Wednesday, November 4, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Southeastern Live Well Center
5101 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114
Rooms B & C

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, November 4, 2026
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Southeastern Live Well Center
5101 Market Street
San Diego, CA 92114
Meeting Rooms B & C



Visitor/Employee parking available in parking structure. Main entrance can be accessed by exiting the parking structure on the 2nd floor and walking down the sidewalk to the left.

FROM I-805 SOUTH:

1. Head northwest on I-805 North.
2. Take exit 12B for Market St.
3. Turn right onto Market St.
4. The destination will be on your right.

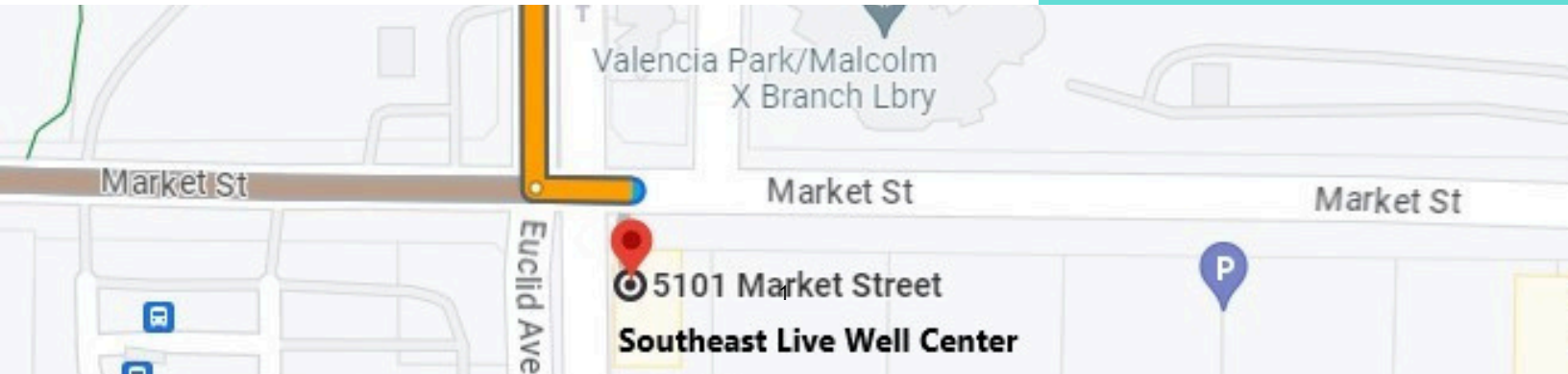
FROM I-805 NORTH:

1. Head southeast on I-805 South.
2. Take exit 13A for CA-94-E/M L King Jr. Fwy.
3. Merge onto CA-94 E.
4. Take exit 4A for Euclid Ave.
5. Turn left onto Euclid Ave.
6. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto Market St.
7. The destination will be on your right.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

MTS Trolley:
Orange Line

MTS Bus Routes:
3, 4, 5, 13, 60, 916, 917 and 955



Wednesday, November 4, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Southeastern Live Well Center
5101 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114
Room B & C

To participate remotely via Zoom:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89778142157?pwd=5G57jMW0b1b1V8l8KVbljbAqedPsWV.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 | Michael Donovan (Chair) | Esteban Duarte | Jen Lothridge (Co-Chair) | 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 November 4, 2026 agenda and the October 21, 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. New Business
    a. **Presentation:** Medi-Cal Services and Programs in San Diego – Jason Cuneo
    b. **Presentation:** Your Health Policy Medi-Cal Services – Dylan Murray
9. Old Business
    a. Review 2027 CEG workplan
    b. Committee Attendance
10. Announcements
11. **Next meeting date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
    Location: Southeastern Live Well Center, 5101 Market St., San Diego, CA 92114 (Room B & C)

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, October 21, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Southeastern Live Well Center
5101 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114
Room B & C

A quorum for this meeting is five (5).

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

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 3:03PM and noted the presence of an in-person quorum. Chair comment	
2. Review Background, Mission Statement, Goals, and Agreement of Meeting Decorum	Committee members read the Mission Statement, the Community Engagement Group (CEG) 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 comment that consumer-based committees should not have to follow all the planning body policies and procedures. - A reminder of all the changes that are occurring to Medi-Cal in the year 2027, specifically related to dental. - A concern regarding an agency in South Bay region and the services they are offering.	
5. Sharing our concerns (for committee members)	- A comment that CalFresh recipients ages 18–64 who are not exempt can meet their benefit requirements through volunteer hours,	

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
	and community organizations like HPG offer accessible ways to complete those hours while supporting the community. - A caution that while many people are feeling pressure from the system, approaching social services staff with patience and respect can ease the process, especially during open enrollment.	
6. **ACTION:** Approve the consent CEG agenda (which includes the October 21, 2026 agenda and the September 16, 2026 minutes)	**Motion:** Approve the consent CEG agenda (which includes the October 21, 2026 agenda and the September 16, 2026 minutes) with the amendment of moving item 8 above 7. **Motion/Second/Count (M/S/C):** Lothridge/Nava/6-0 **Abstention(s)**: Donovan **Motion carries**	
Follow-Up Items from minutes:	None	
7a. Committee Updates		
I. HIV Planning Group (HPG)	Tabled	
II. Strategies and Standards Committee	Tabled	
III. Steering Committee	Tabled	
IV. Membership Committee	Tabled	
V. Priority Settings and Resource Allocation Committee (PSRAC)	Tabled	
VI. Medical Standards and Evaluation Committee (MSEC)	Tabled	
7b. Community Updates		
I. CARE Partnership	Tabled	
II. HIV Housing Committee/Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Tabled	
8. New Business		

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
a. **Discussion**: Review and provide feedback on the extension requirements for the PARS enrollment (*recommendation from Strategies and Standards Committee*)	**Discussion**: - A suggestion to improve monitoring processes, increase funding, and support program stabilization. - A suggestion to maintain a more updated contact list for the waitlist. - A comment noting that one of the main challenges for providers is successfully contacting individuals on the waitlist. - A comment emphasizing that stabilizing clients while enrolled in the PARS program is essential. - A reminder that utilizing case management is strongly recommended and required in the standards. - A suggestion to require participants to engage more actively in stabilization steps such as job training, financial literacy education, or college courses. - A suggestion to ensure that individuals who are disabled or unable to work receive appropriate consideration and collaboration with their case manager. - A suggestion to keep the program short-term in order to prioritize individuals on the waitlist who have not yet received PARS. - A suggestion to provide standardized training for direct-line staff, including case managers and peer navigators. - A suggestion to ensure that	

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
	participants accepted into the program receive robust and comprehensive support services.	
b. **Discussion**: Review and provide feedback on the 2027 Needs Assessment Survey	**Discussion**: Question # - **1**: Remove "Living with AIDS" to reduce stigma; focus instead on detectable/undetectable status. - **4**: Add PEP. - **6:** Add a definition for "case manager." - **7:** Do not remove this item because it is an important engagement measure; combine it with Question 8. - **8:** Revise to include "health care provider (doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant)." - **14 & 15:** Combine into one question: "Are you currently on ART, and are you taking it as prescribed by your doctor?" - **18:** Remove. - **45-50:** Simplify the response options and consolidate into individual streamlined questions. - **51:** Add an option for gender-affirming care. - **56-57:** Add apps as an option for #56; remove #57.	
a. **Discussion**: 2027 CEG workplan and community engagement activities	- Move Happyville Prep to May. - Host a housing event. - Host an event with Christie's Place. - Coordinate with the County Gerontologist or UCSD for September HIV and Aging Awareness event.	

Agenda Item	Discussion/Action	Follow-Up
	- Schedule a dental presentation for February.	
9. Old Business		
a. Review 2026 CEG workplan	None	
b. Committee Attendance	None	
10. Announcements	- 37th Annual Dr. A. Brad Truax Awards on 12/1 from 3PM - 5PM at The San Diego LGBT Community Center (3909 Centre St, San Diego, CA 92103).	
11. Next meeting date	**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 4, 2026, from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Location**: Southeastern Live Well Center, 5101 Market St, San Diego, CA 92114 Tubman Chavez Room B & C	
12. Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 5:03PM.	

2027 Work Plan

Month	Presentation / Training / Activity
January 20th	• San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (SDVLP) Presentation
February 17th	• Dental Services and Benefits Presentation
March 17th	*National Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day Event with Christie's Place*
April 21st	• Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and other Transportation Services Presentation
May 19th	• Happville Prep: Epidemiological Data & Expenditure Reports Training
June 16th	• Happyville / "Another Day in Happyville" Exercise
July 21st	• Service Standards Activity
August 18th	*Prevention/Pride Event in Honor of Transgender Awareness Month*
September 15th	• National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day Presentation
October 20th	*Mental Health and Housing Services Event*
November (TBD)	• Medi-CAL/Benefits Presentation
December (TBD)	• Holiday Party

Topics without a set date
▪ In-depth review of 1-2 service categories

HIV PLANNING GROUP
12-MONTH COMMITTEE TRACKING
November 2025 - October 2026

Community Engagement Group	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	#	# of JC Starting Jan 2026
Total Meetings	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	**9**	
(8) Members														
Al-Chaikh, Roger				**1**	NM	*	NM	*	*	NM	**1**	**1**	**3**	
Avalos-Bello, Tania					NM	*	NM	*	**1**	NM	*	*	**1**	
Cross, Andrew						**1**	NM	**1**	*	NM	*	*	**2**	
Duarte, Esteban						*	NM	*	*	NM	*	*	**0**	
Donovan, Michael [c]	*	*	*	*	NM	*	NM	*	*	NM	*	*	**0**	
Lothridge, Jen [cc]	*	*	*	*	NM	*	NM	*	*	NM	*	*	**0**	
Nava, Veronica	*	*	*	*	NM	*	NM	**1**	*	NM	*	*	**1**	
Vito Cruz, Angela								*	*	NM	*	*	**0**	

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"	▪ 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.