

HIV Planning Group (HPG) Updates for July Meeting

Division Updates:

- Vickey and Carol from MidEast PA Care and Advocacy Network made a visit to Vogue Lounge, in Allentown to view the Harm Reduction Vending machine in person. It was a great experience (impressive) to see the machine live, get a tour of Vogue Lounge, and speak with all persons involved in the Vending initiative. The feedback from Vogue personnel is exceptionally positive. They expressed that their clientele is receptive of the machine and are happy to have the items available to them at no cost.



- University of Pittsburg's Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Project (IHPCP) purchase order went into effect on Friday, June 13. Pitt's roles and responsibilities over the next 12 months under this PO include:
 - Assist the Department in developing the Integrated HIV Prevention & Care Plan (IHPCP), including conducting a Needs Assessment and Priority Setting activities.
 - Maintain the StopHIV.com website
 - Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Special Projects designed to increase stakeholder engagement, promote the work of the Division of HIV Health, and reduce HIV stigma.

Care Program:

- Stephen Elston was selected as the new Public Health Program Administrator for the Care Section. His first day was May 19, 2025.
- The PA Program Standards and Case Management Standards will be reviewed and updated, if necessary, in July 2025 and re-distributed.
- The Needs Assessment survey for the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan (IHPCP) was distributed during the last week of June. The due date for completion is August 31, 2025. The link to the survey is as follows: <https://tinyurl.com/PAHIVNeedsAssessment>

- This survey is a means of gathering information for the federally required Statewide Coordinated Statement of Needs (SCSN) and is essential in helping us determine service utilization needs, planning, and for the development of the next Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan.
- This questionnaire is intended for people living with HIV who receive HIV medical care or support services in Pennsylvania and for healthcare and service providers who deliver HIV care or support services in the state.
- The Division is asking that you **please distribute this survey** and make those in your networks aware of its existence and the importance of its completion. Supporting documents to help with the rollout of this survey are available, including a recruitment script that you can use for emails through your distribution networks as well as flyers for both providers and individuals living with HIV. These flyers include a QR code that participants can use to access the survey. If you wish to receive these supporting documents, please contact Kyle Fait c-kyfait@pa.gov and copies will be provided.

Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP):

- 2025 SPBP Advisory Council meeting dates
 - Thursday, July 31, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (teleconference)
 - Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (teleconference)
- 2026 SPBP Advisory Council Meeting Dates
 - Thursday, January 29, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (teleconference)
 - Thursday, April 30, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (teleconference)
 - Thursday, July 30, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (teleconference)
 - Thursday, October 22, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. (teleconference)
- Updates on the SPBP website (www.health.pa.gov/spbp)
 - Covered Drug List – to be updated July 2025
 - MyRx Enroll Express and Full Re-enrollment training video – June 2025
- Updated list of Medicaid benefit package codes bypassed by SPBP – June 2025
 - Individuals with full Rx benefits in Medicaid are not eligible for SPBP (unless they also have Medicare drug coverage). This is not a change in policy, just an update to the system.

Prevention Program:

- The HIV Prevention and Surveillance CDC notice of award was received on Thursday, July 3. The award had a start date of June 1 and is very close to the amount we were anticipating.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- All site visits will be conducted, as scheduled, but will be virtual until further notice.
- Prevention POs are preparing for PPA site visits. All providers who are conducting HIV testing in non-clinical settings will have a virtual site visit this summer. Providers who also conduct STD clinical services will have integrated visits to include STD program staff.
- Ryan White POs have distributed the following information for the new grant year.
 - 2025 Ryan White Reporting Calendar
 - Updated Monitoring Tools
 - Full Monitoring
 - Modified Monitoring
 - Chart Review Form
 - Health Insurance Premiums Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - Fixed Asset Inventory Form

HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology:

- Identified one HIV Time-Space cluster in Bucks County in June 2025. The cluster has 28 individuals, and they are predominantly among men who have sex with men and heterosexuals. We have commenced necessary field responses to address the cluster.
- 2024 Annual HIV Surveillance Report has been compiled and currently under review. Once the review is completed, a final copy will be posted on the DOH website.
- We participated in the NASTAD HIV Viral Load Suppression Measure Sustainability Meeting held in Denver, CO from April 21-24, 2025.
- Presented on “HIV Cluster Detection Response and Community Engagement” to the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center audience on June 10, 2025.
- HIV surveillance and Prevention staff participated in the 2025 National HIV Cluster Summit held in Atlanta, GA from June 23-25, 2025. Dr. Adetoun Asala made a presentation on the “Role of Health Department Leadership in HIV Cluster Detection and Response”.

- The HIV Medical Monitoring Project was not funded by the CDC because of the ongoing funding cuts by federal government. Consequently, we lost three staff.

Update from HPG member Teresa Sullivan of Philadelphia Fight:

- House Judiciary Committee hearing for HB 632 (Decriminalizing HIV in PA) was held on Monday, June 2, from 10-11 a.m. in Harrisburg, House Majority Caucus Room #140. Below is a photo of the people that shared their testimonies at the Committee hearing in Harrisburg Pa. To read more on HB 632, please visit the following link <https://www.aidslawpa.org/hb632/war>.

