

New Jersey HIV Planning Group
Priority Setting Committee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 9th, 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	Kevin E. Taylor
10:15am	Evaluation Review & NJHPG Overview	HCPST
10:30am	New Business - Review Didactic for Program Activity 8.1 & 6.4 - Draft Recommendation for Program Activity 8.1 & 6.4	Justin Almodovar & Kevin E. Taylor
11:40am	Priority Setting Committee Agenda Next Meeting: October 14th	Justin Almodovar
11:45am	New Announcements and Events	Kevin E. Taylor
11:55am	Meeting Evaluation	HCPST
12:00pm	Adjournment	Justin Almodovar

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



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New Jersey HIV Planning Group Priority Setting Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Electronic Meeting via ZOOM Video Conference

ATTENDANCE

NJHPG Member			
Amy Pereira	P	Kevin E. Taylor	P
Samarie Rivera	P	Monique Springer	P
Rafael Kaipa	A	Justin Almodovar	P
Claudia Ortiz	A	Johanne Rateau	P
Saquan Stevenson	P	Christian Mendez-Baez	P
Committee Member			
Raymond Welsh	A		
Non-voting Attendees			
Alicia Parker, Carol Vincent, Karyn Berk, Luce Morgan, Luz Ulloa, Nahid Suleiman, Shwetha Kamath, Melissa Hart			
HIV Community Planning Support Team (HCPST)			
Dottie Dowdell	P	Deyonna Pope	P

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



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AGENDA

Item	Discussion
Welcome and Moment of Silence	Kevin E. Taylor welcomed attendees and began the meeting at 10:05am 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	The Committee and The Support Team welcomed Christian Mendez-Baez as a new NJHPG Member. Kevin E. Taylor reviewed the meeting Agenda. The first motion to approve the agenda was by Saquan Stevenson and a second by Johanne Rateau. Kevin E Taylor Reviewed June's meeting minutes. The first motion to approve the meeting minutes was by Saquan Stevenson and a second by Justin Almodovar. A poll was conducted by the HCPST and the agenda and both months' minutes were approved.
Review of June's Evaluation and Overview	The Support Team reviewed June's Meeting Evaluation with attendees. 13 people attended the Priority Setting meeting. 8 people responded to the evaluation: 6 NJHPG Members, 2 Committee Members, & 0 guests. 1. What questions do you have for DSSUS?



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	• NONE, N/A, None at this time (5) • Impact of funding cuts to NJ HIV/STI Prevention 2. Final Comments, Questions, Concerns • N/A, None (3) • Great meeting • Do not forget to come my Pride Event at Proceed Inc on June 25th 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
Old Business	Justin and Kevin E. Taylor review didactic and 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.



Jefferson Health *Bringing this into collaborative conversations with*

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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;

- 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? GSE, 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;
 **Jefferson Health**



HOME OF SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE

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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;



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Next Committee Meeting October 14, 2026	The next meeting will be on October 14, 2026, from 10am to 12pm.
Attendee Announcements	HCPST announced that there is a strong collaborative effort happening to explore, welcome and engage people in efforts of new membership. Kevin E. Taylor shared information on World Homeless Day events happening in Lincoln Park. HCPST also the committee to reach out to James Valintine for anyone that wants to table any upcoming events. Christian mentioned important awareness day dates: Sept 18 HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day Sept 27 Gay Men's Awareness Day Saquan Stevenson mentioned the co-chair opening for the Strategic Planning Committee for anyone interested in being a co-chair. Saquan Stevenson and Samaire Rivera announced three trainings for learning about NJ Collaborative and the work of the Housing Ambassadors.
Evaluation	HCPST shared a link to the meeting evaluation.



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Adjournment

Meeting was closed at 11:39am with a motion to adjourn by Kevin E. Taylor and a second by Monique Springer.

Meeting Documents

- DRAFT NJHPG Priority Setting Committee Agenda_9.10.2026
- DRAFT NJHPG Priority Setting Committee Meeting Minutes_ 6.10.2026



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