

HIV Community Planning Council

COUNCIL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 10th, 2026

Zoom

3:00-4:30pm

Committee Members Present: Chuck Adams, Elyse Griffin, Thomas Knoble, Nga Le, T. J. Lee-Miyaki, Marco Montenegro, Jon Oskarsson

Committee Members Absent: Bill Blum [A], Anna Branzuela [E], Helen Lin [LOA], Irma Parada [E]

Others Present: Natalie Basha, Jordan Gewing-Mullins, Stephen Spano

Support Staff Present: Mark Molnar, Kira Perez, Kat Téllez

Minutes

1. Introductions and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by CM Adams and everyone introduced themselves. Quorum was established.

2. Review/Approve March 10th, 2026 DRAFT Agenda – VOTE

The March 10th, 2026 DRAFT Agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus.

3. Review/Approve February 10th, 2026 DRAFT Minutes – VOTE

The February 10th, 2026 DRAFT Minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

4. Announcements

- CS Perez reminded folks to submit their 700 forms if they haven't done so already as the deadline is approaching.

5. Public Comment

- None.

6. HCAP Annual Report

- Stephen Spano provided a brief overview of the HIV Consumer Advocacy Project (HCAP) Annual Report that they will present at this month's Full Council meeting. They noted that they have only had one week to review the data, so there is still data that needs to be synthesized and included in the presentation. They reviewed what HCAP is, what the goal of HCAP is, and the services they provide. Spano highlighted the number of consumers they have served in the 2025-26 contract year and reviews the self-reported consumer data including age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation and income. Spano noted there was a decrease in clients served compared to the previous contract year. They reviewed the top service categories for the contract year, which included Housing Services, Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Services, and Dental Services. He also highlighted the top issues, which included Information and Referral, Access, and Quality of Care. Spano also highlighted information about terminations/suspensions, noting he filed less grievances this year and had a 50% success rate in turning over terminations. They reviewed additional successes and noted that they will have more information to present once the data has been synthesized and incorporated into the report.
 - CM Lee-Miyaki appreciated that Spano provided the comparison of number of clients this year versus last year.

- CS Molnar asked if there have been any specific issues around dental providers not providing care to people with detectable viral loads?
 - Spano said it seems to not be common practice for private practice dentists to ask about viral loads. They added, however, that the dental providers receiving Ryan White funding, to a large degree, are teaching universities or facilities that use a teaching model. They noted that some providers have internal policies around gathering health information, with this being included in that information.
- CM Griffin stated surprise at people being denied care due to detectable viral load and noted a law case involving this.
 - Spano noted that there can be legitimate reasons for providers to ask for this information, such as to assess whether someone's health is in a stable condition to undergo treatment.
- CM Oskarsson spoke to the sometimes-general unfamiliarity with HIV and how it manifests in the bloodwork being asked for. He added that they have had patients sent back because of the results of their labs and not necessarily denied care but did face delays in care.
 - Spano says they will review their information further before Full Council and stated that off the top of their head they could not think of any clients who were denied dental services and Spano was not able to get that overturned.

7. COLA Report

- CS Perez previewed the draft 2025 COLA presentation, focused on cisgender women living with or at risk for HIV. A focus group with 9 participants was held in February and participation was incentivized with \$50 Safeway gift cards. CS Perez reviewed the service category prioritization results, with Primary Medical Care, Mental Health Care, and Dental Care ranking most important and Emergency & Transitional Housing, Hospice, and Home Health Care ranking least important. The service category discussion revealed participants concerns including high staff turnover and poor pharmacy fulfillment system follow through in Primary Medical Care; case managers who are not reflective of the communities they serve, particularly the Black/African American community, in Case Management; and funding cuts to transportation becoming a barrier to accessing medical care. CS Perez shared several other barriers to care, including a lack of welcoming, women-specific support groups, gaps in HIV education that add to stigma, confusing HIV messaging, childcare challenges, difficulties balancing employment with benefits, and challenges navigating the system of care. CS Perez concluded by reviewing key findings, noting that this population faces a unique set of challenges navigating the system of care, with concerns around the lack of HIV education and how that contributes to ongoing stigma. There is a need for more consistent support groups for this population. Lastly, funding cuts were top of mind for participants with many already seeing cuts implemented in social activities and transportation.
 - CM Knoble noted the absence of folks feeling frustrated about being a small group of people within a larger group. They stated they also appreciated the Council leaning into this COLA target because there had been an increase in this population in the last year.
 - CM Oskarsson asked CS Perez if there was any feedback during the focus group that surprised her.
 - CS Perez said she received feedback that the participants really appreciated having the focus group to talk and provide feedback. She noted there was a lot of knowledge being shared among participants and that the participants were sharing their contact information with each other. She said this really highlighted the need for a space like this.
 - CM Le stated they had heard similar feedback from women in Marin County so they started a women's-specific support group, which became so well attended that they moved their meeting frequency from monthly to twice a month.

8. Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items – VOTE

The next Council Affairs Committee is scheduled for April 14th, 2026 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm by CM Adams.

Council Affairs Committee

HIV Community Planning Council

Roll Call: **P**=Present; **A**=Absent; **E**=Excused; **L**=Leave of Absence

Votes: **Y**=Yes; **N**=No; **B**=Abstain; **R**=Recused (deduct from quorum)

March 10, 2026

roll [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10]

1.	Chuck Adams (Co-Chair)	P	Y	Y										
2.	Bill Blum	A												
3.	Anna Branzuela (Co-Chair)	E	-	-										
4.	Elyse Griffin	P	Y	Y										
5.	Nga Le	P	Y	Y										
6.	Helen Lin	LOA	-	-										
7.	Marco Montenegro	P	Y	Y										
8.	Jon Oskarsson	P	Y	Y										
9.	Irma Parada	E	-	-										
10.	Thomas Knoble	P	Y	Y										
11.	T. J. Lee-Miyaki	P	Y	Y										

Ayes		7	7											
Nays		-	-											
Abstain		-	-											
Recusal		-	-											
Total	7	7	7											