

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP (CEG)



Wednesday, June 17, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Mission Valley Branch Library
2123 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego, CA 92108

NOTE: This meeting is audio and video recorded.
Language translation services are available upon request at least 96 hours prior to the meeting.
Please contact HPG Support Staff via e-mail at hpg.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov

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Meeting Location & Directions:

Community Engagement Group (CEG)

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Mission Valley Library
2123 Fenton Parkway
San Diego, CA 92108
(Meeting Room)



Parking: The library parking lot has 85 spaces.

FROM I-15 N:

1. Take Exit 7B for Friars Rd W towards Qualcomm Stadium
2. Merge onto Friars Rd
3. Use the left lane to turn left onto Fenton Pkwy
4. The destination will be on the left

FROM I-8 E:

1. Take Exit 6A for Qualcomm Way
2. Take Qualcomm Way exit
3. Turn right onto Rio San Diego Dr
4. Turn right onto Fenton Pkwy
5. The destination will be on the left.



**PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION**

MTS Trolley:
Green Line





Wednesday, June 17, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Mission Valley Branch Library
2123 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego, CA 92108

To participate remotely via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89778142157?pwd=5G57jMW0b1b1V8l8KVbljAgedPsWV.1>

Call in: US Toll +1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 897 7814 2157

Passcode: 106514

Language translation services are available upon request at least 96 hours prior to the meeting.
Please contact HPG Support Staff via e-mail at hpg.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov.

A quorum for this meeting is five (5)

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

**MEETING AGENDA
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. Call to order, roll call, comments from the chair, and a moment of silence
2. Review Background, Mission Statement, Goals, and Agreement of Meeting Decorum
3. Introductions and Icebreaker
4. Public comment (for members of the public)
5. Sharing our concerns (for committee members)
6. **Action:** Approve the consent CEG agenda (which includes the June 17, 2026 agenda and the April 15, 2026 minutes)
7. Updates
 - a. Committee Updates:
 - i. Membership Committee
 - ii. Strategies and Standards Committee
 - iii. Medical Standards and Evaluation Committee
 - iv. Priority Setting and Resource Allocation Committee
 - v. Steering Committee
 - vi. HIV Planning Group
 - b. Community Updates:
 - i. CARE Partnership
 - ii. HIV Housing Committee/Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
8. Old Business
 - a. Review 2026 CEG workplan
 - b. Committee Attendance
9. New Business
 - a. **Training:** Happyville Exercise/“Another Day in Happyville”
10. Announcements
11. **Next meeting date:** Wednesday, July 15, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Location: Southeastern Live Well Center; 5101 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114; Tubman Chavez Room A
12. Adjournment

Community Engagement Group Charge:

1) Educate Community Members

- Educate/train community members about the HIV Planning Group's local HIV services planning process and prepare them for and support them in increased involvement throughout the HIV Planning Group Process: committees, task forces, working groups, and other opportunities, as well as HIV Planning Group membership.

2) Increase Community Members' Participation

- Increase the level and diversity of community involvement, including from under-served and under-represented populations.
- Represent the needs of all community members, including those unable to participate in meetings.
- Provide linkages to regional and population-specific community groups and ensure communication between those groups and the Community Engagement Group.
- Identify and seek to overcome barriers to community participation.

3) Represent Community Member Needs Throughout the HIV Planning Group Process

- Provide community representation on HIV Planning Group committees, task forces, etc., and ensure the flow of information from those groups to the Community Engagement Group.
- Encourage maximum community involvement in the Priority Setting Committee and other established venues for the annual priority setting and budget allocations process; the Community Engagement Group will not develop separate budget recommendations.
- Serve as a venue for providing community feedback regarding HIV Planning Group issues (e.g., task forces).



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

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
1. Call to order, comments from the chair, and a moment of silence	<p>The chair called the meeting to order at 3:01PM and noted the presence of an in-person quorum.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
5. Sharing our concerns (for committee members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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)	<p>Motion: Approve the consent CEG agenda (which includes the April 15, 2026 agenda and the February 18, 2026 minutes)</p> <p>Motion/Second/Count (M/S/C): Lothridge/ Al-Chaikh/6-0</p> <p>Abstention(s): Donovan</p> <p>Motion carries</p>	
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 .	

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
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)	<p>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.</p>	
8. Old Business		
a. Review 2026 CEG workplan	None	
b. Discussion: CEG open forum meetings	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	

2026 Work Plan

Month	Presentation / Training / Activity
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine the HPG Outreach Presentation • Finalize 2026 Work Plan
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Service Categories
March	<i>No Meeting</i>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happyville prep: Epidemiology data (using to make decisions) & Expenditure Sheets
May	<i>No Meeting</i> <i>CEG Outreach Event with Diversionary Theatre</i>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happyville exercise / “Another Day in Happyville”
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth review of 1-2 service categories and the recent changes
August	<i>No Meeting</i> <i>CEG Outreach Event with Christie’s Place</i>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Preparedness Month training
October	<i>No Meeting</i> <i>CEG Outreach Event with Prevention Orgs</i>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical/Medicaid Presentation • In-depth review of 1-2 service categories
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday party

Topics without a set date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aging with HIV (55+) ▪ MTS presentation

**HIV PLANNING GROUP
12-MONTH COMMITTEE TRACKING
June 2025 - May 2026**

Community Engagement Group	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	#	# of JC Starting Jan 2026
Total Meetings	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	9	
(8) Members														
Al-Chaikh, Roger									1	NM	*	NM	1	
Avalos-Bello, Tania										NM	*	NM	0	
Cross, Andrew											1	NM	1	
Duarte, Esteban											*	NM	0	
Donovan, Michael ^c	*	*	NM	*	*	*	*	*	*	NM	*	NM	0	
Lothridge, Jen ^{cc}	*	*	NM	*	*	*	*	*	*	NM	*	NM	0	
Luna, Sergio						*	1	*	*	NM	*	NM	1	
Nava, Veronica	*	*	NM	*	1	*	*	*	*	NM	*	NM	1	
To remain in good standing and eligible to vote, the committee member may not miss 3 consecutive meetings or 6 meetings within 12 months.														

* = Present

1 = Absent for the month

1 = Absence when there are multiple meetings that month. Member needs to attend at least one (1) meeting for attendance to count for that month.

JC = Just Cause

NM = No Meeting

NQ = No Quorum

If the physical attendance quorum requirement is met, SB 707 permits a member who is not physically present to request virtual attendance at the local legislative body's meeting under the "just cause" circumstance.

Qualifying Reason	Provisions to Attend Remotely	Requirements /Limitations
"Just Cause"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. ▪ A contagious illness prevents the member from attending the meeting in person. ▪ A need related to a physical or mental condition not otherwise accommodated by any reasonable accommodations provided. ▪ Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency. ▪ An immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner of the member that requires the member to participate remotely. ▪ A physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person. ▪ Military service obligations that result in a member being unable to attend in person because they are serving under official written orders for active duty, drill, annual training, or any other duty required as a member of the California National Guard or a United States Military Reserve organization that requires the member to be at least 50 miles outside the boundaries of the local agency. 	A member is limited to two (2) virtual attendances due to "just cause" per calendar year.

Note: The criteria for "emergency circumstance" from AB 2302 are now combined with the "just cause" circumstance for remote participation.

Additional Information for Members Participating Remotely

In addition to making a request for "just cause" for remote attendance, SB 707 imposes the following three (3) additional requirements on legislative body members seeking to appear remotely at public meetings:

1. The member shall notify the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting.
2. The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.
3. The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

Furthermore, a member of a legislative body may request reasonable accommodation, pursuant to the applicable law, to participate in meetings remotely. Remote participation due to reasonable accommodation shall be treated as in-person attendance (counting towards quorum) and shall adhere to the following requirements:

1. The member shall request reasonable accommodation to participate remotely at the time of quorum check prior to each meeting.
2. The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology. Any member with a disability, as defined in Section 12102 of Title 42 of the United States Code, may participate only through audio technology if a physical condition related to their disability results in a need to participate off camera.
3. The member shall disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any of those individuals.