

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council
Office of Support
1310 Prairie Street, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77002
832 927-7926 telephone; <http://rwpchouston.org>

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Houston Ryan White Planning Council

Copy: Glenn Urbach, Ryan White Grant Administration
Mauricia Chatman, Ryan White Grant Administration
Francisco Ruiz, Ryan White Grant Administration
Tiffany Shepherd, The Resource Group
Sha'Terra Johnson, The Resource Group
Diane Beck, Ryan White Office of Support

Email Copy Only:

Mark Pepler, HRSA
Commander Rodrigo Chavez, PACE
Jason Black, Ryan White Grant Administration
Marlene McNeese, Houston Health Department
Charles Henley, Consultant

From: Tori Williams, Director, Ryan White Office of Support

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Re: Meeting Announcement

We look forward to seeing everyone at your first Council meeting of 2024. To make quorum, we need 14 people to meet in-person at **Bering Church** in the Montrose area. We will be providing sandwich trays to those who have a medical need. Others are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. Please contact Rod ASAP to RSVP, even if you cannot attend so we know if we can make quorum. Rod can be reached at: 832 927-7926 or by responding to her email reminders.

Ryan White Planning Council Meeting

12 noon, Thursday, February 8, 2024

Meeting Location

Online or via phone: Click on the following link to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/995831210?pwd=UnlNdExMVFFqeVgzQ0NjNkpieXlGQT09>

Meeting ID: 995 831 210 Passcode: 577264

Or, use the following telephone number: 346 248-7799

In Person: Bering Church, 1440 Harold St, Houston, Texas 77006. Use the parking lot behind the church on Hawthorne Street and **use the code that was given to Council members only to enter the building.**

Thank you.

HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL



We envision an educated community where the needs of all persons living with and/or affected by HIV are met by accessible, effective, and culturally sensitive health and psychosocial services that are part of a fully coordinated system.

The community will continue to intervene responsibly until the end of the epidemic.

The Houston Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) Ryan White Planning Council will improve the quality of life and advocate for those living with and/or affected by HIV by taking a leadership role in the planning and assessment of HIV resources.

AGENDA

12 noon, February 8, 2024

Meeting Location: Online or via phone

Click on the following link to join the Zoom meeting:

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- I. Call to Order
- A. Welcome, Moment of Reflection
- B. Brief Introductions by all 2024 Council Members
- C. Adoption of the Agenda
- D. Approval of the Minutes
- E. People First Language
- Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair
Ryan White Planning Council
- Titan Capri, he/him/his,
Co-Facilitator, Project LEAP,
and Member, RWPC
- II. Public Comments and Announcements
- (NOTE: If you wish to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, please sign up on the clipboard at the front of the room. No one is required to give his or her name or HIV status. All meetings are audio taped by the Office of Support for use in creating the meeting minutes. The audiotape and the minutes are public record. If you state your name or HIV status it will be on public record. If you would like your health status known, but do not wish to state your name, you can simply say: "I am a person living with HIV", before stating your opinion. If you represent an organization, please state that you are representing an agency and give the name of the organization. If you work for an organization, but are representing yourself, please state that you are attending as an individual and not as an agency representative. Individuals can also submit written comments to the Council Secretary who would be happy to read the comments on behalf of the individual at this point in the meeting. The Chair of the Council has the authority to limit public comment to 1 minute per person. All information from the public must be provided in this portion of the meeting. Council members please remember that this is a time to hear from the community. It is not a time for dialogue. Council members and staff are asked to refrain from asking questions of the person giving public comment.)
- III. Reports from Committees
- A. Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee
- Item: 2022 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan*
- Recommended Action: FYI: Most committees & workgroups for the 2022-26 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Planning Body will be meeting in February 2024. Please see Tori if you wish to join a group or see the list of meeting dates. See the attached list of co-chairs.*
- Kenia Gallardo, she/her/hers &
Robert Sliepka, he/him/they,
Co-Chairs

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>B. Affected Community Committee
 <i>Item:</i> Road 2 Success
 <i>Recommended Action:</i> FYI: The Committee hosted a Road 2 Success event at Corder Place, thanks to the assistance of Cecilia Ligons, a case manager at Corder Place. The residents were enthusiastic and appreciated the service information. Three additional Road 2 Success events have been scheduled in the next couple of weeks.</p> | <p>Johnny Deal, he/him/his and
 Carol Suazo, she/her/hers,
 Co-Chairs</p> |
| <p>C. Quality Improvement Committee
 No report</p> | <p>Tana Pradia, she/her/hers, and
 Pete Rodriguez, he/him/él,
 Co-Chairs</p> |
| <p>D. Priority and Allocations Committee
 No report</p> | <p>Peta-gay Ledbetter, she/her/hers,
 and Rodney Mills, he/him/his
 Co-Chairs</p> |
| <p>E. Operations Committee
 <i>Item:</i> 2024 New Member Orientation & Mentor/Mentee Meeting
 <i>Recommended Action:</i> FYI: Verbal update on the Jan. 18, 2024 New Member Orientation and the Mentor/Mentee Meeting.</p> <p><i>Item:</i> 2024 Council Orientation
 <i>Recommended Action:</i> FYI: Verbal update on the 2024 Council Orientation, which was hosted by the 2023 Operations Committee on Thursday, January 25, 2024.</p> <p><i>Item:</i> Youth Group
 <i>Recommended Action:</i> FYI: The Council hosted a Dec. holiday party for the Youth Group. The case managers had never seen all of the youth come together and felt that it was a great team building event for them. The youth welcome the monthly HIV educational information provided by the Council and appreciate the support.</p> | <p>Cecilia Ligons, she/her/hers and
 Crystal R. Starr, she/her/hers,
 Co-Chairs</p> |
| <p>IV. 2024 Council Activities</p> <p>A. Petty Cash Memorandum
 B. Open Meetings Act Training Memorandum
 C. 2024 Timeline of Council Critical Activities</p> | <p>Tori Williams, she/her/hers,
 Director,
 Office of Support</p> |
| <p>V. Report from the Office of Support</p> | <p>Tori Williams, she/her/hers</p> |
| <p>VI. Report from Ryan White Grant Administration</p> | <p>Glenn Urbach, he/him/his
 Manager</p> |
| <p>VII. Report from The Resource Group</p> | <p>Sha'Terra Johnson, she/her/hers
 Health Planner</p> |

VIII. Medical Updates

Shital Patel, MD, she/her/hers
Baylor College of Medicine

IX. New Business (**During Virtual Meetings, Reports Will Be Limited to Written Reports Only**)

- A. AIDS Educational Training Centers (AETC) Shital Patel, she/her/hers
- B. Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D
- C. HOPWA Megan Rowe, she/her/hers
- D. Community Prevention Group (CPG) Kathryn Fergus, she/her/hers
- E. Update from Task Forces:
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)
 - African American Sha'Terra Johnson, she/her/hers
 - Latino
 - Youth
 - MSM
 - Hepatitis C Steven Vargas, he/him/él
 - Project PATHH (Protecting our Angels Through Healing Hearts)
formerly Urban AIDS Ministry
- F. HIV and Aging Coalition Skeet Boyle, he/him/his
- G. Texas HIV Medication Advisory Committee
- H. Positive Women's Network
- I. Texas Black Women's Initiative Sha'Terra Johnson, she/her/hers
- J. Texas HIV Syndicate Steven Vargas, he/him/él
- K. END HIV Houston

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment

* ADAP = Ryan White Part B AIDS Drug Assistance Program
** TDSHS = Texas Department of State Health Services

HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL



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The Houston Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) Ryan White Planning Council will improve the quality of life and advocate for those living with and/or affected by HIV by taking a leadership role in the planning and assessment of HIV resources.

MINUTES

12 noon, Thursday, December 14, 2023

Meeting Location: Bering Church, 1440 Harold Street, Houston, TX 77006 and Zoom teleconference

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle, Vice Chair	Servando Arellano	Tonia Vaxter, Harris Health System
Josh Mica, Secretary	Rosalind Belcher	Shabaura Perryman, Merck
Kevin Aloysius	Tony Crawford	Jim Osburn, Thera Technologies
Caleb Brown	Daphne L. Jones	Paulina Avila Martinez, SBCHC
Titan Capri	Roxanne May, excused	G. Rendon
Johanna Castillo	Diana Morgan	
Robert “Bobby” Cruz	Oscar Perez	
Kathryn Fergus	Faye Robinson	
Kenia Gallardo	Megan Rowe, excused	
Ronnie Galley	Imran Shaikh	STAFF PRESENT
Dawn Jenkins	Crystal Starr, excused	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Peta-gay Ledbetter		Glenn Urbach
Cecilia Ligons		Mauricia Chatman
Rodney Mills		Francisco Ruiz
Shital Patel		
Tana Pradia		<i>The Resource Group</i>
Paul Richards		Sha’Terra Johnson
Pete Rodriguez		
Ryan Rose		<i>Office of Support</i>
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		Tori Williams
Robert Sliepka		Mackenzie Hudson
Carol Suazo		Diane Beck
Steven Vargas		
C. Bruce Turner		

Call to Order: Skeet Boyle, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. During the opening remarks, Boyle said this is the last Planning Council meeting of 2023. It has been a busy year for the

Council and for our staff. We moved from our offices of over 27 years, adjusted to a wonderful, temporary home at Bering Church, updated our Epidemiological Report, collected a significant amount of data for our next Needs Assessment, graduated 25 students from Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA and more. Speaking of graduation, please join me in thanking the volunteers who hosted the graduation ceremonies last week. Boyle then called for a Moment of Reflection.

Adoption of the Agenda: **Motion #1:** *it was moved and seconded (Escamilla, Mica) to adopt the agenda.* **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Minutes: **Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Galley, Sliepka) to approve the November 9, 2023 minutes.* **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Escamilla, Jenkins, Patel, Richards, Turner, Vargas.

Public Comment and Announcements: Evelio Escamilla, Latino Commission on AIDS, was invited by Marlene McNeese to speak at PACHA to the People about mental health and substance use among Latinos. There is a high level of stigma in mental health. There is a huge difference between what staff and clients consider readiness for treatment.

Shabaura Perryman, Merck, reminded Council members that she is the HIV community liaison and provides HIV education across the state.

Reports from Committees

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: Steven Vargas, Co-Chair, reported on the following: 2023 Needs Assessment Update: 2023 Needs Assessment data collection is taking place weekly.

S.M.A.R.T. Goals: **Motion #3:** *Approve attached, revised goals which make them S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-based) goals for the 2022-26 Houston Area HIV Plan.* **Motion Carried.** Abstention: Turner.

2022-2026 Houston Area Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan: On November 16, 2023 the CPG and the Planning Council hosted a community meeting to kick off the Ending the HIV Epidemic/Integrated HIV Planning Prevention and Care Planning body. Ronnie Galley, Lesley Williams and Shawn Flintroy, as the Co-Chairs of the Leadership Team, did an excellent job co-facilitating the meeting. Over 48 people participated in person or online, plus eight members of the CPG and Planning Council staff. Committee and Workgroup Co-Chairs were introduced and did a fabulous job competing with one another to encourage participants to sign up for their group. In December, the Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee will meet with CPG's Evaluation Committee to form the EHE/Integrated Planning body's Evaluation Committee. In January 2024, all committees and workgroups will begin to meet every other month. All committees and workgroups will report to the Leadership Team in February and continue meeting on alternate months. Please use the attached form to sign up for committee, workgroup and/or the Leadership Team. All are encouraged to participant in this important planning body hosted by CPG and the Planning Council over the next 3 years.

Affected Community Committees: Rodney Mills, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Road to Success Presentations in FY 2023: The Affected Community Committee will be hosting 5 Road to Success presentations at 5 different Ryan White funded clinics before the end of FY 2023. The theme for all of the classes will be reviewing a complete menu of services available at each agency. There will be special emphasis on Emergency Financial Assistance – Pharmacy.

Quality Improvement Committee: Tana Pradia, Co-Chair, shared the following:

Reports from the Administrative Agent – Part A/MAI*: FYI: See the attached reports from the Part A/MAI Administrative Agent.

Reports from the Administrative Agent – Part B/SS**: See the attached reports from the Part B/State Services Administrative Agent.

FY24 Standards of Care - Part A/MAI: **Motion #4:** *Endorse all changes to the FY24 Part A/MAI Standards of Care as presented on the attached summary sheet.* **Motion Carried.**

FY24 Standards of Care - Part B and State Services: **Motion #5:** *Endorse all changes to the FY24 Part B/SS Standards of Care as discussed in the presentation from The Resource Group, see attached.* **Motion Carried.** Abstention: Turner.

Priority and Allocations Committee: No report.

Operations Committee: Ronnie Galley, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Elections for 2024 Council Officers: See the attached slate of nominees for Officers of the 2024 Ryan White Planning Council and their credentials. Galley opened the floor for additional nominations; Mica nominated himself for Chair.

While ballots were being tallied Boyle presented the following certificates:

- Leadership – members of the 2023 Steering Committee
- Appreciation – members who are retiring

The following individuals were elected by ballot: Chair – Josh Mica and Vice Chair - Skeet Boyle.

Motion #6: *it was moved and seconded (Vargas, Boyle) to accept Ryan Rose as Secretary by acclamation.* **Motion carried.**

Important Dates in 2024: Please note the following 2024 in-person meetings:

- New Member Training & Mentor/Mentee Luncheon – Thurs. 01/18/24
- 10 am – 4 pm Council Orientation at III Wolfgang Puck – Thurs. 01/25/24

Report from Office of Support: Tori Williams, Director, summarized the attached report. She said that, as usual, Ryan White Committees and Council do not meet in December except for Steering, Council and Operations. January is dedicated to orienting members, hence 2024 Council and committee meetings start in February.

Report from Ryan White Grant Administration: Glen Urbach, Manager, summarized the attached report.

Report from The Resource Group: Sha'Terra Johnson, Health Planner, summarized the attached report.

Task Force Reports: Boyle said that the Council agreed not to have verbal Task Force Reports while meeting on Zoom. The Office of Support is happy to receive and distribute written reports in advance of Council meetings.

Announcements: Keep Skeet's wife in your prayers, she is getting better but insurance has been cumbersome to work with.

Adjournment: Motion: *it was moved and seconded (Sliepka, Capri) to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Williams, Director

Date _____

Draft Certified by
Council Chair: _____

Date _____

Final Approval by
Council Chair: _____

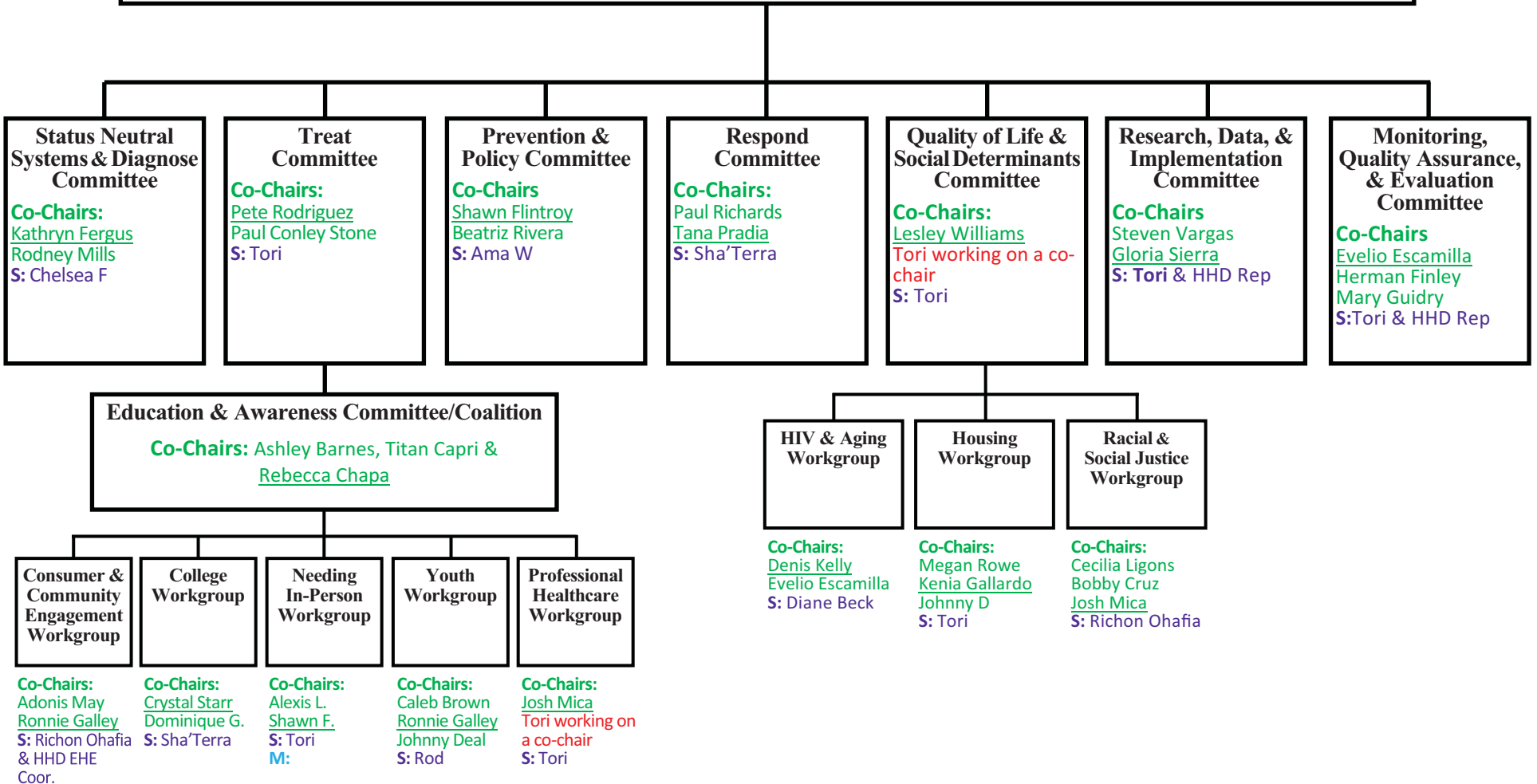
Date _____

Council Voting Records for November 9, 2023

C = Chaired the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 S.M.A.R.T. goals Carried								Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 S.M.A.R.T. goals Carried			
MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN			
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle, Vice Chair				C				C				C	Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X						X		X					
Josh Mica, Secretary		X				X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X				X					
Kevin Aloysius		X				X				X			Steven Vargas		X						X		X					
Caleb Brown		X				X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X						X				X			
Titan Capri		X				X				X																		
Johanna Castillo		X				X				X			MEMBERS ABSENT															
Robert “Bobby” Cruz		X				X				X			Servando Arellano															
Kathryn Fergus		X				X				X			Rosalind Belcher															
Kenia Gallardo		X				X				X			Tony Crawford															
Ronnie Galley		X				X				X			Daphne L. Jones															
Dawn Jenkins		X					X			X			Roxanne May															
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X				X			Diana Morgan															
Cecilia Ligons		X				X				X			Shital Patel															
Rodney Mills		X				X				X			Oscar Perez															
Shital Patel		X					X			X			Faye Robinson															
Tana Pradia		X				X				X			Megan Rowe															
Paul Richards		X				X				X			Imran Shaikh															
Pete Rodriguez		X				X				X			Crystal Starr															
Ryan Rose		X				X				X			Carol Suazo															

Leadership Team

Co-Chairs: Ronnie Galley (RWPC), Lesley Williams (RW Pt B) and Shawn Flintroy (CPG)



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832 927-7926 telephone; www.rwpchouston.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Ryan White Planning Council
Affiliate Members, Ryan White Committees

Copy: Glenn Urban, Manager, Ryan White Grant Administration

From: Tori Williams, Director, Ryan White Office of Support

Date: January 25, 2024

Re: End of Year Petty Cash Procedures

The fiscal year for Ryan White Part A funding ends on February 29, 2024. Due to procedures in the Harris County Auditor's Office, it is important that all volunteers are aware of the following end-of-year procedures:

- 1.) Council and Affiliate Committee members must turn in all requests for petty cash reimbursements **at or before 2 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024.**
- 2.) Requests for petty cash reimbursements for childcare, food and/or transportation to meetings before March 1, 2024 **will not be reimbursed at all if they are turned in after March 31, 2024.**
- 3.) The Office of Support may not have access to petty cash funds between October 1 and November 15, 2024. If meetings are held in person during this time, then volunteers should give Rod the usual reimbursement request forms for transportation, food and childcare expenses, but the Office may not be able to reimburse volunteers for these expenses until early December 2024.

We apologize for what could be an inconvenience. Please call Tori Williams at the number listed above if you have questions or concerns about how these procedures will affect you personally.

(OVER FOR TIMELINE)

March 1

2023.....

Beginning of
fiscal year 2023

Feb 23

2024.....

Turn in all
receipts

Feb 29

2024.....

End of fiscal
year 2023.

March 31

2024

Turn in all remaining receipts
for fiscal year 2023 or you
will not be reimbursed for
those expenses incurred between
March 1, 2023 and Feb. 29, 2024

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832 927-7926 telephone; www.rwpchouston.org

Memorandum

To: Members, Houston Ryan White Planning Council
Affiliate Members, Ryan White Committees

From: Tori Williams, Director, Ryan White Office of Support

Date: January 25, 2024

Re: Open Meetings Act Training

Please note that all Council members, and Affiliate Committee members, are required to take the Open Meetings Act training at least once in their lifetime. If you have never taken the training, or if you do not have a certificate of completion on file in our office, you must take the training and submit the certificate to the Office of Support before March 29, 2024. The training takes 60 minutes and can be accessed through the following link (if you have difficulty with the link, copy and paste it into Google and it should lead you to the correct area of the Attorney General's website):

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/og/oma-training>

If you do not have high-speed internet access, you are welcome to contact Rod in the Office of Support and we will help you access the information.

Upon completion of training, you will be provided with a code that is used to print a certificate of completion. Call the Office of Support with the validation code and the staff will print it for our files and give you a copy as well.

We appreciate your attention to this important requirement. Do not hesitate to call our office if you have questions.

Ryan White Planning Council 2024 Membership

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Josh Mica, Chair

Ardry "Skeet" Boyle, Vice Chair

Ryan Rose, Secretary

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Johnny Deal and Carol Suazo, Affected Community Committee

Kenia Gallardo and Robert Sliepka, Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee

Cecilia Ligons and Crystal Starr, Operations Committee

Peta-gay Ledbetter and Rodney Mills, Priority and Allocations Committee

Tana Pradia and Pete Rodriguez, Quality Improvement Committee

NEW MEMBERS

Yvonne Arizpe

Kenneth Jones

Yolanda Ross

Jay Bhowmick

Norman Mitchell

Jose Serpa-Alvarez

Johnny Deal

Bill Patterson

Mike Webb

Glen Hollis

Beatriz E.X. Rivera

Priscilla Willridge

EXPERIENCED MEMBERS

Kevin Aloysius

Denis Kelly

Pete Rodriguez

Servando Arellano

Peta-gay Ledbetter

Megan Rowe

Caleb Brown

Cecilia Ligons

Evelio Salinas Escamilla

Titan Capri

Roxane May

Imran Shaiqh

Johanna Castillo

Diane Morgan

Robert Sliepka

Tony Crawford

Shital Patel

Crystal Renee Starr

Kathryn Fergus

Oscar Perez

Carol Suazo

Kenia Gallardo

Tana Pradia

Steven Vargas

Paul Richards

HIV #LanguageMatters: Using preferred language to address stigma



Created for & by People Living with HIV

Acknowledgements:



Stigmatizing	Preferred
HIV infected person	Person living with HIV, PLHIV. Do not use "infected" when referring to a person. Use <i>People First Language</i> , which emphasizes the person, not their diagnosis
HIV or AIDS patient, AIDS or HIV carrier	
Positives or HIVers	
Died of AIDS, to die of AIDS	Died of AIDS-related illness, Died of AIDS-related complications or end stage HIV
AIDS virus	HIV (AIDS is a diagnosis not a virus - it cannot be transmitted)
Full-blown AIDS	There is no medical definition for this phrase - simply use the term AIDS, or Stage 3 HIV.
HIV virus	This is redundant; use HIV.
Zero new infections	Zero new HIV acquisitions/transmissions
HIV infections	HIV transmissions, diagnosed with HIV, PLHIV
HIV infected	living with/diagnosed with HIV, contracted/acquired HIV
Number of infections	Number diagnosed with HIV/number of HIV acquisitions
Became infected	Contracted, acquired, diagnosed with
HIV-exposed infant	Infant exposed to HIV
Serodiscordant couple	Serodifferent, magnetic, or mixed status couple
Mother to child transmission	Vertical transmission/perinatal transmission
Victim, Innocent Victim, Sufferer, contaminated, infected	Person living with HIV, survivor, warrior (Do not use "infected" when referring to a person)
AIDS orphans	Children orphaned by loss of parents/guardians who died of AIDS related complications
AIDS test	HIV test (AIDS is a diagnosis, there is not an AIDS test)
To catch AIDS, To contract AIDS, Transmit AIDS, To catch HIV	An AIDS diagnosis, developed AIDS, to contract HIV (AIDS is a diagnosis, which cannot be passed from one person to the next)
Compliant	Adherent
Prostitute or prostitution	Sex worker, sale of sexual services, transactional sex
Promiscuous	This is a value judgment and should be avoided instead use "having multiple partners"
Unprotected sex	Condomless sex with PrEP, Condomless sex without PrEP, sex not protected by condoms, sex not protected by antiretroviral prevention methods
Death Sentence, Fatal condition or life-threatening condition	A serious health issue, chronic health condition or manageable health for people who have access to care and treatment
"Tainted" blood; "dirty" needles	Blood containing HIV; shared needles, shared shringes
Clean, as in "I am clean are you?"	Referring to yourself or others as being "clean" suggests that those living with HIV are dirty. Avoid!
"a drug that prevents HIV infection"	a drug that prevents the transmission of HIV
End HIV, End AIDS	End HIV transmission, Be specific: are we ending HIV or AIDS?



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**PEOPLE
FIRST
LANGUAGE**

- **Titan Capri**

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Purpose

- This presentation will examine how the use of stigmatizing language can have a negative impact on people living with **HIV** and on **HIV** prevention and treatment.
- We will discuss how **People First Language** involves putting the person before the disease.
- Understanding how Language shapes our World and why this is important when talking with **People Living with HIV**.
- We will explore ways to use empowering language when talking with People Living With HIV and to use **People FIRST Language**

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Two Kinds of Stigma

- **External stigma:**
 - Hear from family, friends, healthcare providers, etc.
Comes from what we read or hear in the media
- **Internal stigma:**
 - Comes from self-judgment and **negative self-talk**
 - Developed by our life experiences -- with stigma, discrimination, shame, guilt



How does stigma make you feel?

- Isolated
- Shamed
- Misunderstood
- Criticized as a person and demeaned.
- Many PLHIV feel stigma is worse than the illness itself!
- Not Worthy

Why Language Matters?

- Focusing on the use of language may be the first place to start to address stigma, social exclusion, and discrimination against people living with HIV.
- Language that reinforces stigma and discrimination, repeated over years, affects health and well-being of PLHIV
 - Stigma and stress can have a negative effect on someone's quality of life
 - Can affect family, children, job
 - Stress of stigma can affect immune system
- HIV-related stigma affects prevention, being tested for HIV, makes disclosure harder

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Denver Principles

Forty years ago, as the AIDS crisis began to accelerate, a group of activists aimed to remove the stigma of the illness and asserted healthcare as a human right. Their manifesto, known as The Denver Principles, sought to remove labels such as “victims” and instead adopt a new term—“people with AIDS.”

The Denver Principles call for people living with HIV and people from affected communities across diseases and conditions to be meaningful participants in their own care and to be recognized always as people first, patients second.

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- Let's Practice!!

Using
Preferred
Language

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Stigmatizing

vs.

Preferred???

I was **infected** with HIV when I was a teenager.

Preferred: Contracted/Acquired/Diagnosed

Women are most likely to be infected with HIV through heterosexual contact.

Preferred: Women are most likely to contract HIV through heterosexual contact.

Two of my clients are **HIV infected**.

Preferred: Two of my clients are living with HIV.

Just because I'm HIV positive doesn't mean I'm promiscuous.

Preferred: Promiscuousness doesn't control the transmission of HIV.

Someone using Stigmatizing language in a social setting or place of business.

Preferred: Practice pulling someone aside after the meeting/gathering and kindly suggest that they use different terminology.

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Empowerment

Important to note:

- Terms and phrases like "living with AIDS" and "I am HIV-positive" have been empowering to many people living with HIV
- For others, these terms may not describe their experience; may feel stigmatizing
- Words and language mean different things to different people, at different times in their lives

Allow others to define themselves as they wish; always **start from a place of respect**

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What Can You Do?

- **Make the pledge to:**
 - Watch your language
 - Use preferred language
 - Use empowering terminology
 - Avoid using non-stigmatizing language and images
 - Portray people with HIV living positively, not depressed or ostracized
 - Empower yourself and others

I AM

Allow others to define themselves as they wish

Always start from a place of respect

THE H

IN HIV

QUESTIONS

I AM HUMAN

2024 Ryan White Planning Council Committee Schedule - DRAFT

(as of 01/29/23)

AFFECTED COMMUNITY

Meetings are on the second Monday after Council meets starting at **12 noon**:

February 19	July 22
March 19*	August 19
March 25	September 23
April - no mtg	October 21
May 20	November 25
June 24	December - no mtg

COMPREHENSIVE HIV PLANNING

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month starting at **2:00 pm**:

February 8	August 8
March 14	September 12
April – no mtg	October 10
May 9	November 14
June 13	December - no mtg
July 11	

OPERATIONS

Meetings are on Mondays following the Council meeting starting at **11:00 am**:

February 12	August 12
March 18	September 16
April - no mtg	October 14
May 13	November 18
June 17	December 16
July 15	

PLANNING COUNCIL

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month starting at **12 noon**:

February 8	August 8
March 14	September 12
April 11	October 10
May 9	November 14
June 13	December 12
July 11	

PRIORITY & ALLOCATIONS

Meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month at **12 noon**:

February 22	July 25
March 19*	August 22
March 28	September 26
April 25	October 24
May 23	November - no mtg
June 27	December - no mtg

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Meetings are on the Tuesdays following Council starting at **2:00 pm**:

February 13	August 13
March 19*	September 17
April - no mtg	October 15
May 14	November 19
June 18	December - no mtg
July 16	

STEERING

Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month starting at **12 noon**:

February 1	August 1
March 7	September 5
April 4	October 3
May 2	November 7
June 6	December 5
July 3	

***Joint meeting of the Affected Community, Priority and Allocations and Quality Improvement Committees.**

BOLD = Special meeting date, time or place

DRAFT

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

Timeline of Critical 2024 Council Activities

(Revised 01-29-24)

A square around an item indicates an item of particular importance or something out of the ordinary regarding the date, time or meeting location. **The following meetings are subject to change. Please check our website at <http://rwpchouston.org> or call the Office of Support at: 832 927-7926 to confirm details regarding a particular meeting.**

General Information: The following is a list of significant activities regarding the 2024 Houston Ryan White Planning Council. People living with HIV, providers and members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide public comment at any of the meetings described below. For more information on Planning Council processes or to review monthly calendars and/or meeting packets, please contact the Office of Support at 832 927-7926 or visit our website at: <http://rwpchouston.org>.

All Ryan White Council and Committee meetings will use a hybrid format after January 2024. Routinely, the Ryan White Steering Committee meets monthly at 12 noon on the first Thursday of the month. The Council meets monthly at 12 noon on the second Thursday of the month.

Thurs. Jan. 25	Council Orientation. 2024 Committee meeting dates will be established at this meeting.
Thurs. Feb. 1	12 noon. First Steering Committee meeting for the 2024 planning year.
Feb. date TBD	10 am, Orientation for new 2024 Affiliate Committee Members.
February	Integrated Planning body Committees and Workgroups start meeting. Contact the Office of Support to become a member of these groups.
Thurs. Feb. 8	12 noon. First Council meeting for the 2024 planning year.
Tues. Feb. 13	5:00 pm. Deadline for submitting Proposed Idea Forms to the Office of Support. The Council is currently funding 16 of the 28 allowable HRSA service categories. The Idea Form is used to ask the Council to make a change to a funded service or reconsider a service that is not currently being funded in the Greater Houston area with Ryan White funds. The form requires documentation that justifies why a particular service should be funded and why it is not a duplication of a service already being offered through another funding source. Anyone can submit an Idea Form. Contact the Office of Support at 832 927-7926 to request forms.
Thurs. Feb. 22	12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to approve the policy on allocating FY 2024 unspent funds, FY 2025 priority setting process and more.
March	Integrated Planning body Committees and Workgroups meet to continue working on goals. After March, Committees and Workgroups will meet every other month (May, July, September, November). Alternative months (April, June, August, October, December) the Leadership Team will meet. Contact Office of Support to become a member of these groups.
March dates TBD	EIIHA Workgroup and the Project LEAP/Proyecto VIDA Advisory Committee meet.
Tues. March 19	Joint meeting of the Quality Improvement, Priority & Allocations and Affected Community Committees to determine the criteria to be used to select the FY 2025 service categories for Part A, Part B, MAI and <i>State Services</i> funding.
Mon. March 25	Consumer Training on the How to Best Meet the Need process.
Thurs. April 4	12 noon. Steering Committee meets.

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Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

Timeline of Critical 2024 Council Activities

(Revised 01-29-24)

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Thurs. April 11

12 noon. Planning Council meets.

1:30 – 4:30 pm. Council and Community Training for the How to Best Meet the Need process. Those encouraged to attend are community members as well as individuals from the Quality Improvement, Priority & Allocations and Affected Community Committees. Call 832 927-7926 for confirmation and additional information.

Mon. April 15

10 am – 5 pm, Special workgroup meetings. Topics to be announced.

April 16-23

The following workgroups will be scheduled to meet. Call 832 927-7926 for confirmation and to receive meeting packets.

10:30 am. **Date to be announced. How To Best Meet the Need Workgroup #1** at which the following services for FY 2025 will be reviewed:

- Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Care (including Emergency Financial Assistance – Pharmacy Assistance, Local Pharmacy Assistance, Medical Case Management, Outreach and Service Linkage – Adult and Rural)
- Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Care (including Medical Case Management and Service Linkage – Pediatric)
- Referral for Health Care and Support Services
- Clinical Case Management
- Non-Medical Case Management (Service Linkage at Testing Sites)
- Vision Care

1:30 pm. **Date to be announced. How To Best Meet the Need Workgroup #2** at which the following services for FY 2025 will be reviewed:

- Health Insurance Premium & Co-pay Assistance
- Medical Nutritional Therapy (including Nutritional Supplements)
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse Treatment/Counseling
- Non-Medical Case Management (Substance Use)
- Oral Health – Untargeted & Rural

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. **Date to be announced. How To Best Meet the Need Workgroup #3** at which the following services for FY 2025 will be reviewed:

- Early Intervention Services
- Emergency Financial Assistance - Other
- Home & Community-based Health Services (Adult Day Treatment)
- Hospice
- Linguistic Services
- Transportation (van-based - Untargeted & Rural)

Thurs. April 25

12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to allocate **Part A unspent funds.**

Mon. April 29

5:00 pm. Deadline for submitting **Proposed Idea Forms** to the Office of Support. (See February 13 for a description of this process.) Please contact the Office of Support at 832 927-7926 to request a copy of the required forms.

DRAFT

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

Timeline of Critical 2024 Council Activities

(Revised 01-29-24)

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- Mon. May 13 **How to Best Meet the Need Workgroup** meets for recommendations on the **Blue Book**. The Operations Committee reviews the FY 2025 Council Support Budget.
- Tues. May 14 Quality Improvement Committee meets to approve the **FY 2025 How to Best Meet the Need results** and review **subcategory allocation requests**. Draft copies are forwarded to the Priority & Allocations Committee.

TENT: Mon. May 27 7:00 pm., Public Hearing on the FY 2025 How To Best Meet the Need results.

- Tues. May 28 2:00 pm, Special Quality Improvement Committee meeting to review public comments regarding **FY 2025 How To Best Meet the Need results**.
- Thurs. May 23 12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to recommend the **FY 2025 service priorities** for Ryan White Parts A and B and *State Services* funding.
- June or August Quality Improvement Committee reviews the results of the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism and hosts Standards of Care training.
- Thurs. June 6 12 noon. Steering Committee meets to approve the **FY 2025 How to Best Meet the Need results**.

Week of June 10-14 Dates and times TBD. Special Priority & Allocations Committee meetings to draft the **FY 2025 allocations for RW Part A and B, MAI and State Services funding**.

Thurs. June 13 12 noon. Council approves the **FY 2025 How to Best Meet the Need results**.

Thurs. June 20 12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to approve the **FY 2025 allocations for RW Part A and B, MAI and State Services funding**.

TENT: Mon. June 24 7 pm. Public Hearing on the FY 2025 service priorities and allocations.

- Tues. June 25 Time TBD. Special meeting of the Priority & Allocations Committee to review public comments regarding the **FY 2024 service priorities and allocations**.
- July/Aug. Workgroup meets to complete the proposed **FY 2025 EIIHA Plan**.
- WED. July 3** 12 noon. Steering Committee approves the **FY 2025 service priorities and allocations**.
- Thurs. July 11 12 noon. Council approves the **FY 2025 service priorities and allocations**.
- Fri. July 12 5 pm. Deadline for submitting a Project LEAP application form. See July 26 for description of Project LEAP. Call 832 927-7926 for an application form.

(continued)

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Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

Timeline of Critical 2024 Council Activities

(Revised 01-29-24)

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- Thurs. July 27 12 noon. If necessary, the Priority & Allocations Committee meets to address problems Council sends back regarding the **FY 2025 priority & allocations**. They also allocate **FY 2024 carryover funds**. (**Allocate even though dollar amount will not be avail. until Aug.**)
- Wed. July 31–Nov. 20 **Project LEAP** classes begin. Project LEAP is a free 17-week training course for individuals living with or affected by HIV to gain the knowledge and skills they need to help plan HIV prevention and care services in the Houston Area. To apply, call 832 927-7926.
- Thurs. Aug. 1 12 noon. ALL ITEMS MUST BE REVIEWED BEFORE BEING SENT TO COUNCIL – THIS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IS THE **LAST CHANCE TO APPROVE ANYTHING NEEDED FOR THE FY 2025 GRANT**. (Mail out date for the August Steering Committee meeting is July 23, 2024.)
- Mon. Aug. 19 **Consumer Training** on Standards of Care and Performance Measures.
- Fri. Sept. 6 5:00 pm. Deadline for submitting **Proposed Idea Forms** to the Office of Support. (See February 13 for a description of this process.) Please contact the Office of Support at 832 927-7926 to request a copy of the required forms.
- Mon. Sept. 23 **Consumer-Only Workgroup** meeting to review FY 2025 Standards of Care.
- Mon. Oct. 14 Operations Committee reviews the Memorandum of Understanding between all Part A stakeholders & Letter of Agreement between Part B stakeholders.
- October or November Date & time TBD. Community Workgroup meeting to review **FY 2025 Standards of Care** for all service categories.
- Thurs. Oct. 24 12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to allocate FY 2024 unspent funds.
- Tues. Nov. 19 10:00 am. Commissioners Court to receive the World AIDS Day Resolution.
- Thurs. Nov. 14 12 noon. Council recognizes all Affiliate Committee Members.
- Sun. Dec. 1 **World AIDS Day**.
- Thurs. Dec. 12 12 noon. Election of Officers for the 2025 Ryan White Planning Council.

February 8, 2024

Council Handouts

ITEM	DOCUMENTS
Memo re: Ryan White Petty Cash	1
Memo re: Open Meetings Act	2
Director's Report: Ryan White Office of Support	3
Manager's Report: Ryan White Grant Administration	4
Manager's Report: The Resource Group	5

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council
Office of Support
1310 Prairie Street, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77002
832 927-7926 telephone; www.rwpchouston.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Ryan White Planning Council
Affiliate Members, Ryan White Committees

Copy: Glenn Urban, Manager, Ryan White Grant Administration

From: Tori Williams, Director, Ryan White Office of Support

Date: January 25, 2024

Re: End of Year Petty Cash Procedures

The fiscal year for Ryan White Part A funding ends on February 29, 2024. Due to procedures in the Harris County Auditor's Office, it is important that all volunteers are aware of the following end-of-year procedures:

- 1.) Council and Affiliate Committee members must turn in all requests for petty cash reimbursements **at or before 2 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024.**
- 2.) Requests for petty cash reimbursements for childcare, food and/or transportation to meetings before March 1, 2024 **will not be reimbursed at all if they are turned in after March 31, 2024.**
- 3.) The Office of Support may not have access to petty cash funds between October 1 and November 15, 2024. If meetings are held in person during this time, then volunteers should give Rod the usual reimbursement request forms for transportation, food and childcare expenses, but the Office may not be able to reimburse volunteers for these expenses until early December 2024.

We apologize for what could be an inconvenience. Please call Tori Williams at the number listed above if you have questions or concerns about how these procedures will affect you personally.

(OVER FOR TIMELINE)

March 1

2023.....

Beginning of
fiscal year 2023

Feb 23

2024.....

Turn in all
receipts

Feb 29

2024.....

End of fiscal
year 2023.

March 31

2024

Turn in all remaining receipts
for fiscal year 2023 or you
will not be reimbursed for
those expenses incurred between
March 1, 2023 and Feb. 29, 2024

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council
Office of Support
1310 Prairie Street, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77002
832 927-7926 telephone; www.rwpchouston.org

Memorandum

To: Members, Houston Ryan White Planning Council
Affiliate Members, Ryan White Committees

From: Tori Williams, Director, Ryan White Office of Support

Date: January 25, 2024

Re: Open Meetings Act Training

Please note that all Council members, and Affiliate Committee members, are required to take the Open Meetings Act training at least once in their lifetime. If you have never taken the training, or if you do not have a certificate of completion on file in our office, you must take the training and submit the certificate to the Office of Support before March 29, 2024. The training takes 60 minutes and can be accessed through the following link (if you have difficulty with the link, copy and paste it into Google and it should lead you to the correct area of the Attorney General's website):

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/og/oma-training>

If you do not have high-speed internet access, you are welcome to contact Rod in the Office of Support and we will help you access the information.

Upon completion of training, you will be provided with a code that is used to print a certificate of completion. Call the Office of Support with the validation code and the staff will print it for our files and give you a copy as well.

We appreciate your attention to this important requirement. Do not hesitate to call our office if you have questions.

The Houston EMA Ryan White Planning Council Report

January 2024

Submitted 02-01-24

Chief Elected Official - Updates

- County Judge Lina Hidalgo appointed thirteen “new” members to the 2024 Ryan White Planning Council, with two-year terms of office starting on January 1, 2024. Two of the “new” members are former Council members, Denis Kelly and Johnny Deal.

Ryan White Office of Support - Updates

- The Director of the Office of Support had a very productive meeting with the staff at The Resource Group. This annual meeting provides an opportunity to clarify our roles, work through problems and brainstorm about better ways to work together. The Resource Group is an important partner with the Council and the opportunity to work with them is appreciated.
- Hosted by the Operations Committee, Office of Support staff organized a new member orientation that provided a review of the bylaws, policies and procedures; Robert’s Rules of Order and more. Then, new members met their committee mentors.
- Office of Support staff also worked with the Operations Committee to prepare for the half-day, all-Council orientation.
- Mackenzie Hudson resigned from the staff shortly before the December holiday. She will be working for a local agency on research project related to Substance Use Treatment. We wish her well.
- Because Mackenzie was scheduled to work on three important projects in 2024 (the Needs Assessment, EHE/Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan and a full, Epidemiological Profile), we have hired someone to work on a contract basis. We are hoping that we can keep this very talented person until the Director retires in August 2024. At that point, the new Manager can hold a job search and hire a new, full time health planner.
- Almost all EHE/Integrated Planning body committees and workgroups will be meeting for orientation in February. In March, they will be meeting again to organize and start working on their goals. Hence, the Leadership Team will meet in April to receive updates from all 16 Committees and Workgroups. Many thanks to those who have signed up to co-chair or participate on a working group, and those from the City Health Department, Ryan White Grant Administration and the Office of Support for agreeing to staff the different committees and workgroups. We truly could not take on this huge project without the support of everyone in the community.

**Houston EMA Ryan White Part A, MAI & EHE
Administrative Agency Report
February 1, 2024**

Part A Updates

- **FY 2022 Carryover Request & FY 2023 Midyear Sweep-Up Funds Contract Amendments:** Combined contract amendments that include carryover dollars and midyear adjustments were approved by Commissioners Court on 12/19/2023.
- **FY2023 Estimated Unobligated Balance:** The report was submitted to HRSA/HAB on 12/28/23, reflecting an estimated UOB of \$504,390 (3% of the total award). RWGA requested the Formula UOB penalty waiver in case the final UOB is over 5%.
 - **Subrecipient Expenditures Forecast:** Expenditure forecasts were requested from all subrecipients, and except for a few contracts, we are confident most subrecipients will spend 100% of their contract awards.
- **FY2023 Final Quarter Sweep-Up Funds:** For those contracts that are expected to come in under 100%, we are looking at one last shift of funds to subrecipients who requested additional funding in the final quarter. We'll also be shifting unspent RWGA dollars to contracts that require more funds. Both the shifting of underspending contracts and unspent RWGA funds is to ensure the overall contract award is expended to the greatest extent possible and to decrease the final UOB report to HRSA/HAB.
- **Unit Cost Rate Increases:** Several subrecipients have submitted unit cost rate increase requests to RWGA and HC Purchasing for review. If approved, the rate increases would go into effect in FY24-25.
- **FY2024 Budget:** HRSA/HAB approved both RWGA and RWPC's FY2024 budget. The budget also includes the HIV & Aging project with Baylor College of Medicine.
- **Agency Bimonthly Meetings:** RWGA held its latest round of agency bimonthly check-in meetings in January. Items discussed included but were

Glenn Urbach, Manager
HCPH/Ryan White Grant Administration Section
1111 Fannin, Houston, TX 77002
(713) 274-5790/glenn.urbach@phs.hctx.net

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

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not limited, to underspending contracts, EHE vs. RW/A billing, and contract updates.

EHE Updates

- **HRSA/HAB Comprehensive Site Visit:** HRSA/HAB completed its Comprehensive Site Visit of RWGA's EHE Grant on 01/11/24. For the most part, HRSA was impressed on how well RWGA has been managing the grant. However, they did express concern with the relatively large unobligated balances we've been carrying since the grant's inception. RWGA is implementing an aggressive FY24 spending strategy to expend all its awarded EHE funds through adding additional Rapid Start sites, providing subrecipients funds to conduct robust outreach campaigns targeting priority populations, and the expansion of EHE-related service categories.
- **Intensive EHE TA Session:** EHE staff attended a two-day intensive TA session in Atlanta hosted by HRSA/HAB. The TA focused on the last year of the 1st phase of the grant and finding innovative ways to expend all an Administrative Agent's EHE funding.

Quality Management & Improvement Updates

- Finalizing the 2024-2025 Standards of Care for publication on 3/1/24, as sponsored by the RWPC QI Committee.
- Finalizing FY24-27 CQM Plan. Once the finalized, the plan will be sent to HRSA/HAB for its review and approval.
- Conducting in-person meetings with Health Access, our new CQM consultants

RWGA Vacancies

- **Grants Management Project Coordinator (GM-PC):** Our open GM-PC has been posted online. We're in the process of reviewing applications and scheduling the first round of interviews. This is the position previously held by Eric James before his well-deserved promotion to Assistant Program Manager.

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Houston RWPC Steering Committee & Council Report

January & February 2024

Administrative Agency Update

- **Vacant Positions:** Program Monitor - Contact Tiffany Shepherd for details tshepherd@hivtrg.org
- **TRG You Tube Channel for Training and Technical Assistance:** The Channel has been created and videos are being linked and uploaded to create playlists to provide training and technical assistance resources for Subrecipients. Phase 1 will be completed by January 2024.

TRG Reports Submission:

Procurement Monthly Report

- Ryan White B (April 1 – March 31)**
 - FY 23-24 spending through November 2023 **provided 1/31/2024**
- State Services (April – August 31):**
 - FY 23-24 SS spending through November 2023 **provided 1/31/2024**

Service Utilization Quarterly Report

- State Services (September 1-August 31):**
 - FY 23-24 1st Quarter (Sept-Nov) **provided 1/31/2024**
 - FY 23-24 2nd Quarter (Dec-Feb)
 - FY 23-24 3rd Quarter (Mar-May)
 - FY 23-24 4th Quarter FINAL (Jun-Aug)
- Ryan White Part B (April 1-March 31):**
 - FY 23-24 1st Quarter (Apr-Jun)
 - FY 23-24 2nd Quarter (Jul-Sept)
 - FY 23-24 3rd Quarter (Oct-Dec) **provided 1/31/2024**
 - FY 23-24 4th Quarter FINAL (Jan-Mar)

Health Insurance Assistances Service Utilization Quarterly Report

- FY 23-24 spending through December 2023 **provided 1/31/2024**

****All reports provided to RWPC OOS***

Address: 3700 Buffalo Speedway, Suite 250, Houston Texas 77098-3799

Phone: 713-526-1016

Website: www.hivtrg.org



DSHS Funding Ryan White Part B, State Services & HOPWA Grant Updates

a. Service Categories Updates: None

b. Houston ADAP Enrollment Workers:

- Regional ADAP/Eligibility Liaison Hailey Malcolm Contact email hmalcolm@hivtrg.org
- All THMP processing dates are current.
- THMP hosted Q1 regional call for Houston/East Tx.
- All AEW vacancies in East Tx have been filled
- ADAP Liaison will provide training for all new hire AEW staff
- AEWs will now attend DSHS Fundamentals call every quarter to engage more with Care Services and stay updated on eligibility updates
- ADAP Liaisons will continue to meet bi-weekly with THMP to discuss regional strengths and weaknesses

c. Rural HOPWA & HOPWA Bridge Re-Entry Initiative (BRI) Project:

- Beginning 09/01 Allies in Hope received Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance (STRMU), and Permanent Housing Placement (PHP). The funds are allocated for clients in Ft. Bend, Walker, and Wharton.
- Access Health Clinic is no longer funded for HOPWA services as of 01/2024.

Ryan White Part D: The Positive VIBE Project (PVP) of Houston Galveston Update

- TRG will be presenting its QM/ME/Planning Collaboration To Improve Quality as part of the national HRSA Ryan White Part D Basic Training Series.
- The Positive VIBE Project will be restarting work on its Parental Support Network QI Project in March.

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TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW
CREATING A ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

TRG Community Initiatives

Trauma-Informed Care Initiative

- TRG Trauma Informed Organizational Change (TIOC) grant has ended. The funder has offered additional funding to support sustaining the Project. Reachelian and the Change Team are preparing for the workplan for the project for 2024.
- The Change Team is continuing to work on grant prep for TRG on other trauma-informed funding and projects.
- TRG is working on a Health Literacy (HL) Collaboration to expand its HL Initiative.
- Please contact Reachelian Ellison rellison@hivtrg.org, project lead, with questions.

Serving the Recently Released and Incarcerated

- TRG is conducting internal discussions in January to determine the path forward with the SIRR Partnership. Membership and productivity have decreased in recent years. TRG will meet with key community stakeholders individually in February to collect feedback and suggestions. TRG combine the results into an internal SIRR work plan for the SIRR as an outcome of the discussions being held. Meetings will resume in March on a new day and time. TRG will present the results of the discussion and the work plan for feedback from all partners at the March meeting.
- To be added to the distribution list for meeting announcements, contact Felicia Booker fbooker@hivtrg.org

Texas Black Women's Health Initiative (TxBWHI) Houston Team

- Next TxBWHI Houston Team Meeting: February 9, 2024 12:00 pm at TRG
- Contact Sha'Terra Johnson tbwihouston@gmail.com

Other: TRG and staff participate in many EMA and HSDA community groups, initiatives and programs that impacts the HIV workforce in prevention, care and support on the national, state and local levels.

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