New Jersey HIV Planning Group
Priority Setting Committee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, October 14th, 2026
Electronic Meeting via
Microsoft Zoom

Kevin E. Taylor
Co-Chair

Justin Almodovar
Co-Chair

The Priority Setting Committee is responsible for understanding and accessing where services are now and where they need to be.

***Please note all times are approximate**		
10:00am	Welcome & Moment of Silence Establishment of Agenda Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes	Justin Almodovar
10:15am	Evaluation Review & NJHPG Overview	HCPST
10:30am	DOH Report Out	Nahid Suleiman
10:50am	**Old Business** • Finalize Recommendation for Program Activity 8.1 & 6.4 **New Business** • Review Didactic Policy Activity 6.10 • Draft Didactic Policy Activity 6.10	Justin Almodovar & Kevin E. Taylor
11:40am	Priority Setting Committee Agenda Next Meeting: November 11th	Kevin E. Taylor
11:45am	New Announcements and Events	Justin Almodovar
11:55am	Meeting Evaluation	HCPST
12:00pm	Adjournment	Kevin E. Taylor

HCPST – HIV Community Planning Support Team

Voting Members *(Quorum; 4) - Samarie Rivera, Kevin Taylor, Amy Pereira, Monique Springer, Rafael Kaipa, & Justin Almodovar, Christian Mendez-Baez*

New Jersey HIV Planning Group

Priority Setting Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 14th, 2026

ATTENDANCE			
NJHPG Member			
Amy Pereira	**P**	Kevin E. Taylor	**P**
Samarie Rivera	**P**	Monique Springer	**P**
Rafael Kaipa	**A**	Justin Almodovar	**P**
Claudia Ortiz	**P**	Johanne Rateau	**P**
Christian Mendez-Baez	**P**	Kevin Trinh	**P**
Committee Member			
Raymond Welsh	**A**		
Non-voting Attendees			
Arshmoor Sudwal, Felisha Perez, Luce Morgan, Luz Ulloa, Nahid Suleiman, Shwetha Kamath, Taylor Lightner			
HIV Community Planning Support Team (HCPST)			
Dottie Dowdell	**P**	Deyonna Pope	**P**

P- Present; A- Absent; LoA – Leave of absence

AGENDA	
Item	**Discussion**
Welcome andMoment of Silence	Justin Almodovar welcomed attendees and began the meeting at 10:04am and then led the committee in a moment of silence to honor those lost to HIV and those still fighting the virus.
Approval of Agenda & Meeting Minutes	Justin Almodovar reviewed the meeting Agenda. The first motion to approve the agenda was by Claudia Ortiz and a second by Kevin E. Taylor. Justin Almodovar Reviewed September's meeting minutes. The first motion to approve the meeting minutes was by Kevin E. Taylor and a second by Samarie Rivera. A poll was conducted by the HCPST and the agenda and both months' minutes were approved.
DOH Report Out	Presented by Nahid Suleiman
Review of September's Evaluation and Overview	The Support Team reviewed September's Meeting Evaluation with attendees. 16 people attended the Priority Setting meeting. 15 people responded to the evaluation: 8 NJHPG Members, 0 Committee Members, & 7 guests. 1. What questions do you have for DSSUS? • NONE, N/A, None at this time (9) • How do we make this happen? THE TOUR! • Possibility for mobile prep program linkage, access, and education. 2. Final Comments, Questions, Concerns • N/A, None (2) • Thank you! • Amazing Conversations • This was ferocious, factual, and fed my soul! • Great Group • The meeting was well attended with people who share a passion for the cause. However, the committee may need to veer to current concerns. The Support Team reviewed the NJHPG Overview to orient potential new guests and to refresh returning guests and members on the purpose of the NJHPG and the role of the Priority Setting Committee. Also, in today's meeting, we tended to get a little bit too involved in the how-to when we make recommendations. • Thank you for everyone's work. • Keep up the great work!

	• Great interaction today!
Old Business	Justin and Kevin E. Taylor finalized draft recommendation for **Program Activity 8.1 & 6.4: Establish regional and statewide learning collaboratives to annually review data on new HIV diagnoses, identify priority populations (including Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) and Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID)), and pinpoint areas for systemic improvement in HIV prevention and response. These collaboratives will ensure that all intervention strategies for HIV clusters, particularly those involving MSM and PWID, comprehensively address both sexual and injection-related transmission prevention, fostering a targeted and effective public health response.** *1. Action Step Bringing this into collaborative conversations with current partnered planning groups based organizations to ensure seamless access to social services and adherence support.* *a. Stakeholders Involved/Needed* *i. Newark EMA, Paterson-Passaic County Bergen County Planning Council, Philadelphia EMA, Harm reduction centers (Hyacinth)* *ii. Is this task **measurable**? ☒ Yes ☐ No* *b. Deliverables;* *i. **Integrate key focus areas into General Assembly meetings** through dedicated updates, presentations, and opportunities for member engagement.* *ii. **Increase leadership visibility and engagement** through announcements, leadership updates, and participation in relevant General Assembly activities.* *iii. **Provide representation at quarterly coordination meetings** for funded Counseling and Testing Services to strengthen communication, alignment, and collaboration.* *iv. **Develop and maintain a partnership directory/list** of current and potential community partners, with opportunities to highlight and announce partnerships during General Assembly meetings.* *v. **Establish/improve systems for sharing community engagement opportunities** with members and community stakeholders to increase awareness, participation, and connection to available resources.* *vi. **Develop incentives to support and encourage community member engagement** in relevant planning activities, meetings, and feedback opportunities.*

	c. Due by; January 2027 *2. Action Step Reintroduce community listening sessions that provide a space for community members to share their experiences, perspectives, and stories to increase awareness and inform planning efforts. Capture key themes and responses from each session and conduct follow-up sessions to address identified needs, provide updates, and close the feedback loop with the community.* *a. Stakeholders Involved/Needed* *i. Fireworx, DOH? HYACINTH, ST CLARES, NJCRI (Project TEA) B, NJ PAC, Garden State Equality, Newark Pride, Community oriented Pride Centers Project REAL, NJ PRIDE, PRIDE Alliance of Pitman, Pitman NJ* *b. Is this task **measurable**? ☒ Yes ☐ No* *i. Deliverables;* *1. **Facilitate Regional Engagement Sessions** for the NJHPG Priority Setting Committee to strengthen community connection, gather input, and inform priority-setting efforts.* *a. **Ensure equitable regional representation** by intentionally engaging communities across the appropriate geographic regions and populations.* *b. **Strengthen cross-committee collaboration** by coordinating with the Community Engagement Committee and other relevant NJHPG committees to maximize outreach and reduce duplication of efforts.* *c. **Ensure language- and age-inclusive engagement** by designing outreach and engagement strategies that are accessible and responsive to diverse age groups and language needs.* *d. **Leverage and enhance existing initiatives** by building upon established, evidence-based programs and community engagement strategies rather than duplicating existing efforts.* *e. **Support organizations in adapting evidence-based initiatives** to meet the unique needs of the communities and regions they serve.* *c. Due by; June 2027*
New Business	Review Didactic for Program Activity 6.10 Draft Recommendation for Program Activity 6.10 **Encourage the reinstatement of faith-based public health programming to reach more individuals, combat stigma, and build supportive communities. (NHAS 3.1.5)**

	1. Action StepAction Step: Review and refine existing TACD training programs to ensure content, delivery methods, and messaging are tailored to the needs, priorities, and cultural contexts of the target communities, including faith-based organizations and community-centered settings. a. *Stakeholders Involved/Needed* i. Is this task **measurable**? ☐ Yes ☐ No b. *Deliverables;* *c. Due by;* 2. Action Step Establish and implement training initiatives through organizations that have existing, trusted relationships with faith-based communities, including maternal health, mental health, community-based, and substance use organizations, to expand HIV prevention education, increase awareness, and strengthen community engagement. a. *Stakeholders Involved/Needed* i. NJCRI, TACD, Homefront, Children's Home Society, Newark Clergy Alliance (Newark Dpt. of Public Safety), b. Is this task **measurable**? ☐ Yes ☐ No i. *Deliverables;* *c. Due by;*
Next Committee Meeting November 13, 2026	The next meeting will be on **November 13, 2026**, from 10am to 12pm.
Attendee Announcements	HCPST conducted a voting process to shift the next meeting date to November 13th due to the original meeting date being on a holiday for most people in committee. Justin reminded the committee of the General Assembly meeting happening October 15th Samarie Rivera reminded the committee that the NJ Housing Collaborative is accepting services for those in need of emergency housing.
Evaluation	HCPST shared a link to the meeting evaluation.
Adjournment	Meeting was closed at 11:57am with a motion to adjourn by Claudia Ortiz and a second by Samarie Rivera.

Meeting Documents

- DRAFT NJHPG Priority Setting Committee Agenda_11.13.2026
- DRAFT NJHPG Priority Setting Committee Meeting Minutes_ 10.14.2026