

Date:	June 17, 2026	Type:	Virtual
Start Time:	1:05 p.m.	End Time:	2:00 p.m.
Leaders	Co-Chairs Roberta Stewart; Natalie DuMont		
Participants:	19 (see last page for attendance)	Next Meeting:	July 15, 2026 (virtual)

WELCOME AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Committee co-chairs Roberta Stewart and Natalie DuMont welcomed participants to the meeting. Participants reflect briefly on the importance of the syndemic work with a moment of silence and then introduced themselves.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Approval of Prior Meeting Summary. The May 2026 draft committee meet summary notes were posted on the CHPC website (www.cthivplanning.org) and contained in the meeting packets. Participants approved the meeting notes by consensus with no additions or corrections.

Abbreviated Meeting. The committee chairs noted that the meeting would end on or about 2:00 p.m. instead of 2:30 p.m.

SYNDEMIC PARTNERS UPDATE

Syndemic Partner Group. The table summarizes highlights from the syndemic partner reports. The reports were brief in nature due to the limited meeting time.

Syndemic Area	Report Highlights
CT DPH Prevention and Policy (G D'Angelo)	- CT DPH is applying for a supplemental prevention grant that includes areas such as at home testing, routine testing, and DIS with 10% support for surveillance activities - Gina clarified how CT DPH "approval" process for materials or content developed by the CHPC or its committees. In general, material that is developed by the community for the community and does not include a CT DPH logo or appear to reflect an official CT DPH position will be reviewed by the CT DPH HIV/STD/HCV/TB Program team. Material that involves the use of the CT DPH logo or is intended to reflect an official message supported by CT DPH will need to be reviewed by the CT DPH communications and marketing team prior to its use.
CT DPH Surveillance (Jen Vargas)	- CT DPH surveillance team continues to work on finalizing the epidemiological profile; interns are supporting several data projects - Jen suggested coordinating a webinar for doctors, physician assistants, and nurses/APRNs to help promote the syndemic approach and/or review and answer questions about chronic disease reporting requirements
STDs (Arleen Lewis)	No report
Hepatitis C (Venesha Heron)	- Tuesday, July 28 is World Hepatitis Day and is intended to raise awareness about viral hepatitis (all types) and to promote global prevention, testing, and treatment. - Hip to Talk about Hep (Getting Hip to Hep) is a popular youth-focused public health campaign to raise awareness about viral hepatitis and promote testing
SUD (Natalie DuMont)	- CT DPH participated in a CT DMHAS infectious disease workgroup (e.g., nurses) to promote syndemic awareness, the use of syndemic approaches, and increase connections between partners - Natalie shared that this type of process should be repeated at least twice each year to keep the topic at the forefront and to help new hires in response to turnover within behavioral health positions

Syndemic Area	Report Highlights
Other	Suggestions were made to develop a short video for medical providers on the benefits of a syndemic approach

2022 TO 2026 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Micro-Tools for Patient Experience. The group reviewed another iteration of the draft micro-tool organized around helping patients feel “seen, heard, and safe” based on inputs from the May meeting. Several participants suggested valuable edits and suggestions. In general,

- 1) The core information should be distilled to no more than 2 pages
- 2) Repetitive or redundant information that appears on multiple pages should be removed or reduced
- 3) Icons especially for re-occurring themes should be used consistently
- 4) The suggested activities or challenges should be adjusted to be done without any timelines and organized around each theme so groups can pick what is most helpful, relevant, and practical to implement

Project support staff will make revisions and circulate these to the group prior to the next meeting.

Syndemic Summit. Gina provided a brief update on Summit planning. CT DPH team members continue to gather information from other states and a national learning collaborative that is helping to inform the final design of the day. The design will in turn clarify who should be invited to the event and how the activities on that day serve as building blocks for follow-up activities. The Event Planning Team will meet again in July to provide input on the concept and to help identify individuals who can serve as champions for specific communities or types of participants (e.g., local health departments, community partners, state agency contractors).

OTHER / NEW BUSINESS

Natalie reminded the group that the CHPC and the ETS committee would meet virtually in July.

MEETING FEEDBACK

The co-chairs asked individuals to fill out their meeting feedback forms prior to leaving. The table shows the results from the 14 participants who completed the feedback questions at the end of the meeting.

Summary Table from Meeting Feedback Poll (n = 14)

Questions	Yes	No	Unsure
1. CHPC Member?	36%	64%	*
2. I would give this meeting a grade of	A	B	C
	86%	14%	*
3. I understood the meeting information and materials	100%	0%	*
4. The meeting felt inclusive and respectful of all voices	100%	0%	*
5. What did you like best about the committee meeting?	- Very collaborative! - Hearing from "All" - so many great suggestions on resolving issues and networking - All the Feedback - Discussion around the patient engagement - We all come together to share our opinions on what can improve, engaged with community		

Summary Table from Meeting Feedback Poll (n = 14)

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- Great efficient use of time
 - Great conversation regarding the document
 - Discussion on Seen — Heard — Safe
 - All the great ideas on how to improve the tool
 - Engagement
 - Revision of materials in a collective way
 - Everyone had a chance to speak
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6. **Suggestions for improving the committee meeting:**

- Sending flyer for feedback out ahead of time
 - Improve on the better data, explain more
 - Continue with interactive discussions
 - o N/A (5)
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RECAP & ADJOURN

Mark reviewed the action items:

- ETS leaders will convene the Summit Event Planning Team in early July
- ETS leaders and staff will revise the “micro-tools” and send them out prior to the next meeting
- Mark will produce a meeting summary and post it on the website.

Roberta adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The CHPC project support staff maintain attendance records. Participants at the meeting included: M Sgambato-Prokop, S Swaby, R Stewart, N DuMont, G D’Angelo, J Vargas, D Rose-Daniels, E Birdsall, V Heron, N Makaridina, M Keith, N Kafle, M Tanner, E Schlossberg, A Schultheis, A Dittmore, E Ellis, A. McGuire, M Nickel