

## **HIV Planning Group (HPG) Updates for January Meeting**

### **General Updates:**

- Recently Valley Youth House in the MidEast PA Care and Advocacy Network Region, closed their Silk LV program and drop-in center they housed at the end of last year. Due to these programmatic changes, the harm reduction vending machine that was implemented at that site is now available. If anyone has interest in this machine, please reach out to Kyle Fait [c-kyfait@pa.gov](mailto:c-kyfait@pa.gov) and he will work with you to coordinate the transition of the machine. While the implementation time was brief, this machine proved to be a huge success for Valley Youth House. Being this machine has been paid for; we are hopeful that it can be re-implemented somewhere else for minimal cost to the next entity that chooses to take on this initiative.

### **Care Program:**

- The Division received the HOPWA grant agreement and have been level funded at \$3,666,805 for calendar year 2026.
- HUD has issued a new inspection model called the National Standards for the Physical inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE). Monica Woodring, HOPWA Coordinator, has been working to get NSPIRE incorporated into the HOPWA program.
- The Division applied for ADAP Emergency Relief Funds from HRSA for Ryan White FY 2026 beginning 4/1/2026. The application was due on 11/3/2025. We applied for \$7,000,000, which is the maximum award amount for ADAP programs with no waiting lists. The minimum award is \$100,000. The award announcement has not been made to date.

### **Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP):**

- 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](http://www.health.pa.gov/spbp))
  - Covered drug list updated 12/1/25
  - List of Medicare Part C & D plans with premium payment agreements last updated 1/6/26

### **Prevention Program:**

- The updated calendar of training opportunities can be found at [Education and Training | HIVhealthPA.com](http://Education and Training | HIVhealthPA.com).

## **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- Changes in County and Municipal Health Department Annual Monitoring visits have been communicated to the Health Departments. We are implementing a new monitoring calendar, with one visit per month beginning in March. We also are implementing a new monitoring tool which combines the previous tool with the Annual Performance Report, which is no longer required. Visits will be virtual.
- Ryan White Part B Monitoring has been revised, and 2026 visits will begin with Mid-East PA Care and Advocacy Network in February. Visits will remain virtual for the immediate future.

## **HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology:**

- The HIV Medical Monitoring Project that was canceled by the CDC has been reinstated and funds restored. We are in the process of putting the project back, including hiring staff as previous staff were let go.
- The 2026 Annual Pennsylvania National Electronic Disease Surveillance System Security and Confidentiality training was conducted over the last three months of 2025. Every disease investigator with access to HIV data is required to take this training before they assume their work roles and every year thereafter. Investigators who fail to complete the training have their access removed in January of the following year.
- HIV Cluster –
  - ✓ Identified one molecular cluster and no time-space
  - ✓ Continue to follow active clusters
  - ✓ met with Pa Medical Society (PAMS)
    - Created CDR fact sheet for PAMS's public health page
    - Created a CDR webinar for PAMS physicians
    - Created CDR CME for PAMS physicians
- Presented “Late HIV Diagnosis: An Analysis of Predictors in Pennsylvania, 2020-2024” during the Quarterly Epidemiology Meeting in November 2025.
- Assessing compliance with the requirement of treatment within 30 days of HIV diagnosis.
- Conducting an analysis of cause death among Pennsylvanians living with HIV.

## **University of Pittsburgh HIV Prevention and Care Project (HPCP)**

- The HIV Friendly program improves awareness regarding HIV in Pa. Created by the HIV Prevention and Care Project (HPCP) at the University of Pittsburgh, our goal is to build friendly communities for everyone. Please visit our website [HIV Friendly](#) to sign up for an HIV Friendly presentation to your community.

### **Update from HPG Membership and Recruitment Workgroup:**

- In late November-mid December the Membership and Recruitment workgroup reviewed all submitted applications for HPG membership and made selections. All those who applied were notified and those selected were brought on board. For new members, HPG orientation was held last Wednesday (January 14<sup>th</sup>). Selections for 2026 include returning members Lupe Diaz, Miguel Rodriguez, Ginger Scaife and Rachel Schafferwh as well as brand new community members Marla Hunter, Hazell Azzer Carpenter Sauders, Kevin Clark, and Donald Yarros. For those who applied and were not selected, they have been placed on a wait list in the event a new member steps down or is unable to fulfil their HPG obligations. A big thank you to all that applied to be HPG community members. The number of highly qualified candidates we received this year was overwhelming and very much appreciated. Thank you also to all membership workgroup members for taking time out of your busy schedules to participate in this recruitment, review, and selection process.