New Jersey HIV Planning Group

Community Engagement Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 21st, 2026

Via Microsoft Teams from 6pm-8pm

Shalik Thompson
Co-Chair

James Valentin
Co-Chair

The Community Engagement Committee will work to identify prevention, care, treatment needs, and interventions for high-risk populations; develop outreach strategies to inform and engage communities while meeting them where they are through access and equity, presence at community events; cultivate/develop future leaders in the community; and build community space, presence & trust.

***Please note all times are approximate**		
6:00pm	Welcome Attendees & Moment of Silence Establishment of Agenda Approval of Meeting Minutes	Shalik Thompson
6:10pm	Guest Introductions/Icebreaker	James Valentin
6:25pm	Evaluation Review & NJHPG Overview	HCPST
6:30 pm	**Old Business** • Finalize Recommendation for System Activity 8.1, 8.2, & 6.4	Shalik Thompson & James Valentin
7:45pm	Community Engagement Committee- Next Meeting: November 18th	Shalik Thompson
7:50pm	Meeting Evaluation	HCPST
7:55pm	Attendee Announcements: • James V. – Community Calendar updates • Open Forum	James Valentin
8:00pm	Adjournment*	Shalik Thompson

HCPST – HIV Community Planning Support Team

***Quorum, 5**; Abraham Corsino, Crystal Mitchell, Jocelyn Perry, Kelly Williams, Joe Monica, James Valentin, Jose Avila, Shalik Thompson, Vanessa Herrera*

Community Engagement Activities from January 2026 – December 2026

- Stigma Activity 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2, & 7.4: Create culturally appropriate education and awareness campaigns that address HIV/AIDS-related services available in all locations that screen and test for HIV, PEP, PrEP, U=U and the "harm reduction approach" to care.
- Stigma Activity 6.4 & 6.5: Assess stigma using a standardized stigma measurement tool and work in partnership with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights to create an educational module on HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination for all support service programs that receive any state or federal funding in NJ.
- Stigma Activity 6.6: Launch an HIV/AIDS Speaker's Bureau, including persons affected by substance use disorder. (NHAS 3.3.1)
- Program Activity 7.9 & System Activity 7.5: Expand the competency and LGBTQ cultural humility of substance use treatment facilities and mental health providers to aid with crystal methamphetamine and other types of substance use-related addictions and co-occurring addictions, like sex addiction. (NHAS 3.1)
- System Activity 8.1, 8.2, & 6.4: Identify and eliminate barriers preventing individuals from engaging in or remaining in HIV care, while simultaneously addressing service gaps to interrupt rapid HIV transmission, particularly among men who have sex with men (MSM) and other key populations.

Community Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 21st, 2026

Via Microsoft Teams from 6pm-8pm

ATTENDANCE			
NJHPG Member			
Abraham Corsino	**A**	Kelly Williams	**A**
Vanessa Herrera	**P**	Jose Avila	**P**
James Valentin	**P**	Shalik Thompson	**P**
Crystal Mitchell	**P**	Jocelyn Perry	**P**
Joseph Monica	**P**	Luis Otano	**A**
Committee Member			
Gabrielle Farrigno	**A**		
Non-voting Attendees			
Chelsea Rondinaro, Jaivon Lewis, Judy Collins, Lonyono Hamilton, Mark Brown,			
HIV Community Planning Support Team			
Deyonna Pope	**P**	Dottie Dowdell	**P**

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

AGENDA	
Item	**Discussion**
Welcome and Moment of Silence	Shalik began the meeting at 6:02 by welcoming all attendees and engaging all attendees and led the committee in a moment of silence to honor those lost to HIV and those still fighting the virus.
Approval of the Agenda & Minutes	The Support Team reviewed the meeting's Agenda and September's Committee Meeting Minutes. The Agenda was motioned to approve by Jose Avila and a second by Crystal Lewis. The Minutes were motioned to approve by Saquan Stevenson and a second by Jocelyn Perry. A virtual poll was conducted, and both were approved. James led Introductions and Icebreaker
Meeting Evaluation	The Support Team reviewed June's Meeting Evaluation with attendees. There were 13 people who attended the meeting. 9 people responded to the evaluation; 6 NJHPG Members, 0 Committee Members & 3 Guest. What questions do you have for DSSUS? - N/A - What contingency plans to prevent service disruption for individuals who will loose NJ Family Care as of Jan 1, 2027? - When will DHSTS create a one stop shop hub for finding health services throughout the state (maybe a new website/mobile app integration, etc) Final Comments, Questions, Concerns - N/A - Keep up the great work & stay strong for our patients ! - Great meeting.
NJHPG Overview	The Support Team presented the NJHPG Overview PowerPoint, which outlined the purpose of NJHPG, the six priority populations, and the goal of the Community Engagement Committee. The presentation also highlighted Cycle 4 Accomplishments, Cycle 5 Work Plan and the 3P's for making recommendations.
New Business	The Co-Chairs presented the Finalized Draft Recommendation for **System Activity 8.1, 8.2, &**

6.4: Identify and eliminate barriers preventing individuals from engaging in or remaining in HIV care, while simultaneously addressing service gaps to interrupt rapid HIV transmission, particularly among men who have sex with men (MSM) and other key populations.

1. Action Step Conduct focus groups either quarterly or bi-annually identify which service categories people experience the most barriers when engaging or remaining in HIV care, looking at all priority populations. Focus groups should be conducted by a third party to foster transparency.

a. *Stakeholders Involved/Needed*

- *AIDS Service Organizations, CBOs, DOH/DSSUS funded agencies, Ryan White Funded Agencies, CHW's that work with RW clients, HOPWA clients, Youth programs*

Is this task **measurable**? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Deliverables;

- Identify the top two categories with the highest percentage of barriers to treatment adherence.
- Develop a plan to address said barriers and implement check points to evaluate the plans efficiency.

c. Due by; 10/2027

2. Action Step Create a pathway/forum for agencies to share best practices when working with vulnerable populations. ie offer more telehealth visit, omitting particular identifiers from the forms, sharing best practice in the monthly meetings like the VNA, or Prep navigator's meeting and CHW meetings.

a. *Stakeholders Involved/Needed:*

- Office of New Americans, Program Development Sub Committee, CBOs, Church World Services

b. Is this task **measurable**? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Deliverables;

- Share best practices, policies, procedures, systems, and structures to alleviate barriers, etc.
- Create genuine MOUs/MOAs to support collaborations/warm hand-offs.
- Create coalitions within counties to share best practices on a county basis.
- Compose grants to include the genuine collabs through deliverables, etc
- Share best practices and policies Collaborate with stakeholders in reference to access to services with vulnerable populations
- Develop MOU

c. *Due by; 10/2027*

Next Committee Meeting November 18, 2026	James Valentin and The Support Team announced that the next Committee meeting will be on November 18, 2026, via Microsoft Zoom to support the limited capacity of The Support Team and relayed that if the committee came to a determination where they would like to meet, they could amongst themselves.
Evaluation	The Support Team shared a link to the meeting evaluation link.
Attendee Announcement	Mark Brown made an announcement on how to claim your agency on FindHelp and to remind people to update the information on your agency. Shalik mentioned the October and November events happening. Vanessa announced a new Cohort happening at Fireworx for people living with disabilities. For anyone that is eligible can participate and register at fireworx.life The Support Team Shared with Jose Avila the 50 Shades of Grey National HIV Awareness Day for Newark Beth Isreal. Saquan Stevenson announced the Garden State Equality discussion happening at Kean University for Health and Equality Day. Crystal announced a Halloween Party partnered with Iris House in Plainfield.
Adjournment	Crystal Mitchell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm. Motion was second by James Valentin

Meeting Documents

- DRAFT NJHPG Community Engagement Committee November Agenda
- DRAFT NJHPG Community Engagement Committee October Meeting Minutes
- Final Recommendation for System Activity 8.1, 8.2, & 6.4