



Evaluation Quality Assurance & Planning Committee Meeting

October 8, 2026 | 11:00 AM | Zoom

Facilitator(s): Jackie Clarke, Co-Chair, Natasha Ramalagan, Co-Chair, & Saundra Rangel, Co-Chair

Attendees: Alex Ramirez, Charlotte Kiehn, Hazel Holyman, Ilemir Otazia, Jackie Clarke, Matthew Price, Michelle Peaslee, Miranda Talley, Natasha Ramalagan, Rashiemah Birks, Saundra Rangel, Sherry Gizzarelli, Yenichel Ruan, Tiffany Harris (HCSEF), Renette Villanois (HCSEF), Emily Carmichael (HCSEF)

Excused Absences: Channel Bonner, Carrie Hollinger, Eric Martinez

Minutes

Introductions & Moment of Silence

- S. Rangel called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM and welcomed the group.
- S. Rangel conducted roll call, and then led a moment of silence.

Evaluation Quality Assurance Updates *led by Saundra Rangel, Co-Chair*

Review and approval of EQA agenda and previous meeting minutes

- J. Clarke motioned to approve the EQA agenda as distributed, and C. Kiehn seconded the motion. Y. Ruan motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes as distributed, and C. Kiehn seconded the motion.

EQA Discussion

- **Review and Update of Quality Assurance Plan Goals and Performance Indicators and Ryan White Report**

- R. Villanois screenshared the summary report regarding key performance indicators developed by C. Hollinger. R. Villanois explained that quarter 3 numbers are still being finalized, but she shared current progress on the four indicators:
 - Viral load suppression increased from 59% in Q1 to 63% in Q3 to date.
 - Antiretroviral therapy (ART) use increased from 80% in Q1 to 84% in Q3 to date
 - Medical visit frequency increased from 6.5% in Q1 to 45% in Q3 to date
 - Annual syphilis screening increased from 3.6% in Q1 to 12% in Q3 to date.

- **Ryan White Services Report (RSR)**

- S. Rangel reported that the team is preparing its Ryan White Services Report (RSR) submission that is due at the end of the year. She explained that they are working to address incomplete or missing data, noting that HRSA permits no more than 5% missing data, while the team aims to keep the rate at 3% or less.
- As previously reported, the Ryan White reporting year runs from January through December and includes Ryan White clients who have received at least one core service during the reporting period.
- S. Rangel shared the following RSR data updates:
 - Total clients increased from 646 in July to 714 clients in September 2026. Of those 714 clients, 704 had established core medical services.

- Medical Case Management increased from 469 clients in July to 572 clients in September 2026.

• **Linkage to Care Updates**

- R. Villanois screenshared a summary report for the September 2026 Linkage to Care data created by Y. Ruan. Linkage to Care data is determined by residents' ZIP Code, regardless of where the diagnosis was made. Y. Ruan reported:
 - Of the eight newly diagnosed individuals, six were linked to care, one was lost to follow-up, and one declined care. Y. Ruan explained that staff planned to allow some time before conducting additional outreach to the latter two individuals.
 - Seven of the individuals were residents of St. Lucie County, and one was a resident of Okeechobee.
 - Of 20 previously diagnosed individuals, 13 were retained in care, one was re-engaged in care, three were incarcerated, and two could not be located.
 - Additionally, 22 individuals had positive HIV status, six individuals were in AIDS status, and 13 individuals had suppressed viral loads.
 - Y. Ruan recapped additional metrics by sex, race, and age groupings for those who were newly diagnosed in September and individuals who had been previously diagnosed.
 - No further questions were raised.

• **Open Discussion**

- The group discussed the increase in clients attending medical visits during Quarter 4, noting that it aligns with historical patterns of visits occurring in both the first and second halves of the year.
- No additional items were shared for open discussion.

Planning Updates *led by Sandra Rangel, Co-Chair*

• **Review and approval of the Planning agenda and previous meeting minutes**

- J. Clarke motioned to approve the Planning agenda and meeting minutes as previously distributed, and C. Kiehn seconded.

• **Planning Discussion**

• **Needs Assessment Updates**

- R. Villanois reported that HCSEF completed the survey analysis, incorporating 276 responses into the final results.
- R. Villanois summarized Needs Assessment updates from previous meetings:
 - Secondary data collection and analysis were completed using publicly available sources, including Florida Health CHARTS and local epidemiologic profiles.
 - Five key informant interviews were analyzed to understand provider perspectives on Area 15's HIV prevention and care system.
 - Three focus groups (two in person and one virtual) have been held to date for people living with HIV who reside in or receive HIV care in Area 15.
- R. Villanois announced two upcoming virtual focus groups in English, scheduled for October 13 and October 21, 2026. The sessions are open to people who live in or receive care in Area 15, with outreach focused on residents of Indian River and Okeechobee Counties and younger males living with HIV. T. Harris shared a promotional flyer in the chat, and the group was encouraged to spread the word.

- R. Villanois announced that the Needs Assessment findings will be presented via Zoom on October 28, 2026, at 12:00 PM and 6:30 PM. T. Harris shared a promotional flyer in the chat, and the group was encouraged to register, attend, and spread the word.
- R. Villanois and E. Carmichael thanked everyone who helped ensure that residents living with HIV could share their perspectives through the survey or focus groups.
- **HIV Prevention Activities**
 - M. Price shared that Project Response is a local provider based in Brevard County which is part of Area 7. He noted that Project Response has a provider in the Sebastian area of Indian River County. M. Price highlighted that Project Response is available to collaborate with Area 15 partners on mobile testing and can also support outreach and community engagement activities, including weekend events such as Pride celebrations.
 - T. Harris reported that Operation Hope in Fellsmere, Florida (within Indian River County) is open to hosting partner organizations that provide HIV testing or education services. She shared that they hold regular food distribution events serving over 150 residents, providing an opportunity to expand community outreach.
 - Regular after-hours testing is available through DOH-St. Lucie and DOH-Martin:
 - 1st Tuesday of the month from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM (16401 SW Farm Rd, Indiantown, FL 34956)
 - 3rd Monday of the month from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM (3441 SE Willoughby, Stuart, FL 34997)
 - 4th Friday of the month from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM (1701 S. 23rd Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34950)
- **Provider Updates**
 - No additional provider updates were shared.
- **Open Discussion**
 - Pastor H. Holyman shared that In the Image of Christ has hosted Red Ribbon Sunday on the first Sunday of December for the past five years in recognition of World AIDS Day on December 1. She explained that the ribbons honor people living with or affected by HIV. Pastor H. Holyman noted that the organization engages churches throughout Area 15 and beyond by contacting local pastors and providing ribbons for congregants. Dr. Bonnie Hill, In the Image of Christ's faith and community liaison, leads the effort. More than 2,000 ribbons were distributed in 2025, with plans to distribute even more this year.

Closing and Adjourn

- S. Rangel thanked the partners for joining.
- J. Clarke motioned to adjourn, and N. Ramalgan seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:27 PM.