



HIV PLANNING COUNCIL
www.ochalthinfo.com/hivcouncil
September 9, 2026

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: Kristen Kowalczyk in lieu of Homero Beltran

Recorder: Martha Garcia

Members Present: Bobby Avalos, Martin Becerra, Jessica Diaz, Dr. Geeta Gupta (Arrived during Item #7), Kristen Kowalczyk, Fernando Martinez, Danielle Nagao, and Ricardo Velasco

Affiliate Members Present: None

Members Absent: Dr. Sean Arayasirikul (LOA), Homero Beltran, LeRoy Blea (LOA), Jazmina Castillo (LOA), Dr. Christopher Ried (Notification), and Khloe Rios-Wyatt, and Dr. Jeffrey Vu (LOA)

Affiliate Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Martha Garcia, Mindy He, Sierra Myers, Marlon Velasco, and Mary Young

Staff Members Absent: Tara Buehring and Karen Leland

Guests: Juan Carlos Bautista, Jorge Miranda, and Margarita Salazar

Item 1. Call to Order: Kristen Kowalczyk called the meeting to order at 11:38am

Item 2. Welcome and Introductions:

Kristen Kowalczyk welcomed all in attendance. Kristen 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:

Fernando Martinez put forward a motion to approve the agenda with the change. The Chair repeated the motion. Ricardo Velasco seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by consensus.

Item 4. Approval of August 12, 2026 Minutes:

Ricardo Velasco put forward a motion to approve August 12, 2026, minutes with the changes and the August 12, 2026, minutes. The Chair repeated the motion. Fernando Martinez seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed by consensus.

Item 5. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Item 6. Our Working Council Discussion:

There were no comment cards for review. Kristen Kowalczyk 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. Review FY 2025-26 Ryan White Site Visit Report

Marlon Velasco provided an overview of the FY 2025-26 Ryan White Site Visit Report. Site visits were conducted between October 2025 and February 2026 for services rendered during the months of March through August 2025. Site visits are conducted to ensure contract compliance, program requirements are met, and services are given to eligible clients.

Item 8. Approval of Renewing Planning Council Applicants:

Martha Garcia provided an overview of renewing and term ending Planning Council applicants. Dr. Gupta put forward a motion to approve the renewing Planning Council applicants. 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 renewing Planning Council applicants.

Item 9. Review FY26 Q1 Expenditure Report:

Sierra Myers provided an overview of the FY26 YTD Expenditure Report that covered the timeframe from March 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

Item 10. Overview of Grants Funding by Service Category:

Mary Young provided an overview of the FY26 Overview of Grant and other Community Funding by Service Category document. The information is provided to PSAP on an annual basis to inform the committee of other resources that support HIV services.

Item 11. Develop FY 2027-28 Increase, Level, and Decrease Funding and Staging Scenario Allocations:

Sierra Myers provided an overview of the FY 2027-28 Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Application (Increase), Level and Decrease Funding and Staging Scenario Allocations and Staging documents. On August 26, 2026, 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. Outpatient Medical Care:
 - Proposed increase of \$100,000 to \$935,414
2. Oral Health Care:
 - Proposed increase of \$100,000 to \$500,00
3. Medical Case Management: Linkage to Care
 - Proposed increase of \$60,000 to \$322,910
4. Medical Case Management: Medical Retention Services
 - Proposed increase of \$39,785 to \$469,267

Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)

1. Medical Case Management: Linkage to Care
 - Proposed increase of \$11,840 to \$76,383
2. Medical Case Management: Medical Retention Services
 - Proposed increase of \$11,839 to \$352,151

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

Part A

1. Home and Community Based Health Services:
 - Proposed decrease of \$150,000 to \$294,376
2. Housing Services:
 - Proposed decrease of \$50,000 to \$251,388
3. Non Medical Case Management: Client Support Services
 - Proposed decrease of \$13,900 to \$436,950

Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI)

1. Medical Case Management: Linkage to Care
 - Proposed decrease of \$8,050 to \$56,493
2. Medical Case Management: Medical Retention Services
 - Proposed increase of \$8,050 to \$332,262

Prior to approval Kristen Kowalczyk recused herself from the room. Dr. Gupta put forward a motion to approve the FY 2027-28 Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Application (Increase), Level and Decrease Funding and Staging Scenario Allocations and Staging documents. The Chair repeated the motion. Fernando Martinez seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The Chair asked that 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 2027-28 Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Application (Increase) Funding Scenario Allocations and Staging.

Item 12. Overview of FY 2027-28 Core Medical Service Waiver Request:

Mary Young provided an overview of the FY 2027-28 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

Fernando Martinez put forward a motion to approve the FY 2027-28 Core Medical Service Waiver Request. The Chair repeated the motion. Dr. Gupta seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Chair asked that 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 2027-28 Core Medical Service Waiver Request.

Item 13. 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 for FY 2027-28. Ricardo Velasco put forward a motion to approve the Council Letter of Assurance for the Part A application. The Chair repeated the motion. Dr. Gupta seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Chair asked that 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 14. CPG Update

There were no updates.

Item 15. State Office of AIDS (OA) Update: Mindy He shared the following:

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

- **New Syndemic Division Chief**

Dr. Marisa Ramos has been selected as the new Syndemic Division Chief for the Division of HIV, HCV, and STIs. The Division combines the separate Office of AIDS and Office of Sexually Transmitted Infections into one integrated organization.

- **Ending the Syndemic Symposium 2026**

Registration is open for the 5th Annual Ending the Syndemic Symposium 2026). This year's free virtual symposium will be held September 29-October 1st from 12-4 PM each day. Speakers will be addressing three of the social determinants on which our [Strategic Plan](#) and [Implementation-Blueprint](#) are organized: Racial Equity, Stigma Free Services and Health Access for All.

- **ADAP Updates**

- **Public Charge Ruling**

- ✓ Effective September 18, 2026, the current rules will be rescinded. This will allow DHS officers discretion to consider public benefits when deciding if someone may become a public charge. More guidance on how they will assess public charge is forthcoming.

- **Covered California**

- ✓ Open enrollment for Covered California is November 1 through January 31, 2026.

- **Medicare**

- ✓ Open Enrollment is October 15 through December 7, 2026. <https://www.medicare.gov/health-drug-plans/open-enrollment>

- **ADAP Quality Improvement Project, Upcoming Listening Sessions**

- Community Partners are invited to two upcoming listening sessions to help improve programs:
- The Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Initiation and Retention (PIR)
- The HIV and Aging Project is having a listening session:
- Meth 201 for Clinical Service Providers

Registration links will be emailed to members.

Item 16. Grant Recipient Reports:

A. Contract Services: Karen Leland shared the following:

- **RFA for Rapid ART Protocol Development Update**

Mary Young informed members that the solicitation has closed. UCI Health was the only respondent and an intent to award letter has been issued.

B. Quality Management (QM) Committee:

- There were no updates.

C. HIV Planning and Coordination:

- Mindy He followed up on the request members had from the last meeting regarding a list of those individuals not virally suppressed by agency. Per the state and our surveillance team that information cannot be given out to

case managers or community-based organizations. Information can only be shared with medical providers on continuity of care.

- Mary Young shared with members regarding HIVPAC Site Visits. Ryan White Part C visit has already happened. The California Department of Public Health visit will take place tomorrow, Ryan White Part B visit will take place in October and the EHE visit will take place in December.

Item 17. Matters from the Chair:

There were no matters from the Chair.

Item 18. Member's Privilege/Announcements:

- Dr. Gupta reminded members that AIDS on The Frontline is scheduled for September 16, 2026.
- Kristen Kowalczyk reminded members about the USCHA Conference. She volunteered and will be attending the conference.

Item 19. Adjournment until October 14, 2026:

Kristen Kowalczyk adjourned the meeting at 12:57 pm.