Meeting Notes

Participants:	Sam Bowens, Marianne Buchelli, Tom Butcher, Johanna Cruz, Gina D'Angelo, Michel Daud, Makayla Dawkins, Christina Del Vecchio, Luis Diaz, Nilda Fernandez, Clunie Figaro, Ruth Garcia, Miguel Gonzalez, Nola Hanrahan, Tawana Hart, Sarah Hendon, Venesha Heron, Sue Major, Mukhtar Mohamed, Erika Mott, Consuelo Muñoz, Mitchell Namias, Dustin Pawlow, Cairo Romaguera, Christine Simon, Meg Thornton, Vin Valdez, Jennifer Vargas, Melinda Vazquez-Yopp

Facilitator:	Peta-Gaye Nembhard	**Recorder:** Dave Bechtel

Meeting Summary

- **Quality Improvement (QI) Projects**. The team reviewed an updated list of current and recent quality improvement (QI) projects, and set initial priorities for topics to feature at the October 2023 Quality Summit and for future QI projects (see pages 2-5 for details).

- **Draft Monitoring Plan**. The team reviewed the draft Monitoring Plan that QPM developed last year to monitor implementation of the 2022-2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan, and discussed ways to pilot-test our monitoring approach (see pages 5-6 for details).

Identified Tasks

1. Dave will follow up with the MAC Committee to discuss efforts to improve engagement of CHPC members with lived experience (including people living with HIV and people taking PrEP).

2. QPM participants can send additional QI projects and/or updates to the QI Projects Listing to Dave.

3. Dave will follow up with the NAP Committee on potential housing presenters for the Quality Summit.

Welcome and Introductions

QPM chair Peta-Gaye Nembhard welcomed everyone to the Quality and Performance Measures (QPM) Team at 11:04 am. QPM focuses on data in order to end the HIV epidemic and related epidemics. QPM reviews and discusses data, develops indicators to track our progress in HIV prevention and care, and helps improve the quality of HIV prevention and care.

Ms. Nembhard briefly reviewed the 2023 QPM Workplan. Last month, QPM had a data presentation from Ramón on HIV testing, and next month Luis Diaz will present on PrEP data. This month, QPM is focusing on quality improvement and monitoring Plan implementation.

Ms. Nembhard reviewed ground rules for QPM meetings:

- Given the large number of participants, please **share the floor** so everyone has a chance to speak. During team discussions, please use the chat or raise your hand. Our goal is for all team

members to have opportunities to share their perspectives and insights, and we'll use different methods including polls to get feedback from everyone during our meetings.

- QPM addresses complex data issues with lots of acronyms and jargon. So **please ask questions** if an acronym or term is not clear. For future data presentations, if we run out of time for all questions to be answered, QPM staff will send the questions to the presenter and share their responses via email with the team.

- QPM will continue to use a **Parking Lot** to keep track of any topics that arise which aren't part of today's agenda. We can address these topics at future meetings.

- If possible, please turn your camera on so we can see everyone, and please mute yourself during presentations and when you are not speaking.

Participants then introduced themselves in the chat and approved the February QPM meeting notes without changes.

Quality Improvement (QI) Projects

Ms. Nembhard noted that in January, QPM reviewed an initial list of Quality Improvement (QI) projects, and made revisions to the list. The team will review the revised list and then discuss projects to feature at our Quality Summit – scheduled for October 18th.

Dave reviewed the revised Quality Improvement (QI) Project listing. The main updates from the January handout include:

- Revised the QI project topics for several projects, per feedback at the January meeting.

- Added QI projects for the five regions in Ryan White Part A New Haven / Fairfield Counties. Note that two regions are still in the process of finalizing their projects.

- The list does not include new QI projects for Ryan White Part A Hartford – these are still in development.

- The chart on page 1 is color-coded by Ryan White Part and region.

- There may also be some double-counting of projects for an agency that is funded through several Ryan White Parts. Dave asked participants to share any updates to the listing.

In the chat, Nilda Fernandez noted: "That's a pretty impressive list of QI projects in Connecticut." Sue Major and Sarah Hendon agreed.

Ms. Nembhard asked participants to complete a poll on the **topics to highlight at QPM's annual Quality Summit**, which is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18. Dave noted that Zoom polls only allow for 10 responses, so participants can list additional topics in the chat. The top poll results were:

- PrEP (58%)

- Disparities (50%)

- Retention in Care (46%)

- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) (46%)

- Viral Load Suppression (46%)

In the chat, Ms. Fernandez suggested **housing** as an additional topic, noting that CCMC/UConn Health could share data from creative ways that accessed emergency housing for youth and women during the pandemic. Conseulo Muñoz agreed. Ms. Nembhard stated that the Needs Assessment Projects (NAP) committee is also focusing on housing, and may know of additional projects. In the chat, Ms. Fernandez shared additional information on the **annual housing conference** sponsored by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, or CCEH (see sidebar for details). NAP is looking to partner with CCEH and may be included on the agenda for CCEH conference.

In the chat, Tom Butcher recommended that agencies share **stratified data** as part of their QI presentations. It's important to understand the results for different population groups as well as the overall results. Dave agreed, noting that QI presentations can address multiple topics (e.g., viral load suppression and disparities).

> **THE 20th ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE**
> **Wednesday, May 17**
> The Connecticut Convention Center
> 100 Columbus Boulevard   Hartford, CT 06103
>
> We will look back at 20 years of building the homeless response system and look ahead to what challenges might arise in the future and how we can meet them together.
>
> Pre-Event Rates:
> CCEH Member* – $120 per registration.
> Non-Member – $150 per registration.
> Students* – $75 per registration.
>
> Day-of Rates (After 3:00PM May 10th):
> All Persons – $175 per registration.

Ms. Nembhard encouraged participants to consider presenting at the Quality Summit and/or identifying projects that we should highlight at the Summit. Dave noted that presentations that resulted in lessons learned (including what didn't work) are valuable to share. Participants shared the following projects:

- In the chat, Luis Dias suggested a presentation on Chat 4 Change. Mr. Diaz will check on whether they can present on on their PrEP demonstration project.

- Ms. Nembhard stated Angelique suggested a presentation by Dr. Villanueva on their Hepatitis C project.

- Ms. Fernandez encouraged agencies that conducted STI projects (see handout) to present.

- In the chat, Johanna Cruz noted that Optimus is working on developing projects to increase client participation with regard to dental care, PrEP, and viral load suppression.

- Ms. Buchelli noted that Dr. Virata (Yale University) may also be able to present on PrEP.

- Ms. Major stated that Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE) is also engaged in PrEP. Sarah Hendon (PPSNE) can check with her colleagues and see what they can share.

- Mitch Namias noted that at the CHPC meeting, Anthony Santella referenced a PrEP project led by Gary Spinner, where they are calculating PrEP-to-need Ratios for metropolitan areas in Connecticut.

- Ms. Nembhard suggested that Journey Home recently presented on changes in the homelessness system; maybe they could present at a CHPC meeting or at the Quality Summit.

Ms. Nembhard noted that QPM's charge includes working with Ryan White partners to roll out **future QI projects** that address areas where we need to make more progress as a state. Participants first completed a poll to identify their top priority for future projects. The top priorities were:

- PrEP (33%)

- Housing (25%)

- Disparities (17%)

- STIs (8%)

- Viral Load Suppression (8%)

- Retention in Care (8%)

Ms. Nembhard stated that for housing QI projects, there are still substantial differences in how Ryan White and HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) assess housing stability. Ryan White Hartford has conducted trainings for staff from both sectors, but there is much still to do to integrate the two systems (which have different regulations, policies and procedures, and data systems). Ms. Fernandez noted that there are different housing programs (e.g., emergency, HOPWA, supportive housing), and suggested QI projects focus on the continuum of housing rather than a single program.

Ms. Nembhard stated that they have also struggled to define a common housing stability measure that will work for both systems. In the chat, Ms. Buchelli noted that CCEH has dashboards for different housing programs. CCEH uses the data dashboards and makes them publicly available on their website. Examples include Coordinated Access Networks (CAN), appointment outcomes and referrals, equity, the Point in Time homeless count, and youth count. Sue Major suggested that Amber Freeman from CCEH present the indicators that they use. In the chat, (Dave is familiar with these dashboards from other Cross Sector projects.)

Ms. Fernandez also suggested promoting a QI project for **engaging consumers / people with lived experience on planning bodies**. The CHPC and the Planning Councils have struggled with this. How can we improve our processes? Ms. Nembhard suggested engaging MAC (the Membership and Awareness Committee); they have approaches for connecting with members. Another issue is holding meetings during the day, during work hours. Ms. Fernandez suggested the CHPC attendance rule ("3 strikes") could also be a challenge. Does the Hartford Ryan White Planning Council have a similar policy? Ms. Nembhard wasn't sure of the exact policy, but noted that the Planning Council does reach out the members who are not attending meetings. Sometimes the issues are health-related.

In the chat, Ms. Buchelli noted that HRSA and the CDC are both focused on community engagement: "The Division of HIV Prevention (DHP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will convene its next HIV Prevention and Care Priorities – Regional Virtual Community Engagement Town Hall on March 30, 2023, from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM EST/AST with HHS Regions 1 and 2. The Town Hall will provide a venue for discussion and collaboration focused on barriers to and opportunities for improving HIV diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and outbreak response." Ms. Major suggested working with MAC, perhaps by surveying members. Dave agreed to follow up with MAC on their current process. Ms.

Fernandez argued that QPM take the lead. In chat, Mr. Butcher noted that QPM already has much on its plate, and Ms. Nembhard agreed. Ms. Nembhard also noted that CIRA (Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at Yale University) has agreed to assign representatives to all the committees – and can help us coordinate efforts across committees. Christine Simon is the CIRA rep on QPM.

Ms. Fernandez stated that she will continue to advocate for a community engagement presentation at the Quality Summit. Where are we successful? Where are we not successful? "Community engagement is critical to health and prevention outcomes...nothing happens (correctly) without the voice of the people who need or receive the services." Ms. Nembhard agreed on the importance of consumer engagement – noting her work training consumers on quality – but suggested MAC as the best committee to address. Ms. Fernandez and Mr. Butcher agreed to disagree on this. In the chat, Mr. Butcher noted: "Of course Nilda and MAC should be lit on fire about engagement. In your role, with your power as CHPC co-chair and a member of the Executive Committee, I hope you advocate this as strongly with MAC as you are here." Ms. Fernandez replied: "You bet I will continue to advocate as I've always done in serving infants, women, children and youth in my role as a medical case manager for the past 20+ years." [Lots of "hearts" for both in the chat.]

Dave noted that **PrEP** was the highest priority for future QI projects (on the poll), and asked if there were opportunities for agencies to conduct QI projects related to PrEP. There was only one PrEP project on the listing of current QI projects. Ms. Buchelli stated that with the implementation of status neutral care, more Ryan White-funded agencies will be offering integrated approaches that incorporate prevention and PrEP. The new Ryan White Part B grant also includes funding for prevention.

Before moving to the next agenda topic, Ms. Nembhard asked about finalizing the decisions on topics to address at the **Quality Summit**? Dave noted that the **April CHPC meeting** will feature a presentation on Connecticut's epidemiological profile, so it may make sense to revisit after the team has seen the latest data.

Monitoring Plan Implementation

Ms. Nembhard noted that at the February meeting, QPM did not have time to review the approach that QPM developed last year to monitor implementation of the 2022-2026 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan. Dave will first share QPM's recommendations and then the team can discuss how to pilot-test this monitoring approach.

Dave shared the draft Monitoring Plan that QPM developed in August 2022 (see meeting handout for details). QPM would pilot-test this approach for the January – June 2023 time period.

Timing of Federal Feedback. Mr. Butcher noted that the CDC and HRSA will be providing feedback on the 2022-2026 Plan shortly. Given the lack of concurrence across all partners, we may need to update the Plan, which could impact what strategies to monitor. Ms. Buchelli stated that in her meeting with their federal project officer, HRSA and the CDC have not event scheduled a meeting yet to discuss Connecticut's Plan. So it could be a while before we receive feedback. In the chat, Gina D'Angelo suggested that we move forward in the interim; it took months to get feedback on the prior Plan. Ms. Nembhard agreed; we can pivot if needed but should move forward. Ms. Major and Ms. Fernandez also agreed. Mr. Butcher will also check on the timing on his project officer call next week.

Pilot-Test Options. Dave shared a very-early draft that attempts to operationalize the pilot-test covering Plan implementation over the first six months of 2023. The pilot-test would include:

- Collecting and compiling existing reports to federal funders (e.g., Ryan White reports to HRSA, Prevention reports to CDC, data summaries).

- Holding follow-up meetings with "leads" to compile implementation updates for specific strategies (e.g., message campaigns, routine testing toolkit, PrEP / PEP expansion) – which would include CHPC committees, DPH (Department of Public Health), Ryan White leads, and agencies directly implementing specific strategies (e.g., housing).

Participants provided the following feedback on the pilot-test:

- Mr. Butcher suggested creating a QPM handout with details and fewer acronyms / jargon. For example, spelling out CLAS standards as Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services.

- In the chat, Ms. Fernandez suggested adding CCEH as a lead for housing efforts.

- Ms. Nembhard asked participants to consider which reports and data they already have, and would be helpful in compiling the monitoring updates. For your jurisdiction, what existing reports / summaries / documents / dashboards would be helpful?

Next Steps

Ms. Nembhard thanked everyone for their participation. The April QPM meeting will feature a presentation on PrEP data by Luis Diaz.

Due to time constraints, Ms. Nembhard adjourned the meeting without requesting feedback.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

##End QPM Notes##