

Ric Miles- Chair & Bre Azanedo-Vice Chair

Bergen/Passaic TGA Planning Council

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Attendance

Planning Council Commissioners	Present	Absent	Planning Council Commissioners	Present	Absent
Bre Azanedo	P		Dan Smith	P	
Anjettica Boatwright	P		Monique Springer	P	
Abraham Corsino	P				
Manuel Delgado		O			
Doris Ezomo	P				
Thaisha Gonzalez	P				
Sara Grajeda		O			
Deeanne Hackett	P				
Michelle Harvey	P				
Edward Marshall	P				
Ric Miles	P				
Robert Schaffer	P				
Marc Scott	P				
PC Support Staff			Recipient Staff		
Thomas Rodriguez-Schucker	P		Milagros Izquierdo		O
Deryk Jackson	P		Phillip Velazquez		O
			Maricela		O
P= Present Absent = O					
Guests – Jayden Jackson, Mallory Ware, Wendy Henderson, Jerry Dillard, Gloria Price, Jennifer Montoya, Barbara McGoey, Jeannette Rodriguez, Graziela Ferreira, Piero Rodriguez, Shemetra Hall, Ray Welsh					

- Moment of Silence** – Ric Miles opened the meeting with a moment of silent reflection.
- Welcome by the Chair** – Ric Miles welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and talked about the importance of taking this time to reflect on work of the Planning Council through the year.
- Roll Call** – Support staff took roll call and established a quorum.
- Public Comments and Emerging Trends** - There was discussion regarding potential funding cuts for Ryan White and MAI programs, with Jerry emphasizing the need to plan for such scenarios. Ric mentioned ongoing conversations with state leadership about these issues. Thomas clarified that MAI funds for the 25-26 grant year have not been reduced. Anjettica Boatwright made a motion to approve the minutes from February 4, 2025 and Deeanne Hackett seconded the motion.

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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5. Review of Minutes: April 1st, 2025 Meeting (For possible action)

Monique Springer made a motion to accept the minutes from April 1, 2025 and Anjettica Boatwright seconded the motion.

For: (11) Azanedo, Boatwright, Corsino, Ezomo, Hackett, Harvey, Miles, Schaefer, Scott, Smith, Springer

Against: (0)

Abstain: (2) Gonzalez, Marshall

6. Report of the Chair (For possible action)

- The Chair reminded attendees that nominations for the Mark Bengé Award are accepted year-round. Ric reported on the planning council's status, noting they have 22 Commissioners and 36 unaligned consumers, with a need to maintain the 33% federal mandate for unaligned consumers. He also gave a summary of the Project Officer that he attended, and mentioned the virtual meetings are due to the partial awards that have been received which have been reduced funding at this time.

7. Program Updates and Collaboration with the Recipient's Office

- Thomas updated the group as the recipient's office was not in attendance. They've received 1.5 million in formula and a hundred \$148,000 MAI funds for a total of 1.735 million. He has also reached out to Dr. Joaquim and Horizon Dental to work on scheduling a meeting concerning dental issues.
- There was also a discussion on the possible funding issues with the final award expected in October and how the TGA will handle processing all of the contracts and spending that down in time for the end of the grant year.

8. Department of HIV, STD, and TB Services (DHSTS) Report (Inclusive of Part B)

There wasn't a representative to give an update, but Ric had information he shared:

He provided updates on HIV, STD, and TB services funding, noting that only 25% of CDC grants will be funded due to lack of federal leadership, with no communication from the Department of Health or CDC. He mentioned an upcoming emergency meeting at 12:30 the next day, which is open to everyone, to discuss these funding issues and potential advocacy efforts. He also discussed the need for advocacy at the local level and mentioned that some prevention programs may need to be ended due to lack of funding, while others may be funded for only a year.

9. New Jersey HIV Planning Group (NJHPG) Update

There was no update.

10. Planning Council Training – How Needs Assessments Inform the Priority Setting & Resource Allocation (PSRA) Process. This training included the following:

- An Overview
- What is a needs assessment
- Why needs assessment matter
- Connecting needs to PSRA
- An example of impact
- Promoting equity
- The role of PC members

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11. Business Items (for possible action)

- **Review of Planning Council Action Timeline (PCAT)** – Support staff presented the PCAT for June 2025 and all tasks are on target.
- **Receive Reports of Standing Committees**
Strategic Planning and Assessment Committee – Anjettica Boatwright reported on the SPA committee's activities, including elections of co-chairs and preparation for the PSRA process, including plans to conduct needs assessments with TGA clients. gather feedback. Special studies and needs assessments are currently on hold pending final funding details. The meeting concluded with training on the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, including funding sources and program impact.
- **Review and resolve parking lot items** – The committee put the Town Hall into the parking lot for further discussion.
- **Receive award from HRSA/HAB for grant year** – Only a partial award has been received, this item will be reviewed once the final award is received.

12. New Business

- **Commissioner Spotlight – Abraham Corsino** – He was not available
- **Planning Council Evaluations** – support staff shared the link and QR code for the meeting evaluation for.

13. **Announcements and Emerging Trends** – Deeanne announced upcoming lunch and learns for nursing students and RAY promoted the Ocean Grove Health Retreat with extended early bird pricing. Jerry and Jayden shared job openings at the CAPCO Resource Center and Ism Foundation respectively. The next meeting was confirmed for July 8th as an evening meeting month.

14. **Public Commends and Emerging Trends** – There were no additional comments at this time.

Adjournment – Anjettica Boatwright made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Deeanne Hackett seconded the motion.

For: (13) Azanedo, Boatwright, Corsino, Ezomo, Gonzalez, Hackett, Harvey, Marshall, Miles, Schaefer, Scott, Smith, Springer

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

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