

Central Florida HIV Planning Council

Service Systems Planning & Quality Committee

Annual Report - October 2025 – June 2026

The Central Florida HIV Planning Council

The Central Florida HIV Planning Council serves as a vital community voice and strategic steward for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, uniting lived experiences, clinical expertise, and community advocacy to ensure equitable, life-saving care across the region. Operating through the dedicated focus of both the Membership and Engagement Committee and the Service Systems Planning & Quality (SSPQ) Committee, the Council works tirelessly to eliminate barriers to care, uphold high standards of service delivery, and direct critical federal and state resources where they matter most.

The Service Systems Planning & Quality Committee

During the 2025–2026 calendar year, the SSPQ Committee navigated both systemic policy hurdles and regional healthcare needs with agility, rigorous oversight, and an unwavering commitment to health equity. The following report outlines the five cornerstone achievements accomplished by the SSPQ Committee this year—ranging from emergency resource reallocations that preserved direct medication access for thousands of local residents to the collaborative finalization of our multi-year strategic roadmap for Central Florida.

SSPQ Committee Achievements:

(1) The Service Systems Planning & Quality (SSPQ) Committee Members reviewed the utilization of funds and made recommendations for the following budgets to ensure proper money allocation, based on the prioritization list approved by the council and the actual immediate needs of the HIV community.

- Part A – Monthly Expenditure Report and Quarterly Utilization Report
- Part B - Monthly Expenditure Report
- Part B - General Revenue Monthly Expenditure Report
- Planning Council Support (PCS) Quarterly Expenditure Report

(2) The SSPQ Committee responded quickly to understand the ADAP Program change scheduled to take effect in March 2026, focusing on how the revised eligibility standard—reducing the qualifying income level from 400% to 130% of the federal poverty level—would affect clients across the region. The Committee worked to assess the scope of the change and its potential consequences for the local HIV service system, including the fact that approximately 1,600 clients in Central Florida would lose access to medication support which included medication such as Biktarvy® and other wraparound medications that community members have relied on. Florida fully restored the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) medication funding and eligibility limits back to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) as of July 1, 2026, following the state budget signed by Governor Ron DeSantis.

Current Status of Florida ADAP:

1. **Funding & Eligibility:** The Florida Budget added \$75 million in state funding, returning income eligibility limits back up to 400% FPL (approx. \$63,840 annually for a single individual) and averting prior dramatic restrictions.
2. **Medication Formulary:** Essential direct-dispense medications—including key antiretrovirals like Biktarvy and Deskovic—have been fully restored to the formulary without previous restrictive prior authorizations.

3. **Unresolved Gaps:** Health insurance premium assistance (the Premium Plus program) remains discontinued by the state pending an independent review scheduled for January 2027, leaving participants to rely strictly on direct medication dispense or copay/deductible assistance rather than full premium coverage. Also, advocates continue the fight against enrollment caps to the program.

(3) Orlando Service Area (OSA) HIV Service Standards are the established rules and minimal levels of care required for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program services in the Central Florida region. The SSPQ Committee reviewed and provided initial recommendations and updates to the following four (4) Service Standards:

- Substance Abuse Residential Services
- Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services
- Oral Health Services
- Medical Case Management

(4) The SSPQ Committee received, discussed, and made recommendations on important items that were reflected in documents such as:

- 2025-2026 Workplan
- 2025-2026 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM)
- EMA Annual Retention & Viral Suppression Report
- Planning Council Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Data Presentation, Priority Settings. and Resource Allocation Processes

(5) The SSPQ Committee received updates, discussed, and made recommendations on the Integrated Plan Community Engagement Activities, the HIV Care Needs Survey, and the draft of the 2027-2031 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan for Orlando Service Area. After months of working as a team with the entire council and David Cavalleri PhD, an outside consultant from The AIDS Institute, the 2027-2031 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan for Orlando Service Area was submitted on schedule and with the team's approval.

Greatest Lesson

As we look to the horizon, our mission continues to evolve alongside the community we champion. And after this past year, we agree that the greatest lesson we learned was understanding that, specifically as it relates to funding, anything can change at any time. Two amazing realizations came about after this past year's ADAP Program changes:

- *We realized that as the Central Florida Region, we are resilient.* It does not matter if you are HIV positive or negative, if you are a provider or a client or community, and it doesn't matter who you work for or with – when we needed to come together to develop a solution, we did. And that was amazing to witness.
- *The need for contingency plans is imperative.* Contingency planning must be built within the services we offer as well as the funding we assign each service. It is important to be prepared with some ideas of what we would do should state-wide changes in funding are instituted without notice.

The Next Journey & Thank You

In embracing this future, the SSPQ Committee proudly transitions into our focused identity as the Service Systems Planning (SSP) Committee, and we warmly welcome the launch of the dedicated Needs Assessment Committee to deepen community engagement and data-driven care. This vital work would not have been possible without the passion, insight, and selflessness of our current members.

As Chair of the 2025-2026 SSPQ Committee, I want to express my deepest, most sincere gratitude to every individual—past and present—who has contributed to the SSPQ committee and whose dedication now enriches other vital council spaces. Your leadership has built a more equitable, responsive system of care across Central Florida, and together, we will continue moving forward with unity, compassion, and purpose.

2025-2026 Council Members:

Paolo Mancini (Chair), Jules Smith (Vice-Chair), Alelia Munroe, Angie Buckley, Charlie Wright, Glorybee Nuñez, Iradarnell Westbrook, Jessica Seidita, Mike Alonso, Monika Trejos Kweyete, Nino Franklin, Rene Cotto-Lewis, and Tim Collins.