

Ric Miles- Chair & Bre Azanedo-Vice Chair

Bergen/Passaic TGA Planning Council

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

6:00pm – 8:00pm

ATTENDANCE

Planning Council Commissioners	Present/Absent	Planning Council Commissioners	Present/Absent
Bre Azanedo	A	Deeanne Hackett	A
Anjettica Boatwright	X	Michelle Harvey	X
Abraham Corsino	X	Jayden Jackson	X
Manuel Delgado	X	Edward Marshall	X
Jerry Dillard	X	Ric Miles	X
Doris Ezomo	A	Robert Schaefer	X
Donna Gioffre	X	Marc Scott	X
Thaisha Gonzalez	A	Monique Springer	X
Sara Grajeda	A		
		Recipient Staff	
Thomas Rodriguez-Schucker	P	Milagros Izquierdo	A
Sara Seaburg	P	Phillip Velazquez	A
		Maricela Marin	A
Guests			
Kerwin Sherward, Graz Ferreira, Ray Welsh, Horace Tyler Jr.			

- Moment of Silence** – The Planning Council Chair, **Ric Miles**, called the meeting to order and led a moment of silence.
- Welcome by the Chair** – The Chair welcomed members and guests and read the Mission Statement and Open Public Meeting Act Statement into the record.
- Roll Call** – Support staff conducted roll call and documented attendance and conflicts of interest. Voting members, guests, and Planning Council support staff were identified. Quorum was established.
- Public Comments and Emerging Trends** (*Discussion, all matters in this item are information only*)
This is a period devoted to comments and discussion by the public about items listed on this agenda. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been included specifically on the agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person.
 There were none.

5. Report of the Chair (*For possible action*)

Mission Statement

We strive to identify all individuals living with HIV/AIDS or at risk of HIV infection in Bergen and Passaic Counties and provide access to prevention, continuous care, and support services.

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Ric Miles provided an overview of Planning Council activities and highlights, including:

- Notification that a HRSA site visit was recently conducted, during which Planning Council operations were reviewed.
- Emphasis that Planning Council work directly informs Ryan White Part A activities through the PSRA process.
- Reminder of the annual Mark B. Award nomination process and encouragement to submit nominations through the Planning Council website or directly to the Chair.

6. Review & Approval of Minutes – February 3, 2026 Planning Council Meeting

Marc Scott made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2026 Meeting and Monique Springer seconded the motion

For (9) Boatwright, Corsino, Dillard, Gioffre, Harvey, Jackson, Miles, Scott, Springer

Against (0)

Abstain (3) Delgado, Marshall, Schaefer

7. Program Update & Recipient's Report

Support staff gave the following update:

- A risk-based quality assurance monitoring process is underway.
- Selected subrecipients will receive onsite monitoring visits.
- Exit interviews are scheduled, with the full monitoring process expected to conclude by the end of May 2026.

8. Department of HIV, STD & TB Services Report

It was noted that the department has recently undergone a name change to the Department of Substance Use and Syndemic Services (DSUSS).

Planning Council support staff will update agenda language accordingly.

No formal Part B report was provided at this meeting.

9. NJ HIV Planning Group (NJHPG) Update

Ric Miles provided the NJHPG update, including:

- The next NJHPG General Assembly meeting scheduled for April 16, 2026, in Trenton.
- Information on NJHPG subcommittees and opportunities for non-members to participate.
- Notification that the Planning Council will contribute to statewide reporting once the local needs assessment process progresses.

10. Planning Council Training – New Member Orientation

Support staff presented a New Member Orientation Training, covering:

- History of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
- Purpose and role of Planning Councils under HRSA legislation
- Required Planning Council membership categories and consumer representation requirements
- Roles and responsibilities of Planning Council Commissioners
- Committee structure, including Steering Committee and Strategic Planning & Assessment (SPA) Committee
- Meeting schedules, attendance requirements, and training expectations

Clarifications were provided regarding attendance requirements for Commissioners versus at-large

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committee members. Future trainings were announced, including governance, bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, PSRA, data use, and HRSA-mandated assessments.

11. Business Items (For possible action) The chair will review business items and address any possible actions related to the item.

- **Review of Planning Council Action Timeline (PCAT) – April 2026**

Support staff reviewed the PCAT, confirming that required HRSA activities remain on schedule, including committee reporting, awards processing, and member orientation.

- **Receive reports of standing committees**

Strategic Planning & Assessment (SPA) Committee Report was presented, highlighting:

- Review and approval of prior SPA minutes
- Confirmation that Planning Council activities remain aligned with legislative requirements
- Updates on statewide integrated HIV prevention and care planning
- Overview of upcoming needs assessment activities
- Discussion of policy issues including SNAP benefits and Medicare

- **Review and resolve parking lot items**

There are none

- **Review and Discuss New Planning Council Applications**

There were no new applications to review

12. Announcements and Emerging Trends (*Discussion, all matters in this item are informational only*)

A discussion occurred regarding emerging trends impacting clients, including:

- Concerns related to Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding and potential federal and state changes
- SNAP benefit theft and reductions, including strategies to educate clients on card security
- Delays in ADAP and related benefit processing, resulting in medication access gaps
- Impacts of housing funding transitions affecting Bergen-Passaic providers under the New York City HOPWA administration
- Increase in new HIV diagnoses, including younger populations
- Challenges in accessing psychosocial support and peer services for newly diagnosed individuals

13. Public Comments and Emerging Trends

- Rebranding of the New Jersey AIDS Walk under The Red Collective
- Upcoming fundraising and awareness events, including an April 16, 2026 kickoff event

14. Adjournment

Jerry Dillard made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Donna Gioffre seconded the motion.

For (12) Boatwright, Corsino, Delgado, Dillard, Gioffre, Harvey, Jackson, Marshall, Miles, Schaefer, Scott, Springer

Against (0)

Abstain (0)


Ric Miles (Jul 17, 2026 17:19:12 EDT)

Jul 17, 2026

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