NEW HAVEN / FAIRFIELD COUNTIES
RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL

Roberta Stewart & Chris Cole, Co-Chairs

Planning Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	Thursday, June 4, 2026
Start Time:	10:30am
End Time:	12:00pm
Location:	Burroughs Community Center & Zoom
Presiding Chair:	Chris Cole
Recorder:	Sara Seaburg

Summary of Committee Business Votes

- Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes

(1.0) Moment of Silence

Chris called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. A moment of silence was observed in recognition of all who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

(2.0) Welcome and Introduction.

Chris welcomed everyone and requested that all Planning Council and guests introduce themselves, their town within the EMA and their Planning Council leadership role, if applicable.

Co-Chair Announcements
Christopher Cole announced the upcoming HRSA site visit scheduled for the following week. Planning Council leadership and Executive Committee members will participate in entrance and exit meetings and related sessions throughout the review process. Co-chairs were encouraged to attend the in-person sessions at the New Haven Health Department.

Discussion focused on the scheduling conflict created by the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) meetings planned for September. Since the Resource Allocation meeting would occur on the same day as regularly scheduled Planning Council activities, Executive Committee recommended canceling the September Planning Council meeting.
During discussion, members recognized that the Executive Committee and Membership/Finance Committee meetings would also conflict with PSRA activities.

Anthony Santella made a motion to cancel the Quality Improvement Strategic Planning & Assessment Committee meeting, the Membership/Finance Committee meeting and the Planning Council meeting in September and Joanne Montgomery seconded the motion.

For: (12): Burdick, Cole, Datcher, Davis, Johns, McNair, McNeil, Montgomery, Namias, Pennacchia, Santella, Stewart
Against: (0)
Abstain: (0)

(3.0) Community Input

There was none

(4.0) Approval of May 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

Joanne Montgomery made a motion to approve the May 15, 2026 meeting minutes and Gloria McNeil seconded the motion.

For: (9): Burdick, Cole, Datcher, Davis, Johns, McNair, Namias, Pennacchia, Stewart
Against: (0)
Abstain: (3) McNeil, Montgomery, Santella

(5.0) Planning Council Committee Reports

Quality Improvement and Strategic Planning Committee (QISPA)

Anthony Santella gave the following report:

1. We voted on and approved the minutes from May 7, 2026.
2. We also reviewed the Planning Council Activity Timeline (PCAT). This tells us what activities the committee is responsible for completing each month. All activities are right on target.
3. Mitchell presented the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan and a letter of concurrence was approved by the committee:
   Chris Cole made a motion to approve the letter of concurrence by the Planning Council for the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan.

   For: (11): Burdick, Cole, Datcher, Davis, Johns, McNair, McNeil, Montgomery, Pennacchia, Santella, Stewart
   Against: (0)
   Abstain: (1) Namias

4. We reviewed progress on the EMA Needs Assessment Survey, which concluded with more than 500 complete responses.
5. We identified three survey questions as particularly important for the upcoming PSRA process:
   - Services consumers need but cannot obtain
   - HRSA-funded medical services needed to remain healthy
   - HRSA-funded support services needed to remain healthy
6. We discussed the Assessment of the Efficiency of the Administrative Mechanism and there were concerns about the process and the collaboration between staff and the recipient's office. There will be an Executive Committee meeting to review the process and staff will send a doodle poll to identify the best day/time.
7. We discussed updates to a timeline for planning council activities and updated the PCAT appropriately and talked about a triennial needs assessment and potential follow-up studies.
8. Members were reminded that the July 28 Data Review Meeting would be held virtually and would serve as a critical preparation step for the September Priority Setting and Resource Allocation process. All Planning Council members and interested stakeholders were encouraged to attend.

Membership/Finance Committee (M/F)

There was no meeting held in June.

(6.0) Recipient's Office Report

Ella Pluchino gave the following report:

- The Recipient's Office continues final preparations for the HRSA site visit. Final agendas would be distributed to stakeholders and providers, and providers were being reminded to share consumer focus group information with eligible clients.
- She announced receipt of the final FY2026 Ryan White Part A grant award. Key highlights included:
  a. Total FY2026 award: approximately $5.398 million
  b. FY2025 award: approximately $5.311 million

c. Increase of approximately $87,000 over the previous year

Members expressed appreciation that the award was received in a single allocation rather than through multiple partial awards as had occurred previously. Recipient staff reported that subrecipient award letters had already been issued, allowing contracting processes to move forward more quickly.

(8.0) New/Old Business

- **Planning Council Training**
  GY27 Resource Allocation Process
  Staff presented the training which included the following:
  1. The purpose of resource allocation
  2. Data driven decision making
  3. The PSRA process as a bigger picture
  4. Regional equity and directives
  5. Federal requirements and compliance

(9.0) Community Input

Members discussed potential impacts of emerging Medicaid work requirements and ongoing federal policy developments. Discussion focused on possible effects on people living with HIV, including:

- Eligibility concerns for Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Potential exemptions for medically frail individuals.
- Increased reliance on Ryan White services if Medicaid coverage is lost.
- Impacts on ADAP capacity and Part B resources.
- Potential increases in demand for substance use and mental health treatment services.

Members emphasized the need to monitor developments closely because changes could affect future service needs, planning assumptions, and resource allocation decisions.

(10.0) Announcements

- Christopher Cole announced the upcoming New Haven Black Pride celebration.
- Roberta Stewart announced Danbury Pride activities, including a City Hall flag raising and community celebration.
- Kasima Geter announced StayWell's new LGBTQIA+ support group, Circle of Pride, beginning June 17.
- Joanne Montgomery announced Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project Pride Bingo in Norwalk.

(11.0) Parking Lot Items

There are none

(12.0) Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at pm

Attendance Record – 2026

	Council Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Sept	Oct	Nov
1.	Jeremie Burdick	X	A	X	X	X	X			
2.	*Christopher Cole PC Co-Chair*	X	X	X	X	A	X			
3.	Brian Datcher	X	A	X	X	X	X			
4.	Libra Davis	X	A	X	X	X	X			
5.	Kasima Geter	X	X	X	X	X	A			
6.	Christopher Johns	X	X	X	X	X	X			
7.	LaTonya McNair	X	X	X	X	X	X			
8.	Gloria McNeil	X	X	X	A	X	X			
9.	Joanne Montgomery	X	X	X	A	X	X			
10.	Mitchell Namias	X	A	X	X	X	X			
11.	Ruth Pennacchia	X	A	X	X	X	X			
12.	Richard Radocchia	A	X	A	X	X	A			
13.	Anthony Santella	X	X	X	X	X	X			
14.	*Roberta Stewart PC Co-Chair*	X	X	X	X	X	X			
15.	Keith Taylor	-	-	-	-	-	-			
16.	Sophie Walton	X	X	A	X	X	A			
	Ryan White Office	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Planning Council Staff	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	% of Council present:	85%	67%	83%	72%	88%	88%			

Guests: Unique Williams, Sofia Swaby, Jen DeGraca, Jean Brown, Denese Smith Munroe, Afrika Hinds, Nitza Agosto, Laura Adams