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| **Date:** | Wednesday, January 15, 2025 | **Type:** | Online |
| **Start Time:** | 10:17 am | **End Time:** | 11:45 am |
| **Leaders** | Peta-Gaye Tomlinson (Chair) and Sue Major (DPH Liaison) | | |
| **Participants:** | 22 | **Next Meeting:** | February 19, 2025 (online) |

**WELCOME AND OVERVIEW**

QPM Chair Peta-Gaye Tomlinson: (1) introduced herself and DPH liaisons Sue Major and Denese Smith-Munroe, (2) reviewed the charge of the committee, (3) outlined the purpose of the meeting, and (4) reviewed QPM’s approach for creating a positive, productive meeting climate.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**Review of Prior Meeting Notes.** The team approved the November 2024 meeting notes with no changes.

**2025 QPM WORKPLAN**

Ms. Tomlinson provided a brief introduction to QPM and reviewed the draft workplan for 2025 (see QPM Introduction slides for details). As part of the presentation, participants completed a poll about their QPM experience – most had attended at least a few QPM meetings (see below).

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| **How familiar are you with QPM?** | **Number** | **Percent** |
| I know a little bit about QPM, but have not been to a meeting before today | 3 | 18% |
| I've been to several QPM meetings | 7 | 41% |
| I've been an active QPM participant for 1 or more years | 5 | 29% |
| I could deliver the QPM orientation to new folks | 2 | 12% |
| **Total** | **17** | **100%** |

QPM members shared what they want QPM to accomplish in 2025 (see [Zoom Whiteboard](https://zoom.us/wb/doc/UwQjXvieRIK16t_Y4Dg_Vg/p/266450351161344)). Themes included:

* Planning and implementing a successful Quality Summit in October.
* Developing indicators and goals for the 2027-2031 Integrated Plan (including STI and stigma indicators).
* Using data to set and achieve Plan goals.
* Monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Plan.
* Expanding CHPC membership / becoming a member.

**QUALITY (Q)**

The team reviewed and discussed a draft list of **quality improvement (QI) projects** (see [Handout 1](https://www.cthivplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/QI-Projects-List-QPM-Meeting-Document-January-2025.pdf) for details). Participants will send Dave details on their QI projects (as needed), and Dave will continue to reach out to providers to gather more details on projects. Participants shared information on current and potential QI projects of interest:

* Nilda Fernandez noted that the CCMC/UCHC **PrEP Referrals** project is just getting started. They are seeking to increase PrEP referrals and HIV testing in the emergency room through EMR (electronic medical records) pathways. They are trying out different approaches now.
* Ms. Tomlinson noted a conversation with a massage therapist at a PrEP meeting – who was interested in engaging their clients in conversations about prevention. Africka Hinds shared project in Maryland to train barbers in having sexual health conversations – [**Maryland Barbers and Stylists United for Health**](https://sph.umd.edu/research-impact/research-centers/maryland-center-health-equity/projects-maryland-center-health-equity/maryland-barbers-and-stylists-united-health). Ms. Fernandez and Ms. Tomlinson noted early efforts to engage barbers in Hartford; Maryland’s approach could be used with them as well as for other businesses (participants suggested nail salons and smoke shops).
* Steven Thalasitis asked if there were any efforts to address disparities for **Spanish speakers**, particularly in the Stamford area? Ms. Fernandez noted that CCMC/UCHC offers peer groups in both English and Spanish and promotes PrEP on Facebook in Spanish. Ms. Tomlinson stated that there is funding for the [Minority AIDS Initiative](https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/about/parts-and-initiatives/part-f-minority-aids-initiative) that includes support for the Latino community. Sue Major noted that Stamford CARES / Family Centers is funded to conduct HIV prevention in Fairfield County.

Ms. Tomlinson stated that QPM would like to have agencies briefly present on their QI projects throughout the year (“QI Spotlights”) and at the October **Quality Summit**. She encouraged participants to consider presenting or to suggest QI presentations that they’d be interested in hearing. QPM will also likely form an ad hoc planning group to help plan the details for the Quality Summit. This worked well in planning past Summits.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES (PM)**

Based on feedback from the November meeting, QPM is planning data presentations on PrEP (February), Linkage to Care / Rapid Start (May), and the Plan Indicators (July). Participants completed a poll to identify a fourth data presentation. The top two presentations were for **Data to Care** (41%) and STIs (29%).

**2024 PROGRESS ON INTEGRATED PLAN**

Participants were asked to identify accomplishments and/or progress during 2024 on achieving Plan goals. For QPM and partners, accomplishments included:

* **Monitoring**. QPM developed a 1-page infographic summarizing 2023 Plan implementation.
* **Indicators**. QPM reviewed the latest data on Plan indicators at its August meeting.
* **Disparities**. DPH presented data on disparities in the HIV continuum at the June QPM meeting. QPM members also worked with a Yale MPH student on a project to address disparities in PrEP uptake among African-American women.
* **Coordinated Response**. In addition to the CHPC, the HIV Funders group is reconvening in February, and the Viral Hepatitis group and Sexual Health Coalition have been formed. The HIV Funders group can help with monitoring plan implementation.
* **Communications**. Ms. Tomlinson noted that the [Getting to U podcast](https://yalepodcasts.blubrry.net/category/getting2u/) is entering Season 2 – the next episode features Dr. Juan Salazar. Ms. Fernandez suggested Consuela Munoz as a guest and encouraged everyone to promote the podcast. It could be featured at events like Black AIDS Awareness Day.

**MEETING FEEDBACK**

Participants completed a meeting feedback poll. Nearly all (92%+) reported that the meeting was well organized and that they felt comfortable participating. Suggestions for improving future meetings included: learning about best practices in creating a QI project.

**ADOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance records are kept on file with the CHPC support staff.