

**Ending the Epidemic/Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Planning Body**  
**Ryan White Office of Support**  
1310 Prairie Street, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77002  
832 927-7926 | [www.rwpchouston.org](http://www.rwpchouston.org)

STATUS-NEUTRAL SYSTEMS AND DIAGNOSE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

4 p.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2024—This first meeting is virtual only

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8899837982>

Meeting ID: 889 983 7982

Or, join by telephone at: 346 248-7799

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| I.   | Welcome  | Kathryn Fergus and<br>Rodney Mills, Co-Chairs           |
|      | A. State who will facilitate today's meeting   |   |
|      | B. Introductions   |   |
| II.  | Brief Description of the EHE/Integrated Plan   | Tori Williams, Director<br>Ryan White Office of Support |
| III. | Roles, Responsibilities & Overall Process  | Tori Williams   |
|      | A. Co-Chairs, Staff & Leadership Team  |   |
|      | B. Members of Data and Evaluation Committees   |   |
|      | C. Process for 2024:   |   |
|      | ➤ Review the goals   |   |
|      | ➤ Add members?   |   |
|      | ➤ Use former Task Force membership lists?  |   |
|      | ➤ Create inventory of resources related to the goals,<br>especially mainstream resources |   |
|      | ➤ Justify editing or giving goals away   |   |
|      | ➤ Educate, educate, educate (data, speakers & more)                                      |   |
|      | ➤ After much education, take action  |   |
|      | D. Document progress for Leadership Team (see next page)                                 |   |
| IV.  | Review Goals   | Kathryn Fergus and<br>Rodney Mills, Co-Chairs           |
| V.   | Assign Tasks & Set Date for Next Meeting   | Kathryn Fergus and<br>Rodney Mills, Co-Chairs           |
| VI.  | Adjourn  |   |

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# Ending the Epidemic/Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Planning Body

Agenda/Documentation of Progress for Status-Neutral Systems and Diagnose Committee—Page 2  
4 p.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2024

NEXT MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUMMARY OF MEETING (over if more space is needed):

DECISIONS MADE & TASK ASSIGNMENTS:

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chelsea Frand, Staff Member

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Status-Neutral Systems and Diagnose Committee

**Goal 1A:** Increase individual knowledge of HIV status by diagnosing at least 90% of the estimated individuals who are unaware of their status within 5 years.

**Goal 1A.1:** Encourage status awareness through increased screening, diverse non-stigmatizing campaigns, improved hiring practices, and updated accessibility in historically marginalized communities in Houston and Harris County.

## Key Activities

- Extend health center hours and/or partner with healthcare systems to demonstrate consideration for persons seeking services outside traditional hours.
- Explore a collaborative routine opt-out initiative with hospital emergency room providers outside a policy requirement.
- Add five nurse-operated mobile units offering extended hours and bundled services (e.g., sexually transmitted infection [STI], hepatitis C, pre-exposure prophylaxis [PrEP], non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis [nPEP], body mass index assessment, glucose testing, immunizations, service linkage, partner services, etc.) to dispatch across Houston and Harris County.
- Implement at minimum a yearly multilingual health education and promotion campaign empowering ALL sexually active Houstonians and Harris Countians to insist on initial and routine rescreening for HIV.
- Prioritize hiring a diverse and representative staff whom people can trust to administer status-neutral services.
- Pilot HIV and STI home testing kits and develop a protocol for timely, status-neutral follow-up, and quarterly evaluation to improve the service delivery.
- Re-establish an annual testing for tickets (e.g., "Hip Hop for HIV") event.
- Conduct outreach efforts in screening locations near identified areas (e.g., college campuses, barber and beauty shops, shopping centers, and recreational centers) through ongoing partnerships with community leaders and gatekeepers.

# Status-Neutral Systems and Diagnose Committee

## Goal 1A—*Continued*

**Goal 1A.2:** Advance legislative and non-legislative policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels to aid the End the HIV Epidemic initiative.

### Key Activities

- Educate policymakers on the need for a statewide mandatory offering of routine opt-out testing.
- Revise policies that institute county-wide age-appropriate comprehensive sexual education that empowers youth to make informed decisions about their health.
- Advance county-wide policy modifications that require HIV testing and access to care for all arriving persons involved with the justice system and retest prior to facility release with enough medication and linkage to care if need determined.
- Update local policies and procedures to implement an electronic automated reminder system and/or modify existing options to send annual screening reminders.

- Conduct provider detailing (e.g., obstetrician/gynecologist, general practitioner, gerontologist) to promote internal policy changes to incorporate universal screening as a standard practice.

**Goal 1B:** Using the status-neutral approach, develop *X* number of Rapid Start programs in order to increase the capacity of the public health healthcare delivery systems and healthcare workforce in order to improve HIV-related health outcomes of the individuals being tested.