

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP (CEG)



Wednesday, April 15, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Southeastern Live Well Center
5101 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114
Tubman Chavez Room B & C

A quorum for this meeting is five (5).

Committee Members Present: Roger Al-Chaikh | Tania Avalos-Bello | Esteban Duarte | Michael Donovan (Chair) | Jen Lothridge (Co-Chair) | Sergio Luna | Veronica Nava

Committee Members Absent: Andrew Cross

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
1. Call to order, comments from the chair, and a moment of silence	The chair called the meeting to order at 3:01PM and noted the presence of an in-person quorum. Chair comments: On June 17th, CEG will conduct the Happyville exercise, which models the PSRAC priorities setting and resource allocation process. This exercise demonstrates how community input and available statistics guide funding decisions and subsequent reallocations throughout the year.	
2. Review Background, Mission Statement, Goals, and Agreement of Meeting Decorum	Committee members read the Mission Statement, the Community Engagement Group Charge, and meeting decorum.	
3. Introductions (Name, Role with HPG/Consumer, Pronouns), Icebreaker	Members and participants introduced themselves.	
4. Public comment (for members of the public)	• A question regarding the HPG Retreat and if it is open to the public. • A clarification that the HPG Retreat is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend. • A concern regarding the attendance policy and the lack of accountability for members who do not attend meetings and impact quorum.	

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5. Sharing our concerns (for committee members)	- A welcome to our new members and appreciation for the consumers and the public who consistently attend and contribute to these meetings. - A reminder that VIDA, HPG, and T4T Empowerment will be at Urban Mo's on April 18 for a National Transgender HIV Testing Day event.	
6. ACTION: Approve the consent CEG agenda (which includes the April 15, 2026 agenda and the February 18, 2026 minutes)	Motion: Approve the consent CEG agenda (which includes the April 15, 2026 agenda and the February 18, 2026 minutes) Motion/Second/Count (M/S/C): Lothridge/Al-Chaikh/6-0 Abstention(s): Donovan Motion carries	
Follow-Up Items from minutes:	None	
7a. Committee Updates		
I. HIV Planning Group (HPG)	The committee has two new vice-chairs and will be having a retreat next week.	
II. Strategies and Standards Committee	The committee discussed how to sustain the food vouchers program since it has seen success.	
III. Steering Committee	The committee discussed printing the golden rods on plain paper to make the document less identifiable as HIV-related materials. They also discussed SB 707, and members were in agreement that committees eligible for virtual participation should be permitted to meet online.	
IV. Membership Committee	The committee discussed strategies for meeting the 33% unaffiliated consumer requirement and reviewed the Membership Operating Guidelines. The committee has had four new appointments since January 2026.	
V. Priority Settings and Resource Allocation Committee (PSRAC)	The committee did not meet this month and will be changing their May meeting date from May 14 th to May 7 th .	

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VI. Medical Standards and Evaluation Committee (MSEC)	None	
7b. Community Updates		
I. CARE Partnership	None	
II. HIV Housing Committee/Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	The committee reported significant housing impacts due to ongoing funding cuts. Townspeople is sunsetting its emergency housing program and is not accepting new referrals until at least May. They also hired a new on-site property manager and are recruiting a case manager. Michelle House will be de-licensed and reduced from 12 beds to 7. Joshua Homes is reducing capacity from 70 beds to 18 and freezing the waiting list. Being Alive will continue accepting referrals for utility and moving assistance only until June, after which the programs will end.	
8. Old Business		
a. Review 2026 CEG workplan	None	
b. Discussion: CEG open forum meetings	The committee is collaborating with Diversionary Theatre on a series of HIV awareness events tied to the upcoming production of RENT in May and the following updates were provided: • Six preview performances will feature themed presentations, onsite HIV testing, and tabling by partner organizations, each of which will receive tickets to distribute to potential HPG participants. • Additional efforts include exploring live Spanish interpretation for the May 24 matinee and arranging childcare for the May 23. • The partnership aims to increase community engagement, raise awareness of HPG's role, and support recruitment of new	

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	members.	
c. Committee Attendance	None	
9. New Business		
a. Presentation: Using data to make decisions	Katie Emmel reviewed the history of the Ryan White Treatment Extension Act, components of Ryan White Program funding and the priority-setting and resource allocation process. The members reviewed Countywide data sets used in the worksheet. Members compared modes of transmission, race and ethnicity, sex assigned at birth, and age groups among persons living with HIV and recent cases, and discussed how these data inform budgeting and resource allocation.	
b. Presentation: Understanding expenditure sheets and budget worksheets	Dasha Dahdouh reviewed the expenditure and budget spreadsheets in detail, explaining what each column represented and how they may be used to make informed decisions.	
10. Announcements	A discussion to explore the need for a support group for individuals 20–39, based on epidemiological data showing the highest rates of new HIV cases. The conversation will take place tomorrow at the LGBT Center, with an option to join via Zoom. Please contact roger@pozabilities.org for details.	
11. Next meeting date	Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Location: TBD	
12. Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 5:00PM.	