

People Living with HIV & AIDS
Chair: Rob N-N. | Co-Chair: Bryan H.

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 1 2026, **Time:** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Physical Location(s)	Remote Access	Landline Access
ACPHD 1100 San Leandro Blvd, Oak Room, San Leandro, CA 94577	Click Here: Zoom Meeting ID: 811 0066 8507 Passcode: 2026	To call into the meeting: 1(408)-961-3927 1(408)-961-3928 Zoom Meeting ID: 811 0066 8507# Passcode: 2026#

In person = IP | Remote = R | Not Present = NP | Excused = E

Present: Bryan H. (R), Barbara G-A. (R), Diana D. (IP), Ebony G. (R), Rob N-N. (IP), Carlos A. (R), Joghi K. (R)

Staff: Camisha N. (IP), Dot T. (R), Edgard E. (R),

Guest: Julie M (IP)

Mission Statement: The People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) committee of the Oakland Transitional Grant Area (OTGA) Planning Council will represent persons living with HIV/AIDS, especially those that receive Ryan White Services. We will educate, identify, and assist in the recruitment for the OTGA Planning Council from PLWHA that are members of under-served and/or under-represented populations. We will assist the OTGA Planning Council in assessing gaps in services for PLWHA to enhance health outcomes. We will strive to address the issues of diversity in our membership and ensure that every meeting is a safe space.

Call to Order - 1:03 PM

1:00 PM

- Welcome with the Moment of Silence
- Introductions, member check-in, and a Quorum confirmation
- Read Mission Statement
- Group Norms

Rob called the meeting to order and confirmed quorum. Members observed a moment of silence, reviewed the Mission Statement and Group Norms, and introduced themselves. Rob emphasized remaining anchored in the mission, encouraging clarifying questions, and explaining acronyms so all participants can follow the discussion.

A. Review and Approve Agenda

Rob requested moving Policy Engagement after the Needs Assessment discussion. The committee approved the agenda with that amendment by roll call.

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Motion: Bryan

Second: A second was acknowledged; the member was not clearly identified in the transcript.

Action: The agenda was approved with the amendment.

B. Review and Approve August minutes

Members reviewed the August minutes and requested adding the word "Statement" to "Mission." The minutes were approved with that correction by roll call.

Motion: Ebony

Second: Bryan

Action: The August minutes were approved with the edit.

C. Public Comment for Agendized Items

1:10 PM

Members reviewed the August minutes and requested adding the word "Statement" to "Mission." The minutes were approved with that correction by roll call.

Motion: Ebony

Second: Bryan

Action: The August minutes were approved with the edit.

D. Incentives & Process

Camisha announced that incentives for in-person meeting participation by people living with HIV could begin that day. The current incentive is a \$50 gift card per eligible meeting to support food and transportation expenses. Eligible meetings include the Planning Council and standing committee meetings; ad hoc meetings are excluded. Participants must attend in person, complete the required form, and speak directly with Camisha about eligibility to protect the privacy of those who have not publicly disclosed their status.

Members asked about participation at the Concord location. Camisha explained that distribution and sign-in arrangements for that site still needed to be coordinated. The \$50 amount applies to the current year; arrangements for the following year, including transportation and food support, remained under development.

Members discussed paratransit and other transportation barriers. Dot suggested exploring CAL-PEP's medical transportation program for eligible Ryan White clients. Members emphasized the need for a process that also supports people who are not enrolled in Ryan White services. Dot and Camisha agreed to discuss transportation options offline, including whether Cardea could assist with purchasing Uber, Lyft, or other transportation support. No new transportation arrangement was approved during the meeting.

E. RW Conference Debrief

Rob shared lessons from sessions on Planning Councils, Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA), and community participation. His main themes were meaningful engagement, connecting community input to service decisions, and preparing members through orientation, training, and accessible information.

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Ideas for future consideration included reviewing data shortly before PSRA decisions, using plain language and visuals to explain trends, holding dedicated data-review and allocation sessions, and considering technical support to help interpret data. Rob emphasized that these were ideas for discussion, not adopted recommendations.

F. Town Hall Update

Rob reported on the Town Hall planning group's work. The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Health Department, with setup from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The "Focus on the Future" program retains two moderated panels, community participation, and the Golden Poppy Award, with attention to long-term survivors and people aging with HIV.

The proposed program begins with a 4:00 PM welcome, libation ceremony, community agreements, and instructions for submitting questions. The first panel, "The Future of HIV Prevention and Treatment," runs from 4:15 PM to 5:10 PM. After a break, the second panel, addressing policy, funding, and system stability, runs from 5:20 PM to 6:15 PM. Each panel includes protected audience question time. The 6:15 PM to 6:35 PM segment is reserved for invited officials' remarks or additional facilitated community discussion. The award, community priorities, next steps, and closing follow.

Panel One will connect prevention and treatment advances, equitable access, cure research, and long-term survivors' experiences. Panel Two will address Ryan White sustainability, funding and policy changes, local provider capacity, and aging and disability systems. Members emphasized practical responses and meaningful involvement of people living with HIV.

Invitations to Mayor Barbara Lee and Congresswoman Lateefah Simon remained pending. Rob planned to follow up with the Mayor's office around October 1. Participation by a congressional staff representative was also being explored. Barbara was awaiting a response from Kim and identified Edwin and Jesus as possible alternatives. Ebony agreed to contact Ernest and Vince. Panelists were not finalized.

Community Voices

The planning group proposed brief lived-experience statements to introduce issues for panel discussion, with anonymous questions collected on index cards. Joghi (Joey) expressed interest in preparing a statement based on their experiences. Rob offered to help develop the statement and place it within the program. Members were invited to suggest additional community speakers.

Rob will continue working with Diana and Camisha to incorporate feedback and finalize arrangements before the October 6 committee meeting.

Golden Poppy Award

Rob reported that the planning group recommended retaining the Golden Poppy Award name, recognizing Nilda Rodriguez as its first recipient. The award recognizes a long-term HIV survivor for community engagement and advocacy. Because of the limited time available, a broader community nomination process was proposed for the following year.

Members were asked to send this year's nominations to Camisha. Diana proposed that she and Camisha coordinate the selection so the recipient could be surprised. Barbara and Bryan raised

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concerns about maintaining a surprise and potential conflicts if a person involved in selection were nominated. Members stated that nominees must be open about their HIV status and attend the event. No recipient was selected and no formal selection vote was recorded during the meeting.

Flyer Distribution and Outreach

Georgia encouraged more personal outreach to increase attendance. Sharon and Dot suggested promoting the event through support groups. Barbara encouraged each member to bring at least one additional person and offered to draft a brief invitation to researchers at the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies for committee review.

Members were encouraged to share the flyer through clinics, support groups, community spaces, newsletters, social media, and personal networks. They discussed making the free dinner and opportunity to be heard more prominent in the promotion. Ebony updated the flyer to emphasize the community dinner and Town Hall, posted the revised link in the meeting chat, and agreed to send it to Camisha.

Staff clarified that the Town Hall will offer dinner and swag, with no monetary attendance incentive.

G. Policy Engagement - 2:23 PM

2:30 PM

Rob presented a policy briefing on HIV funding, community advocacy, access to prevention, and California policy. He described changes to federal HIV funding and the anticipated shift of certain prevention resources from direct grants to community-based organizations to states. Members discussed possible disruption to local testing and services. Questions about California's eligibility and the details of future funding remained unresolved.

The briefing also covered advocacy by NMAC and AIDS United, a reported court development involving access to gender-affirming care, and policy proposals addressing patient privacy and coverage for injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Rob emphasized monitoring service continuity, organizational capacity, privacy, and consumers' ability to access care.

Members discussed long-acting HIV prevention and treatment options and ongoing research. Rob distinguished prevention options from treatment regimens and noted that access and affordability are central concerns. The group adopted no policy position or formal action.

K. Needs Assessment Prep & Materials - 2:37 PM

Rob described the 2026 listening sessions and community priorities work as a pilot for the full 2027 triennial Needs Assessment. A planning group was established at the August Planning Council meeting. It will work during September and October toward bringing a proposed framework to the Planning Council in November, before the Council's recess.

The Planning Council retains responsibility for the assessment. County staff contribute epidemiological and utilization data and survey infrastructure. The PLWHA Committee leads community engagement and helps ensure that lived experience informs the findings and recommendations.

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Committee Role and Planning Process

Rob outlined five roles for the PLWHA Committee: helping design questions and tools, reaching underrepresented communities, conducting community listening, interpreting themes and priorities, and developing a PLWHA priorities report. The planning group will recommend the methods, timeline, participation supports, and any technical assistance needed; the Planning Council will make the final decisions.

Members interested in joining the planning group were asked to contact Camisha and respond to the scheduling email. The group will work with the County to refine survey questions. The PLWHA Committee will help develop the community listening questions and review the survey content.

Representation and Outreach

Members identified populations requiring more intentional outreach, including transgender and non-binary people, heterosexual men, youth, people out of care or disconnected from Ryan White providers, people experiencing homelessness or unstable housing, and residents of Contra Costa County. Members also emphasized listening to women's concerns and ensuring that participation produces meaningful attention to their needs.

Potential outreach partners and settings included the Trans Health Center associated with the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, Dream Youth Clinic, CAL-PEP community activities, East Bay Advanced Care support groups, Bay Area Community Health's TransVision program, and Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY). Members noted that reaching youth and others who are not public about their status may require working with trusted organizations outside HIV-specific settings.

Members discussed bringing listening activities to existing groups and community spaces rather than relying on people to attend committee meetings. They also considered more outreach and possible meeting locations in Contra Costa County. No change to the regular meeting location was adopted.

Questions and Listening Sessions

Suggested assessment topics included affirming care, aging with HIV, transportation, mental health and isolation, completed referrals, digital access, provider and staffing changes, experiences of people who have fallen out of care, and navigating services while unhoused. Members also suggested an open-ended question about needs the survey may have missed.

Rob described an initial approach of at least five principal listening sessions: Alameda County, Contra Costa County, a virtual session, a transgender-focused session, and a youth-focused session. Smaller sessions with existing community groups may also be considered. The final number, locations, and methods remain part of the planning process.

Barbara asked that outreach include people born with HIV who are transitioning to adulthood. Rob confirmed that they should be included and discussed the effects of stigma and the need for appropriate participation supports. Members also raised questions about reaching younger participants and consent. The committee did not finalize a youth participation protocol.

L. Review and/or update the Workplan - 2:58 PM

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Members reviewed progress on policy engagement, Councils and Commissions partnerships, Needs Assessment information, Ryan White Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) allocation activities, outreach materials, and community events. Members noted that allocation activities had been addressed the prior month and that the Town Hall flyer had been updated. Work on the Town Hall and related outreach remains active.

M. Staff Report 3:01 PM

During the Workplan review, staff reported that Martin and Jesse Mora had resigned from both the Planning Council and the committee because of competing work and graduate-school commitments.

N. General Public Comment

O. Announcements

P. Next month's agenda Items 3:03 PM

The next committee meeting was identified as October 6. Members requested the following topics:

- USCHA/NMAC conference report back.
- Town Hall final preparations.
- 2027 Needs Assessment planning update.

Q. Evaluation (click [here](#)) & Adjourn 3:03 PM

3:00 PM



GROUP NORMS:

1. Be a welcoming body to all.
2. Respect each other as leaders.
3. Exhibit patience with each other.
4. Be anchored in our mission.
5. Agree to disagree.
6. Step up Step back.
7. Active, intentional, attentive, listening/eyes, ears, head, & heart
8. No retribution for what gets said here.
9. Be present, prepared and engaged
10. No judgement/Take a breath & set it aside.
11. Everyone's effort & time is valued.
12. Encourage clarifying questions

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13. Be creative & efficient in deliberations.
14. Be on time.
15. Be mindful of your actions and assume good intentions.
16. Avoid using acronyms and abbreviations or explaining what they stand for.

The **Vibe Monitor** (Chairs and/or Planning Council Staff) can enforce the above ground rules in situations of disruptive behavior. Pursuant to the OTGA Bylaws members can be removed from the meeting and/or council for disruptive conduct or conduct affecting the council's integrity of the community's confidence.