

Community Engagement Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 17th, 2026
Via Microsoft Teams from 6pm-8pm

Shalik Thompson

Co-Chair

James Valentin

Co-Chair

*The Community
Committee will work*

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.

*Engagement
to identify prevention,*

***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 Draft Recommendations for Program Activity 7.9 & System Activity 7.5	Shalik Thompson & James Valentin
7:45pm	Community Engagement Committee- Next Meeting: September 16th	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



The NJHPG is maintained by the Divisions of HIV, STD, and TB Services (DHSTS) with support from the South Jersey AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) – Jefferson Health.

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.



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New Jersey HIV Planning Group

Community Engagement Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17th, 2026

Electronic Meeting via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE			
NJHPG Member			
Abraham Corsino	P	Kelly Williams	P
Vanessa Herrera	A	Jose Avila	P
James Valentin	P	Shalik Thompson	P
Joseph Monica	A	Jocelyn Perry	A
Crystal Mitchell	P		
Committee Member			
Gabrielle Farrigno	P		
Non-voting Attendees			
Chelsea Rondinaro			
HIV Community Planning Support Team			
Deyonna Pope	P	Dottie Dowdell	A

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



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AGENDA	
Item	Discussion
Welcome and Moment of Silence	Shalik Thompson began the meeting at 6:06 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 May's Committee Meeting Minutes. The Agenda was motioned to approve by James Valentin and a second by Kelly Williams. The Minutes were motioned to approve by James Valentin and a second by Gabrielle Ferrigno. A virtual poll was conducted, and both were approved. James Valentin led Introductions and Icebreaker
Meeting Evaluation	The Support Team reviewed May's Meeting Evaluation with attendees. There were 15 people who attended the meeting. 8 people responded to the evaluation; 5 NJHPG Members, 2 Committee Members & 1 Guest. What questions do you have for DSSUS? - None at this time (4) Final Comments, Questions, Concerns - None (4)
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.



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Old Business

The Co-Chairs presented the Draft Recommendation for **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.

1. Action Step: Develop and implement policies that address the immediate needs of target populations by strengthening the competency and LGBTQ+ cultural humility of substance use treatment facilities and mental health providers. These policies should support effective care for individuals experiencing crystal methamphetamine and other substance use disorders, including co-occurring addictions such as sex addiction.

- a. *Stakeholders Involved/Needed*

- CAI, FBX, Pharma, Hyacinth Foundation, NAMI, MHA Mooris/Essex County, Cooper, Jefferson Health, Authorized Harm Reduction Centers, Homefront Inc., DSSUS (POs)

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

Deliverables;

- *Identifying existing policies to be reviewed to assess the successes of the policies that are aligned with the recommendation to determine what is working well*
- *Compiling a list of what works well as a centralized tool to refer to for substance use facilities and mental health providers*

- b. *Due by; November 2027*

2. Action Step: Identify existing trainings and enhance them to better meet the needs of target populations by strengthening the competency and LGBTQ+ cultural humility of substance use treatment facilities and mental health providers. Trainings should support providers in effectively addressing crystal methamphetamine and other substance use disorders, as well as co-occurring addictions, including sex addiction.

- a. *Stakeholders Involved/Needed:*

- The Pride Center, The NJ Hospital Association, CAI, Pharma, CAI, FXB, TACD, AECT, Health HIV, American Academy of HIV Medicine, Passaic/Bergen DOH, Sussex DOH, In The Works

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

Deliverables;

- Develop a standardized warm handoff protocol that can be adopted across organizations and utilized consistently through phone, in-person, and telehealth interactions to support seamless referrals and care coordination.



	- Sussex County Department of Health training opportunities to strengthen provider knowledge, collaboration, and service delivery. - Leverage Passaic and Bergen County Department of Health cultural competency trainings to enhance providers' ability to deliver culturally responsive and equitable care. - Create and maintain a centralized training resource directory for substance use and mental health providers that includes training topics, target audiences, sponsoring organizations, costs, and registration information to support workforce development and capacity building. c. <i>Due by; November 2027</i>
Next Committee Meeting September 16 th , 2026	Shalik Thompson and The Support Team announced that the next Committee meeting will be on September 16 th , 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	James mentioned a reminder of current events happening this month that was mentioned in last month's meeting; A Brunch and Vouge event happening June 18th from 5-8pm with Iris House, the Family Treatment Center for National HIV Testing Day, and that's going to be, at the North City Hall on Friday the 20th... June 26th. A reminder of Emanuel Lutheran Church, who's also located in New Brunswick, and they're having a Pride event on, June 26th from 2-6pm. Shalik announced a reminder about Newark Pride happening July 19th and asked for donations up to \$250 to support a NJHPG float, as well as any participation to be a part of the festivities and representation of NJHPG.



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Adjournment	James Valentin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Motion was second by Abraham Corsino.
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Meeting Documents

- DRAFT NJHPG Community Engagement Committee September Agenda
- DRAFT NJHPG Community Engagement Committee June Meeting Minutes
- Final DRAFT Recommendation for Program Activity 7.9 & System Activity 7.5



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