



HIV PLANNING COUNCIL
www.ochalthinfo.com/hivcouncil
September 10, 2025

Public Health Services Training Center (1729E)
1725 W. 17th Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706



MINUTES

Para solicitar una copia de estos minutos en español por favor contacte a Martha Garcia al (714) 834-8399 o MGarcia@ochca.com

Chair: Fernando Martinez

Recorder: Martha Garcia

Members Present: Martin Becerra, Homero Beltran, LeRoy Blea, Jazmina Castillo, Dr. Roberta Cone, Dr. Itamar Harari, Kristen Kowalczyk (Arrived during Item 7), Josie Lopez, Fernando Martinez, Dr. Christopher Ried, Ricardo Velasco, and Dr. Jeffrey Vu

Affiliate Members Present: None

Members Absent: Dr. Sean Arayasirikul (Notification Received), Dr. Geeta Gupta, Karly Rubly (Notification Received), and Khloe Rios-Wyatt

Affiliate Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Martha Garcia, Brian Greene, Mindy He, Marlon Velasco, and Mary Young

Staff Members Absent: Tara Buehring

Guests: Everardo Alvizo, Jose Castaneda, Jorge Gavino, Jorge Miranda, Carlos Ramirez, Margarita Salazar, and Veronica Yeste

Item 1. Call to Order: Fernando Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm

Item 2. Welcome and Introductions:

Fernando Martinez welcomed all in attendance. Fernando Martinez provided an overview of the agenda, the purpose of public comment, and how the meeting will be facilitated. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted. The moment of remembrance was held. Members and guests introduced themselves. A quorum was established.

Item 3. Approval of Agenda:

Homero Beltran put forward a motion to approve the agenda. The Chair repeated the motion. Jazmina Castillo seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by consensus.

Item 4. Approval of August 13, 2025 Minutes:

Dr. Ried put forward a motion to approve the August 13, 2025 minutes. The Chair repeated the motion. Dr. Vu seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by consensus.

Item 5. Public Comment:

Jose Castaneda shared with members that this was his first meeting. As a former Buena Park City Council Member, he saw the benefits of this committees work to the Buena Park residents who have received some of the services. He urged the committee to add an item to future agenda to discuss submitting a letter of advocacy to the Board of Supervisors requesting additional funding to the services that are being cut at the federal level.

Item 6. Our Working Council Discussion:

There were no comment cards for review. Fernando Martinez reminded members that comment cards can be submitted to Planning Council support via email or dropped into the Suggestion Box at the back of the room.

Item 7. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding:

Mindy He provided an overview that during the HRSA Ryan White Part A comprehensive site visit, the HRSA consultants provided further guidance that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the roles and responsibilities of the Planning Council and Grant Recipient needed to be developed. The MOU has been finalized and reviewed by County of Orange (County) Counsel. During the Executive Committee, it was asked if section 8.2.4 regarding social media could be removed from the document. The response was no, as this has been approved by County Council. Dr. Harari put forward a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. The Chair repeated the motion. Homero Beltran seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Chair asked for the members in favor say yay. The Chair then asked for any nay votes. The yay votes were unanimous to approve the Memorandum of Understanding.

Item 8. Review of FY25 YTD Expenditures:

Mary Young provided an overview of the FY25 Estimated Year to Date Expenditure Report through June 30, 2025. The report covers the first four (4) months of FY25 (March 1, 2025-February 28, 2026) expenditures from providers.

Item 9. Approval of FY 2025-26 Allocations Based on Award:

Mary Young provided an overview of FY 2025-26 Part A Allocation Based on Award. On July 28, 2025, the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) received the full FY 2025-26 Ryan White Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) award for March 2025-February 2026. The HCA has been awarded a total of \$6,705,916, which represents a \$79,100 (-1.18%) decrease compared to the annual funds awarded in FY 2024-25 as shown below:

| | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | Difference (FY 2025 – FY 2024) |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Part A | \$6,303,489 | \$6,214,804 | -\$88,685 |
| MAI | \$481,527 | \$491,112 | +\$8,585 |
| Total | \$6,785,016 | \$6,705,916 | -\$79,100 |

**FY 2024 funding also had an additional \$205,460 of carryover not included above*

**FY 2025 funding includes \$26,784 of carryover included above*

Prior to approval Jazmina Castillo and Kristen Kowalczyk recused themselves from the room. Dr. Harari put forward a motion to approve the FY 2025-26 Allocations Based on Award. The Chair repeated the motion. Ricardo Velasco seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The Chair asked for the members in favor say yay. The Chair then asked for any nay votes. The yay votes were unanimous and the motion carried to approve the FY 2025-26 Allocations Based on Award.

Item 10. Approval of FY 2026-27 Increase (Application) Funding Scenario Allocations:

Mary Young provided an overview of the FY 2026-27 Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Application (Increase) Funding Scenario Allocations and Staging document. On August 27, 2025 the Priority Setting, Allocations, and Planning (PSAP) Committee reviewed the increase funding scenario and recommended staging in the following order:

The committee approved the increase funding scenario and recommended staging in the following order:

Part A

1. Short-Team Supportive Housing:
 - Proposed increase of \$50,000 to \$333,041
 - Rationale: Currently in FY 2025, HOPWA and EHE, in addition to Ryan White Part A, dollars are used to support Short-Term Supportive Housing Services. For FY 2026, it is anticipated to utilize Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Ryan White Part A, and EHE dollars. Propose increased based on anticipated reduction of some HOPWA dollars in FY 2026 along with availability of EHE funds.
2. Food Bank (Core):
 - Proposed increase of \$99,464 to \$299,464
 - Rationale: Increase based on updated FY 2025-26 HIV Care Directives that changed Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for Food Bank Support from 150% FPL to 200% FPL and removed disability requirement effective March 1, 2025. Additionally, currently in FY 2025, HOPWA dollars, in addition to Ryan White Part A dollars, are used to support Food Bank Core. For FY 2026, it is anticipated to utilize only Ryan White Part A dollars for Food Bank Core.
3. Food Bank (Support):
 - Proposed increase of \$45,000 to \$245,000
 - Rationale: Similar to Food Bank (Core), increase for FY 2026 as it is anticipated to utilize only Ryan White Part A dollars for Support without ongoing previous support of HOPWA dollars.
4. Medical Case Management (Medical Retention Services, Linkage to Care):
 - Proposed increase of \$90,000 to \$757,232
 - Rationale: Currently in FY 2025, HOPWA dollars, in addition to Ryan White Part A dollars, are used to support Medical Case Management. Proposed increase as it is anticipated to utilize a greater percentage of Ryan White Part A dollars for FY 2026 based on anticipated decrease of HOWPA dollars.
5. Home and Community-Based Health Services (Home Health/Para-Professional Care):
 - Proposed increase of \$100,000 to \$750,756
 - Rationale: Currently in FY 2025, due to increasing client needs and increased costs of services, expenditures and projections indicate a need for additional dollars in future. We will continue to

assess subcontracted costs, client needs, and number of clients served to mitigate increases and utilize additional resources to fund. Propose increase based on FY 2024 expenditures and projected FY 2025 expenditures/projections.

6. Medical Transportation Services

- Proposed increase of \$25,000 to \$293,991
 - Rationale: Increase based on updated FY 2025-26 HIV Care Directives that changed FPL for Medical Transportation from 150% FPL to 200% FPL effective March 1, 2025.

Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)

1. Medical Retention Services

- Proposed increase of \$21,052 to \$386,573
 - Rationale: Increase based on FY 2024 expenditures and projected FY 2025 expenditures.

Prior to approval Jazmina Castillo and Kristen Kowalczyk recused themselves from the room. Dr. Vu put forward a motion to approve the FY 2026-27 Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Application (Increase) Funding Scenario Allocations and Staging. The Chair repeated the motion. Dr. Cone seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The Chair asked for the members in favor say yay. The Chair then asked for any nay votes. The yay votes were unanimous and the motion carried to approve the FY 2026-27 Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Application (Increase) Funding Scenario Allocations and Staging.

Item 11. Approval of Core Medical Services FY 2026-27 Waiver Request:

Marlon Velasco provided an overview of the FY 2026-27 Waiver Request. In accordance with the Public Health Services Act at least 75% of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A grant funds must be used for core medical services. The core medical services waiver provides flexibility to this requirement and must be requested annually utilizing the Core Medical Services Waiver Request Attestation Form. The Core Medical Services Waiver requirements are as follows:

- No current or anticipated wait list for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
- All core medical services are available and accessible to eligible people living with HIV within 30 days
- A public process related to the decision for submission of the waiver request must take place

Item 12. Approval of Council Letter of Support for Part A Application:

Mary Young provided an overview of the Council Letter of Assurance for the Part A application, which addresses the work of the Council and assures that the Council participated in a comprehensive planning process, determined priorities using and approved process to ensure the needs of the community are met and resources allocated, training was made available to Council members, and the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism was conducted. The letter will be included as part of Orange County's Non-Competing Continuation (NCC) Progress Report. Ricardo Velasco put forward a motion to approve the Council Letter of Assurance for the Part A application. The Chair repeated the motion. Dr. Harari seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Chair asked for the members in favor say yay. The Chair then asked for any nay votes. The yay votes were unanimous and the motion carried to approve the Council Letter of Assurance for the Part A application

Item 13. Discuss Planning Council Membership and Application:

Mindy He shared with members that only three (3) out of the four (4) applicants were submitted to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for approval. During the process of routing to BOS approval, there were some questions asked of the applicant. The applicant was unable to provide the information, so the application was pulled. Since all information on the application is public comment, it was decided that it was not the best time to move forward with the application. During this review it was suggested that questions regarding citizenship and/or voter status be a part of the Planning Council application to align with the required form for Application for County of Orange Board, Commission, or Committee. Members wanted to contest this outcome and proposed to write a letter to the designated staff. Further discussion on how to proceed and it was recommended that Executive Committee, who oversees membership, shall determine next steps for the letter.

Item 14. Approval of Meeting Times:

Due to time constraints Mindy He proposed that Items 14, 15, 16 and 18 be postponed until next month. Ricardo Velasco put forward a motion to approve the postponement of Items 14, 15, 16, and 18. The Chair repeated the motion. Linda Ly seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Chair asked for the members in favor say yay. The Chair then asked for any nay votes. The yay votes were unanimous to approve the postponement of Items 14, 15, 16, and 18.

Item 15. Approval of Compensation Policies and Procedures & Compensation Memo:

- Postponed until next month

Item 16. California Planning Group (CPG) Update:

There were no updates.

Item 17. State Office of AIDS (SOA) Update:

The SOA report is available at: <https://ochealthinfo.com/about-hca/public-health-services/health-promotion-community-planning/hiv-planning-and-0>.

Leroy Blea shared with members the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS will be hosting “The Ending The Syndemic Symposium IV” which will be held on September 23, 24, and 25, 2025.

Item 18. Grant Recipient Reports:

A. Contract Services:

- Postponed until next month

B. Quality Management (QM) Committee:

- **Review Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services Standards of Care Supplements Standards of Care:**
 - Postponed until next month.

C. HIV Planning and Coordination:

- Postponed until next month

Item 19. Matters from the Chair:

There were no matters from the Chair.

Item 20. Member's Privilege/Announcements:

Dr. Vu shared the following with members:

- HIVPAC is collaborating with OC LGBTQ+ Community Collective for an HIV Health Summit on October 16, 2025.
- The AIDS Walk will be held on October 18, 2025 at Orange Coast College. This will be the last AIDS Walk held by Radiant Health Centers.
- AIDS on The Frontline will be held at UCI on October 23, 2025. Registration is required.

Item 21. Adjournment until October 8, 2025:

Fernando Martinez adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.