

Connecticut HIV Planning Consortium

Quality and Performance Measures (QPM) Team Meeting Summary

June 17, 2026

Date:	Wednesday, June 17, 2026	Type:	In Person
Start Time:	1:10 pm	End Time:	2:15 pm
Leaders:	Peta-Gaye Tomlinson (Chair), Africka Hinds and Denese Smith-Munroe (DPH Liaisons)		
Participants:	17	Next Meeting:	July 15, 2026 (virtual)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

QPM Chair Peta-Gaye Tomlinson welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced herself and DPH liaisons Africka Hinds and Denese Smith-Munroe, and reviewed the charge of the committee. Participants then introduced themselves and shared an everyday thing that brings them joy. Responses included: family, nature / gardening, coffee, music, pets, and a peaceful quiet home.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Approval of May 2026 Meeting Notes. In May, the team:

- Discussed statewide priorities for Quality Improvement (QI) projects, drawing on the data shared as part of the planning process.
- Voted on statewide QI priorities. There was a tie for the third priority, so staff sent the poll to the rest of the QPM team for their feedback. The final results were: viral suppression (56%), housing (39%), and PrEP (39%).

Peta-Gaye asked for feedback on these priorities. Ruth Murray suggested considering oral health as well – the Ryan White Needs Assessment showed oral health as a needed service and there is a strong connection between oral health and chronic diseases (i.e., co-morbidities). The team can consider this at a future meeting.

The team approved the May meeting notes with one correction (fixed a typo).

SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAMS (SSPs) DATA PRESENTATION

Peta-Gaye noted that with the approval of the 2027-2031 Integrated Plan, QPM will now focus on reviewing and discussing data on our key indicators. To kick off the data presentations, QPM is excited to welcome Ramón Rodríguez-Santana (DPH) presenting on Syringe Services Programs (SSPs).

Ramón presented 2025 data on SSPs (see [this link](#) for the slides). Key findings included:

- The 10 SSPs served 11,850 clients in 2025. The number of clients served continues to increase each year.
- SSPs distributed more than 2 million syringes in 2025. The syringe return rate was 89%.
- The number of newly diagnosed HIV cases via injection drug use (IDU) has decreased dramatically – from 321 diagnoses in 2002 to 8 diagnoses in 2024. Research indicates that SSPs can control HIV outbreaks.

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- In addition to syringes, SSPs distributed condoms (male and female), safe smoking kits, fentanyl testing strips and other supplies to clients. Ruth Murray noted the importance of educating clients that “female” condoms can be used for anal sex.
- Ramón noted that 27% of clients reported smoking crack and 5% reported sex work.
- In 2025, 343 clients reported distributing supplies to others (i.e., secondary distribution). Approximately 67% of secondary distribution went to 1-3 people, with a small number of transactions (8%) being distributed to more than 15 people.
- In 2025, 63% of clients were male; 43% were White, 28% Hispanic / Latino, and 17% Black / African-American; and the median age of clients was 44.
- The primary substance use among clients was an unknown substance (62%) – clients did not know what was in the drugs they were using.
- In 2025, SSPs conducted HIV testing (922 clients), HCV testing (580 clients), and testing for gonorrhea (198) and syphilis (143). Ramón stressed the importance of testing as part of prevention efforts.
- SSPs referred clients for housing (51% of referrals), substance use services (30%), and general medical services (22%) among others.
- SSPs distributed more than 13,000 Naloxone kits in 2025 (including via Yale’s Harm Reduction Vending Machine), with over 1,600 overdose reversals. The number of kits distributed has varied by year depending on available funding. While SSPs have contributed to very low HIV diagnosis rates, the population still has higher risk levels for HCV and overdose.
- Next steps include using data to identify new locations, and completing a pilot (started in April 2026) to reduce syringe litter.

Participants asked the following questions:

- Brittany Shumpert asked if the syringe return rate has increased? Ramón noted that the rate has increased; SSPs are doing well in having clients return syringes.
- William Morales asked about trends in Hepatitis C (HCV) diagnoses. Lara Cushman (DPH) noted that DPH has not had an HCV epidemiologist for several years, which has limited the reporting of accurate data.
- Africka asked if geographic data was available at the zip code level? Ramón shared data by planning region (CT is not using counties anymore), but data is not available at the zip code level.
- William asked if towns resist having SSPs? Ramón stated that this is usually not an issue; programs can move to a different neighborhood or do home visits.
- Ruth asked about whether there will be more Narcan trainings? She participated in a training two years ago, but there has been much staff turnover since then. Ramón recommended contacting him or DPH to arrange a training. Peta-Gaye noted that the City of Hartford also conducts trainings.

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- Brittany asked about how to get a harm reduction vending machine in Hartford? Ramón will share the DMHAS contact, and noted that it is a very involved process requiring multiple approvals. Natalie Kil (Yale Van) offered to share their experience, and Peta-Gaye noted that the City of Hartford is also exploring options with Hartford Hospital. Ramón stated that Mark Jenkins from the CT Harm Reduction Alliance is also working on this.

Peta-Gaye thanked Ramón for a great presentation.

NEXT STEPS

- QPM staff will post the SSP presentation to the [CHPC website](#).

MEETING FEEDBACK

Participants completed a meeting feedback form:

- Participants gave the meeting a grade of A (93%) and B (7%).
- 100% reported that they understood the meeting information and materials.
- 100% reported that the meeting felt inclusive and respectful of all voices.

Open-ended responses included:

Liked Best	Improve Future Meetings
• Great presentation by Ramón — informative • # SSP Presentation • The energy & conversational tone of Ramón's presentation • The Presentation • The SSP's presentation. Ramón did a fantastic job! • The presentation • Ramón's presentation was excellent. We need more presentations like that. • The presentation by Ramón • Data presentation was informative • I appreciate the presentations at each meeting. They are very informative. • Very detailed • Data presentation • Discussions • Always engaging • Ice breaker in the beginning + open feeling to share ideas	• More presentations on QI projects • Not an improvement — just an encouragement to continue ice breakers. • The committee is perfect. • [could not read one response]

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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