

January 2024 HPG Meeting Announcements

Division of HIV Updates for January Meeting

Division Updates:

- The University of Pittsburgh Purchase Order is not in place so the Division will be facilitating the January HPG meeting. We ask for your patience and understanding as we navigate the facilitation and logistics. I also thank those Community and Planning members who reached out and offered their assistance. So appreciated.
- A presentation on the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan (IHPCP) will occur during the January meeting. While the comments from our federal funders were provided to the HPG membership in September 2023, they are also provided along with the January announcements for the new members.

Care Program:

- Case Management trainings through Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education Training Center (MAAETC) are happening now. More information on sessions and registration is available at <https://www.maaetc.org/p/pacaseanagementtraining>
- Updated Ryan White Part B Program Standards are in the final revisions. The Medical Case Management workgroup has been providing input on this document advising the updates. Minor changes were made to the subservice taxonomy (the definition and calculation of units of service within CareWare). These changes will be implemented in CareWare after the Ryan White Services Report (RSR) is completed in March.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI):

- A CQI update will be provided at the next meeting- due to the timing, there is no new data since the November meeting.
- The 2023 quality improvement project was selected for submission for the department's re-certification with the public health accreditation board (PHAB) as an example of quality improvement efforts within the department.
- The Office of Operational Excellence provided a training 1/18/2024, "The Pursuit of Excellence"
 - This training will be made available to the CQI Workgroup members and Regional Grantees.

Housing Opportunities for People living with AIDS (HOPWA):

- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the postponement of the Implementation of Housing Opportunities Through Modernization Act (HOTMA) Rule Sections 102, 103, and 104 until January 1, 2025. Initial implementation was planned for January 2024.

- The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is due to HUD by March 31, 2024. At this time the Regions are working to prepare their portions of this report to provide to the Division.

Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP):

- 2024 SPBP Advisory Council meeting dates:
 - Thursday, January 25, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (teleconference)
 - Thursday, April 25, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (in-person – Penn Harris Hotel)
 - Thursday, July 25, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (teleconference)
 - Thursday, October 24, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (in-person – Penn Harris Hotel)
- SPBP website updates www.health.pa.gov/spbp
 - Covered Drug list updated 1/1/24
 - Medicare Part C & D Plan List for 2024 updated 1/5/24
 - SPBP income limits for 2024 updated 1/12/24
 - Individual income limit \$75,300
 - Each additional household member allowance +\$26,900 per person
- Some SPBP clients have encountered an eligibility error when applying for SPBP after being disenrolled from Medicaid. This issue was due to a system issue within the Medicaid system in which the individual was shown as still having prescription coverage through Medicaid, even though they do not. The department has worked with Medicaid to identify the issue and the system fix has been implemented as of December 19, 2023.
- SPBP is implementing a process to allow overflow calls during high volume times in our customer service phone line queue to be transferred to Magellan for assistance. A dedicated phone line at Magellan for SPBP transferred calls has been established. The caller will have the option to be transferred for immediate assistance or continue to wait for our SPBP customer service staff.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

- Lisa Petrascu has been promoted to Public Health Program Administrator. She will continue in her role of Project Officer for HIV Prevention PPAs and CMHD Contracts.
- Ryan White Part B Annual Monitoring Visits have begun for 2024. The first visit, to Family Health Council of Central PA (Southcentral Region) was completed last week.
- The CMHD QI Learning Collaborative will continue to work into 2024, to improve Performance Measures within the HIV Prevention contract. The collaborative has tackled partner services, HNS and D2C. They will shift focus to HIV testing and clinical services.

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Section will be working to revise and update the procedures and monitoring tools for PPA and CMHD monitoring for 2024. The contracts were updated during the past year, and the monitoring will be revised to reflect those changes.

Prevention Program:

- Savannah Runco was promoted to the PHPA testing coordinator position. Please reach out to her with any HIV or HCV testing questions.
- HIV Prevention and Surveillance received the notice of award extending the current grant through July 2024. The new notice of funding opportunity has not been released.
- An updated Capacity Building calendar will be posted to <https://stophiv.com/events/capacity-building/> when the purchase order is executed.
- The pilot of the Status Neutral Navigation and Linkage Program (SNNLP) is anticipated to begin in March with two testing/Ryan White providers and two County/Municipal Health Departments. The pilot will initially run for six-months.
- HIV Cluster Detection and Response update:
 - We are currently investigating nine clusters, six are time-space and three are molecular. All are being monitored by HIV Prevention and Surveillance for changes in viral load.
 - The Allegheny County cluster mentioned in November – all follow-up partner services activities have been completed. All clients have achieved viral suppression. We will continue to monitor viral loads for future activity.

HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology:

- Proactive HIV Laboratory Reporting and Management: we have created a new contractor position to oversee all aspects of HIV laboratory reporting to ensure accuracy and completeness. With the implementation of special projects, complete and rapid reporting of HIV laboratory test results have become very important. This contractor will assist in meeting this objective. Dr. Katie Kim has been hired to assume this role and we are pleased to have this additional resource in our team.

- The HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology Data Manager position is still unfilled, and we are still interviewing. This is a highly critical position, and we are being quite deliberate in whom we select.
- The Integrated HIV Epidemiologic Profile has been approved and posted to the Department of Health website. This is an additional resource to the Annual HIV Surveillance Report, which is also on the department website.
- One HIV Time-Space cluster has been detected in Lancaster County in January 2024. Field activities have commenced. In addition, we continue to conduct follow up activities on existing active clusters.

Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH)/Division of HIV Health (DHH):

- Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), announce the release of the City of Philadelphia 2022 HIV Surveillance Report.
- A copy of the report can be found here [HIV/AIDS data and research | Department of Public Health | City of Philadelphia](#)