked if there would be a cut for DPH staff?
      - i. Hjord added that vacant positions are part of the proposal for cuts. She said layoffs are not being recommended at this time, but they are not out of the woods yet.
- CAEAR Coalition – CM Jewell
  - CM Jewell updated the group that not much has changed since the last update. He stated that only a partial budget has been passed because they cannot reach an agreement on funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and there will be a delay to the appropriations process.
- SOA & ADAP – CM Blea
  - CM Blea introduced Michael Freeman, the Deputy Director for Medi-Cal Eligibility. Michael is doing a survey of planning councils across the state.
  - CM Blea provided an update on the ETE Plan/Integrated Plan, noting that it will be available at the end of March. They are looking to o a concurrence presentation in March or May. He added that most of the content of the plan isn’t new, but that there will be two versions of the plan—one internal version for the state and an external version that meets Federal requirements.
  - CM Blea announced the Ending the Syndemic Symposium, which will be a virtual symposium held September 29-October 1 from 12-4pm each day. He added that speakers will be addressing three of the social determinants on which the Strategic Plan and Implementation Blueprint are organized: Racial Equity, Housing First, and Health Access for All.
  - CM Blea discussed the upcoming Live Virtual HIV PrEP Navigation Certification (HIVPNC) for providers, noting that it will enhance PrEP navigation services and will offer certification to those who complete it.

## **8. Overdose Prevention – Emily Raganold & Rob Hoffman**

- Emily Raganold introduced herself and the Behavioral Health Services department of DPH. She reviewed the agenda, highlighted that the presentation will review the DPH roadmap, updated

overdose indicators, and overdose prevention initiatives. Raganold reviewed why overdose prevention is often discussed with HIV, noting the overlap between people at risk of HIV, people at risk of overdose, and people living with HIV (PLWH). Raganold reviewed the Division of Behavioral Health's vision, mission, and key strategies, as well as the SFDPH Roadmap for the Behavioral Health Crisis. She reviewed goals and key initiatives for tackling the behavioral health and homelessness crisis in the city. She reviewed overdose indicators from 2025, highlighting that profound racial disparities exist, particularly for Black/African American folks. Raganold reviewed priority initiatives for tackling overdoses, including focusing on medications for opiate use disorder (MOUD), implementing targeted overdose prevention efforts in high-risk communities, and implementing Breaking the Cycle initiatives. Raganold highlighted the Bringing Expanded Access to Medication (BEAM) program and provided information on retention and strategies for supporting retention on buprenorphine and methadone. Regarding MOUD and BEAM, Raganold highlighted that retention has been a challenge with buprenorphine use, with only a 5% retention rate over 6 months. She stated there had been a dip in methadone usage following the pandemic and highlighted the benefits of methadone and the innovative ways they have pushed barriers of methadone use. Raganold reviewed information about Code Tenderloin Bayview Navigation and Glide's The SHOP, noting that both these initiatives are aimed at providing support to high-risk communities. Raganold concluded by reviewing updates related to the Contingency Management (CM) expansion services across the city.

- CM Jewell asks about slide 15 where it references utilizing new state flexibilities to adapt treatment to the needs of people who use fentanyl.
  - ❖ Raganold stated that the state regulates how much methadone is distributed in the state, which is informed by regulations at the federal level. She added that regulations were really made for when folks were using heroin and had not been revised for fentanyl usage.
- CM Jewell asked how much the budget has increased and if there are efforts being made to identify folks who are HIV+?
  - ❖ Raganold stated a lot of the budget has been funded through federal and state grants, as well as opioid settlement funds.
- CM Mapp said it has been quite a lot of years since he heard about medical grade heroin. He asked if it is or ever has been a consideration as an alternative to methadone and to help ween off street use?
  - ❖ Raganold stated that Canada piloted a program, but she is not aware of one being done in the US.
- CM Mapp said he was unaware of work being done in the aging population in the gay male environment. He added that the HIV community is quickly aging and there are already existing substance users, as well as new substance users emerging.
  - ❖ Raganold discussed that providers serving HIV populations also do some substance use treatment, too, but noted they do need a more systematic way of looking at this.
- CM Hernandez asked if there had been a change in the number of overdoses between the various ways people use substances (foils, smoking, etc.)?

- ❖ Raganold said they do get death information from the coroner, but they do not have usage details.
- CM Thomas given that smoking reduces HIV risk, given that the health department placing restrictions on safer smoking supplies, what does DPH think is going to be the impact on HIV?
- CM Thomas stated that given that smoking reduces HIV risk, and given that DPH has placed restrictions on safer smoking supplies, what does DPH think the impact will be on HIV?
  - ❖ Raganold noted that policy mandated that people must distribute safer use supplies indoors, as opposed to outdoors. She noted that the Mayor’s office thinks moving this distribution inside allows for more connection. She added that they are closing monitoring indicators around this policy.
    - i. CM Thomas asked what a concerning change would look like?
      - Raganold stated that they would be reviewing the surveillance data for hepatitis C, HIV, skin and soft tissue infections.
- Member of the public, Stephen Spano, commented that they are concerned about the RESET Center and that the interdepartmental departments don’t know what is happening with it. They noted that funding and resources are being shifted to being under the Sherriff’s care. They asked if there needs to be a conversation between the HCPC and the RESET Center to hold them accountable. They noted that they would like them to attend a meeting and would like more transparency around the project.

## 9. Break

### 10. End the Epidemics Discussion – Shelley Facente

- Shelley Facente introduced herself and Facente Consulting. She introduced San Francisco’s Integrated Ending the Epidemics (ETE) Plan, provided background information on the plan, noted the plan’s purposes and highlighted that they are working to update the plan for 2027-2029 with extensive stakeholder input. Facente detailed the plan update process including planned stakeholder engagement, the Community Advisory Process (CAP), and the planned data collection. She reviewed how stakeholder input and data will be used, noting this will be an opportunity to envision a plan for San Francisco’s HIV/STI/HCV services, systems, and policies in 2027-2029 in an increasingly resource-constrained time. Facente reviewed the three-phase timeline of the plan update and highlighted where the process currently is.
- Facente introduces the data collection process and invites council members to participate in providing feedback. The group took time to provide feedback.
  - ❖ CM Thomas thanked Facente for her work to try to create a flexible roadmap during a time of so much uncertainty.
  - ❖ CM Jewell said it is hard in a resource strained environment to focus on the future, but it is important to be able to look ahead in a changing environment. He spoke to the shifting priorities and landscape of what is ahead, especially with biomedical advances.
  - ❖ CM Knoble stated they believe Facente is the right person for the job. They appreciate the value in community input during this process.

### 11. Eligibility Criteria and Definitions – VOTE

- CS Molnar reviewed the Eligibility Criteria and highlights the only change is the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is now \$15,960 for 2026. He reviewed the criteria for Severe Needs and Special Populations.
  - CM Le said in Marin they prioritize some of their clients under 200% FPL to have access to safety net services. She asked if that is okay.
    - ❖ CM Blum said severe need isn't meant to be exclusive of other populations and that it should be fine as long as folks are not excluded.

**Motion:** CM Jewell motions to accept the updated Eligibility Criteria and Definitions.

**Second:** CM Thomas seconds this motion.

*Motion passes through roll call vote, refer to column (3).*

**12. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment**

*The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, 4:00 – 6:30 pm at 25 Van Ness, 6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.*

*Meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM by CM Parada.*

**Full Council Meeting**

**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)

<b>Date: February 23, 2026</b>	[roll]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
Chuck Adams	P	Y	Y	Y							
Robert Arnold	E	-	-	-							
Erwin Barrios	P	Y	Y	A							
Leroy Blea	P	Y	Y	Y							
Bill Blum	P										
Anna Branzuela	P	Y	Y	Y							
Franco Chevalier	LOA	-	-	-							
Ed Chitty	E	-	-	-							
Zachary Davenport	LOA	-	-	-							
Elaine Flores	P	Y	Y	Y							
Elyse Griffin	E	-	-	-							
Jesus Guillen	E	-	-	-							

Ron Hernandez	P	Y	Y	Y										
Lee Jewell	P	Y	Y	Y										
Thomas Knoble (Co-Chair)	P	Y	Y	Y										
Nga Le	P	Y	Y	Y										
T. J. Lee-Miyaki	P	Y	Y	A										
Helen Lin	LOA	-	-	-										
Derrick Mapp	P	Y	Y	Y										
Marco Montenegro	P	Y	Y	A										
Jon Oskarsson	LOA	-	-	-										
Irma Parada	P	Y	Y	Y										
Charles Siron	E	-	-	-										
John Paul Soto	P	Y	Y	Y										
Richard Sullivan	LOA	-	-	-										
Laura Thomas	P	Y	Y	Y										
Manuel Vasquez	E	-	-	-										
Ayes		15	15	12										
Nayes		0	0	0										
Abstain		0	0	0										
Recusal		0	0	0										
Total	16	15	15	12										