

Main Meeting Summary

June 17, 2026

Date:	June 17, 2026	Type:	In-Person, Hartford
Start Time:	9:15 a.m.	End Time:	11:57 a.m.
Participants:	78	CHPC Members:	29
Co-Chairs:	Blaise Gilchrist, Africka Hinds		
Next Meeting:	July 15, 2026 (virtual)		

WELCOME AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHPC Co-Chairs started the meeting by welcoming participants and asking individuals to honor the work with a collective moment of silence. The group reviewed the CHPC vision, mission, values, structure, and process. Participants quickly introduced themselves.

CHPC GENERAL BUSINESS

Dante shared announcements related to CHPC operations.

CHPC Membership. Participants were encouraged to share information about CHPC membership openings. The online application is available at www.cthivplanning.org.

Approval of Prior Meeting Summary. The CHPC Members approved the meeting summary from the prior month using a virtual vote that occurred during the week prior to the CHPC meeting.

CHPC Main Meeting Segments. Co-Chairs shared that the CHPC will continue to explore how to increase participant engagement and sharing at meetings. Today's meeting will include a segment titled, "Open Forum: Ask, Share, Connect." The purpose of this segment is to allow individuals to share issues, problem solve and connect with resource partners.

CHPC Voting Members Lunch & Learn. The CHPC voting members will assemble separately as a group during the lunch session to network and discuss ways to increase member engagement.

CHPC July and August Meetings. The meeting will be held virtually. The CHPC will NOT meet in August.

PARTNER COORDINATION AND UPDATES

The Co-Chairs opened the floor for any partners collaborating on the development of the Statewide Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan 2027 – 2031 to share any updates from planning groups or individual organizations.

- The Ryan White Part A Planning Council of New Haven and Fairfield Counties voted to approved the 2027-2031 Plan and submitted a letter as required.
- The Ryan White Part A Planning Council (Greater Hartford) voted to approve the 2027-2031 Plan and will submit a letter using the New Haven and Fairfield letter as a template.
- The CT DPH intends to co-sign a letter submitted by the CHPC to meet 2027-2031 Plan submission requirements for a letter from the statewide prevention and Ryan White Part B programs.
- Several Ryan White Part B, C, D and F partners are working on grant application submissions that were recently released. These submissions are due at the end of June or the first part of July. In some instances, the funding amounts have been reduced in comparison to previous awards.
- The Ryan White annual conference will be taking place in August. Connecticut typically sends multiple representatives.
- The HIV Funders Group will not meet in June. It will meet virtually on July 22, 2026.

2027-2031 PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Update on Plan Approvals. Co-Chairs confirmed that (1) both Ryan White Part A Planning Councils had voted to approve the 2027-2031 Plan, and (2) CT DPH staff presented the Plan to the CT DPH Commissioner who shared favorable comments and expressed appreciation for the use of the public health planning process that included extensive community engagement and data. Planning Council representatives thanked Mitchell Namias in his role as liaison to the Planning Councils during the Plan development process.

Review Final Revisions. Mitchell Namias, CHPC Member and primary CT DPH liaison coordinating the Plan development assisted the CHPC Co-Chairs in facilitating the final review of the Plan. The meeting packet contained a handout of the revisions to the Plan since the May meeting. The Plan and the summary of revisions handout was also sent to CHPC Members in advance of the meeting to help them prepare for a discussion and vote. Key themes (see image) and details of these revisions were reviewed and discussed.

REQUIRED PARTNERS	STATUS
 Ryan White Part A Planning Council – Greater Hartford Area	 VOTED TO APPROVE THE 2027–2031 PLAN Date: June 3, 2026
 Ryan White Part A Planning Council – New Haven and Fairfield Counties	 VOTED TO APPROVE THE 2027–2031 PLAN Date: June 4, 2026
 Ryan White Part B (CT DPH)	 VOTED TO APPROVE THE 2027–2031 PLAN Date: June 17, 2026
 Statewide HIV Prevention (CT DPH)	 VOTED TO APPROVE THE 2027–2031 PLAN Date: June 17, 2026
 CT DPH Commissioner has reviewed the 2027–2031 Plan. 	

KEY THEMES OF THE REVISIONS



THE BOTTOM LINE



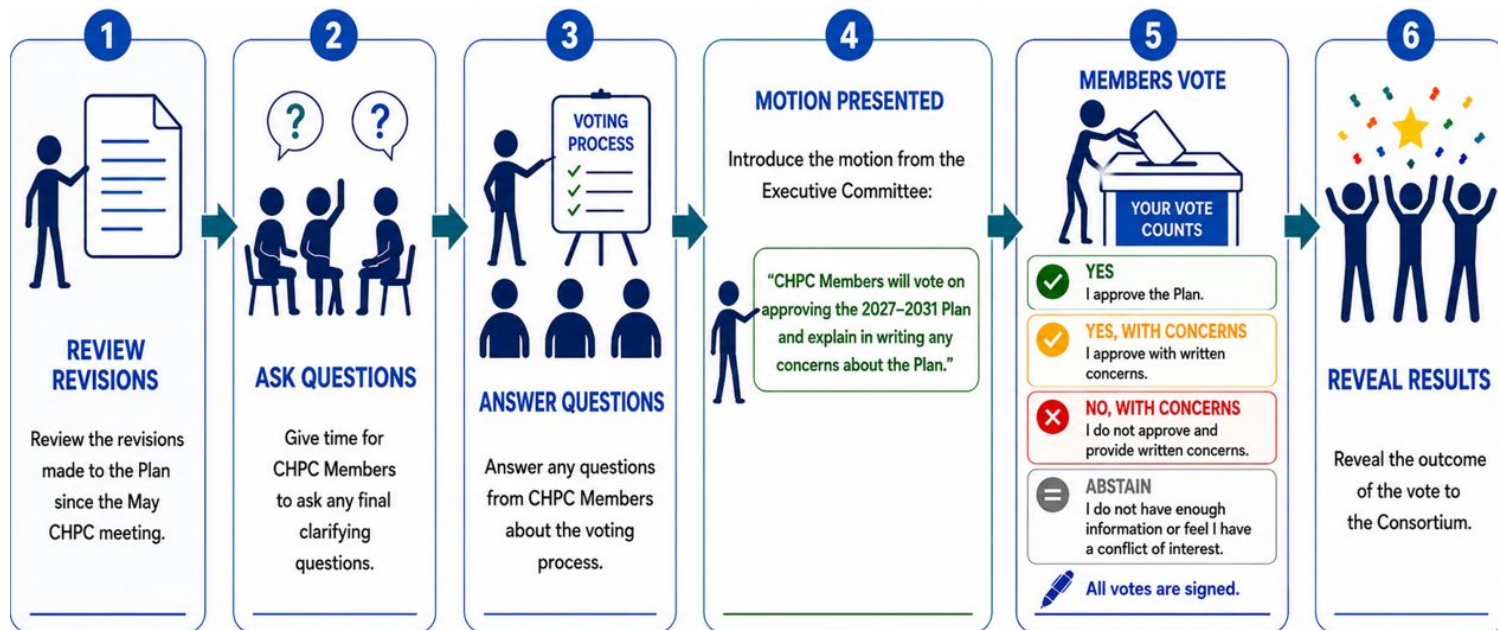
Main points from the follow-up discussion included:

- The Plan is well organized and easy to read. The graphics and visualizations make the information more accessible. Appreciation to all involved for making the document more accessible to the public.
- Does an “app” exist for residents to quickly find how to access services? Mitchell explained that a service finder exists and is web-based. No phone “app” exists at this time.
- Andre McGuire encouraged the group to continue to start plan development process and discussions with the people most affected by the Plan as compared to a Plan that gets developed and driven by providers.

- Ruth Murray called attention to a slight editorial change that needed to occur on page 24.

Mitchell thanked everyone for their ongoing input and suggestions over the past six months, especially the important dialogue that occurred at the Planning Council meetings and the CHPC meetings.

Review of the Approval Process. The CHPC Co-Chairs reviewed the concurrence or approval process required by the Federal government for the 2027-2031 Plan. This information was also sent to CHPC Members in advance of the meeting (see image). CHPC Members confirmed that they (1) understood the voting process – including the requirement to explain any “no” votes and to sign the ballot and (2) were ready to vote.



Vote to Approve Plan. CHPC Co-Chairs introduced a motion (from the Executive Committee) to approve the 2027-2031 Plan with recognition that final edits identified during the final review discussion would be incorporated. Paper ballots were circulated to CHPC Members. Members were asked to vote and to sign the ballot. CHPC staff collected the written ballots and revealed the results (see table).

Voting Results on Motion to Approve the 2027-2031 Plan.

Yes	No	Abstain	Total	Result
27	1	1	29	The CHPC approved the 2027-2031 Plan.

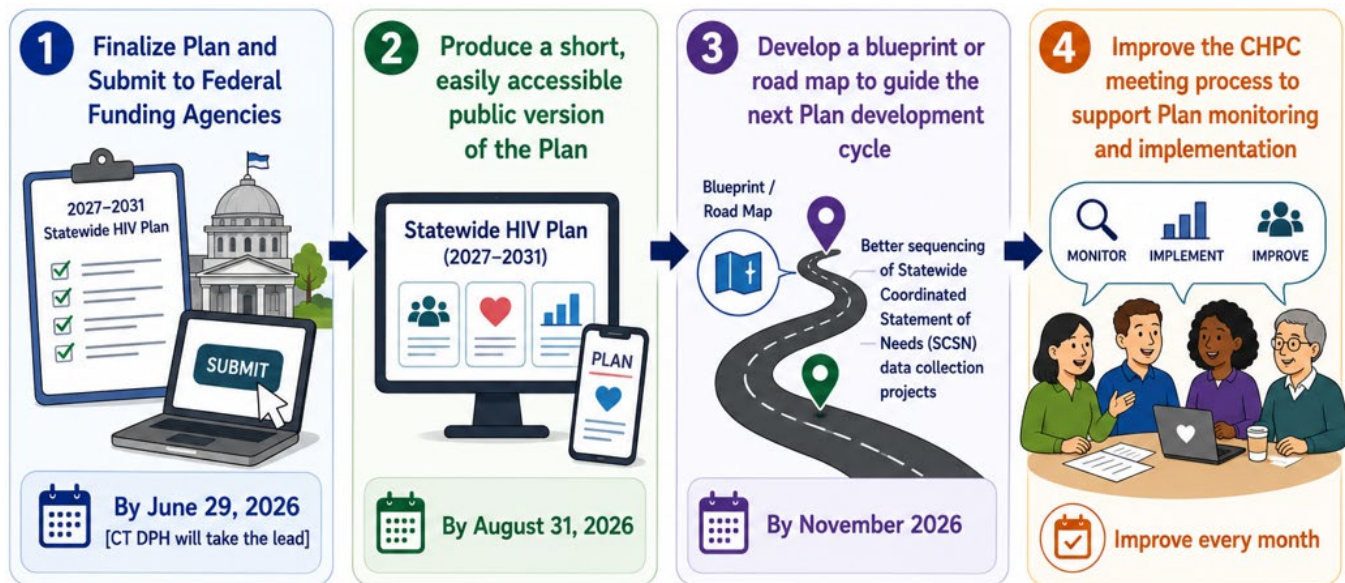
The “no” vote related to the need for objectives to be more ambitious if, in fact, the aspirational goals of the Plan to end the HIV epidemic were to be met. Co-Chairs acknowledge this perspective, noted that this point was made and discussed during the May CHPC meeting – including the framing of the objectives around known or available resources. Co-Chairs explained that the Plan is a living document and will be reviewed annually. In the event objectives are achieved, the group will revise them.

Next Steps. CHPC Co-Chairs explained what will happen next in terms of the technical submission of the Plan as well as how the CHPC and other planning groups move forward (see image on page 4).

Main Meeting Summary

June 17, 2026

What Happens Next?



Reflection on the Plan Development Process. Co-Chairs asked CHPC participants to share any immediate reflection on the Plan development process and posed questions (1) what did you like about the process? (2) what worked well in the process and why? and (3) what can be improved? Key themes shared by CHPC participants included:

- Liked the use of CHPC meetings and small discussions to increase participation and engagement on Plan topics.
- Spread out the Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need data collection projects over time and connect them more closely with CHPC committees and main meeting small group discussions.
- Keep using graphics and visualizations to make the information more accessible.
- Much improved coordination and communication between the CHPC and Ryan White Part A Planning Councils. Keep improving that connection.
- Great that required Plan partners are also CHPC Members.
- Gratitude to the HIV Funders Group for helping to coordinate data collection around complex, statewide needs assessment projects.

CHPC Co-Chairs appreciated the suggestions and explained that this reflection process would be ongoing in the upcoming months by groups such as the Executive Committee and the HIV Funders Group.

OPEN FORUM: ASK, SHARE, CONNECT

Co-Chairs reminded the group that the CHPC was exploring some new options to make meeting more interactive and to take advantage of the knowledge and expertise in the room on issues identify by community members. The purpose of this segment is to allow individuals to share issues, problem solve and connect with resource partners.

Support Groups for Heterosexual Men with HIV. Andre McGuire introduced the topic of African American / Black heterosexual men with HIV and the extent to which this topic remains largely invisible even with data and ongoing call outs – most often by him. He explained that he is part of a national group on this topic and at a recent virtual event that was highly promoted in Connecticut, very few people from Connecticut attended. He expressed concern that people are not hearing what is being said and that limited action appears to be occurring on this matter when so much more could be done programmatically or within organizations (e.g., heterosexual males with HIV in decision-making roles or Community Advisory Boards, inventory of support groups for heterosexual males with HIV).

The CHPC community discussion ensued with the following themes emerging:

- Participants expressed empathy and compassion to Andre and reiterated that he was not alone, and that many individuals were doing their best to support persons with HIV, including heterosexual males.
- Planned Parenthood would use its communication channels to help disseminate information about activities or events.
- The Ryan White Part B program has heterosexual males with HIV as a priority population and is in the process of exploring quality improvement projects.
- Waterbury (Kasima G.) hosts support groups and Andre (a Waterbury resident) is welcome to attend.
- APNH (Carl F.) sponsors a support group and approximately 40% of individuals are heterosexual males with HIV.
- Southwest Community Health Center (Ludger P.) has mixed results with support groups.
- Several individuals shared observations about the challenges of blending gay men-who-have sex with men with HIV and heterosexual males with HIV into the same support group.
- Mary T. shared her experience in attending and serving as a resource to other individuals in support groups. In many instances, individuals are not comfortable sharing their story. It is important for them to know they are not alone, and they will share when they are ready, and that sharing might be a different level with their case manager (vs. in a larger group).
- Staywell (Martina D.) hosts a weekly support group and shared challenges about engaging men who may not be ready personally to participate in a group process.
- Hartford (Peta-Gaye T.) share resources specific to address perceived gaps relevant to men (e.g., Manhood Tree, Brotherhood check-in, retreats, My People clinical services).

Preliminary Feedback on The Value of the Open Forum Segment. Co-Chairs asked participants how they felt about the open forum process and whether the Executive Committee should think about scheduling more of these sessions during CHPC main meetings. In general, participants felt the segment was valuable and showed how bringing an issue to the larger CHPC community can uncover existing services and opportunities for improvement and new connections.

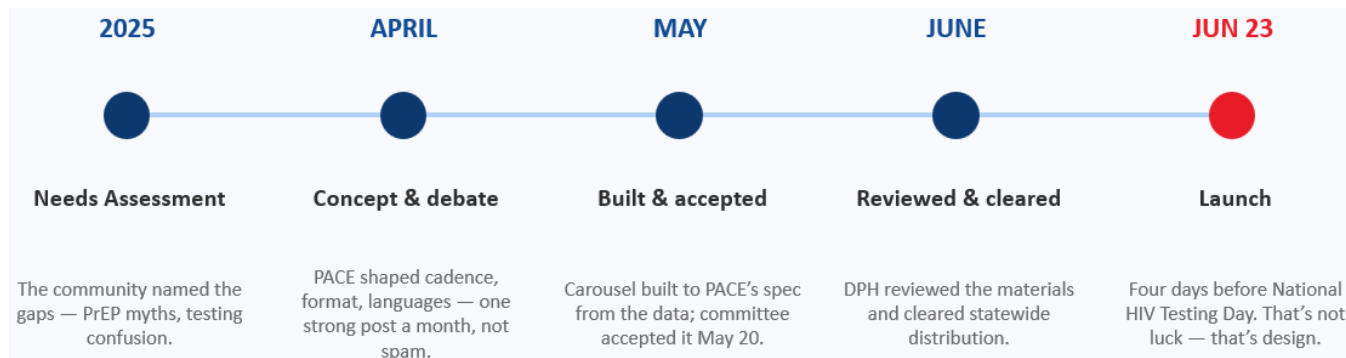
- A suggestion was made to focus the next open forum segment on housing.
- A suggestion was made to use this concept to engage other communities or planning groups on key topics.

CHPC Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their participation and support.

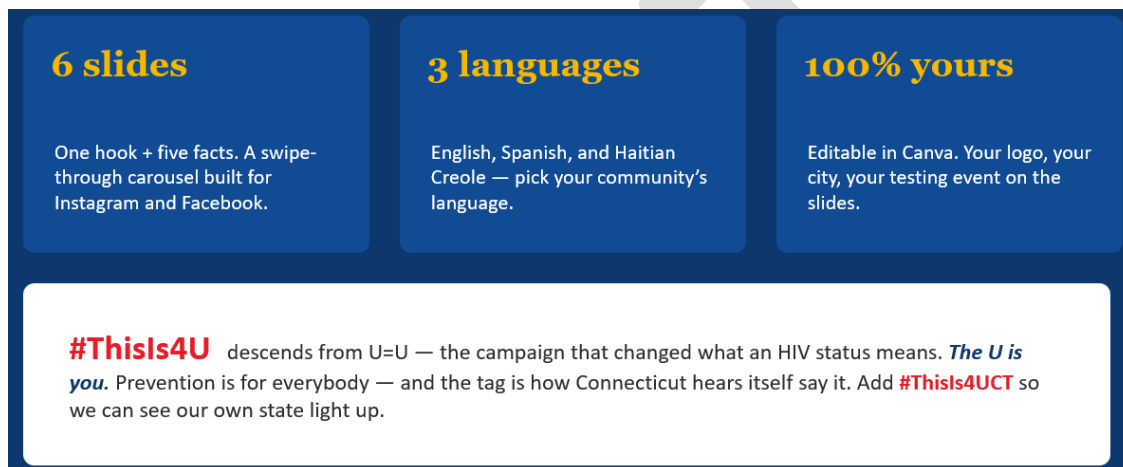
#THISIS4U: ONE VOICE SOCIAL MEDIA APPROACH

Representatives from the Public Awareness and Community Engagement (PACE) Committee (Jordan Wynn, Jenny Bobidilla-Pincus, David Reyes) presented the “ThisIs4U” social media campaign concept to better coordinate messaging through social media channels. Currently, many Connecticut agencies make strong HIV content. However, messages are posted differently, at different times, and using different hashtags. These messages land once and then disappear into the communications feed. Few groups are saying the same thing on the same day and nothing sticks. They explained how the PACE committee has been working toward a solution and the initial campaign that connects to findings from the statewide prevention needs assessment survey (see visualizations on page 6).

The PACE Process to Develop the Campaign Approach



The Campaign Framework



Easy to Use Process: 5 Steps. 5 Minutes

- 1 Scan into the folder** — The QR goes straight to the Social Media Resource Folder → campaign subfolder.
- 2 Pick your language** — English, Spanish, or Haitian Creole — each has its own template link.
- 3 Make it yours** — Open the Canva link → “Make a copy” → drop your logo, city, and event details on the first and last slides. (Or skip it — the images are post-ready.)
- 4 Download** — Canva → Share → Download. PNG for carousels, MP4 for Reels and Stories.
- 5 Post it** — Paste the sample caption from the kit. Keep the tags on: #ThisIs4U #ThisIs4UCT

PACE representatives walked participants through the process and explained how to access “help desk” support to push out an initial message for HIV Testing Day. They reiterated that this was a pilot project that represented the power of the collective. It would work only through coordinated individual action. Participants appreciated the opportunity. Additional information about the campaign would be sent out via the CHPC contact list.

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CHPC COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

CHPC Committee meetings will start at or about 1:05 p.m. Areas of focus for each committee meeting were reviewed (see table).

Ending the Syndemic (ETS)	Public Awareness & Community Engagement (PACE)	Needs Assessment Projects (NAP)	Quality & Performance Measures (QPM)
- Review meeting notes - Syndemic Partners Group updates - Review of draft patient engagement micro-tool - Update on syndemic summit	- Review meeting notes - Social media campaign concept - Newsletter - Youth subcommittee update	- Review meeting notes - Coordination with PACE Committee - Prevention needs assessment survey 2026 Forum presenters	- Review meeting notes - Syringe Services Program Presentation

Representatives from the Ending the Syndemic Committee previewed the emerging outline for the Syndemic Summit that will be taking place on October 21, 2026 and shared information about how CT DPH has been participating in national groups that bring together states implementing syndemic strategies. They shared emerging activities for the agenda – including the use of small groups of representatives from the same geographical community participating in table top exercises that would ultimately lead to clear and actionable next steps. Participants provided positive feedback about the emerging concept including the need to get everyone on the same page about the concept, sharing data, sharing best and innovative practices and resources that are building blocks of the effort. Several CHPC Members confirmed that they would help recruit participants from their communities as needed.

- Peta-Gaye Tomlinson shared that a disconnect is currently occurring in Hartford between the WIC Program and HIV Services. Opportunities are being missed to connect people to services and inform them of recent changes such as findings related to the safety of breastmilk feeding for mom's with HIV. Representatives from CT DPH indicated that they would discuss the topic with the Title V representatives (Maternal and Child Health).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHPC Co-Chairs asked participants to share any announcements or important updates relevant to their programs, services, or communities.

- The July 15 CHPC meeting will be virtual. The Executive Committee will decide whether to shorten the main meeting so that the main meeting and committee meetings can both occur between 9:00 a.m. and 11:59 a.m.
- The CHPC will not meet in August.
- Participants were asked to share information about any upcoming events with the CHPC staff so it could be disseminated through the CHPC contact list.

MEETING FEEDBACK

64 participants completed a CHPC main meeting feedback poll to share their meeting experience and suggestions for improvement. 96% of members and 98% of public participants who completed feedback surveys graded the CHPC event as an "A" or a "B" and expressed positive feedback for the presentation and discussion space.

ADJOURN

The CHPC Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance records are on file with the CHPC support staff.