

# Council Approved March 13, 2014

## HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL



*We envision an educated community where the needs of all HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected individuals 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 infected and/or affected with HIV/AIDS by taking a leadership role in the planning and assessment of HIV resources*

### MINUTES

12 noon, Thursday, February 13, 2014  
Meeting Location: 2223 W. Loop South, Room 416  
Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Steven Vargas, Chair	Nelson Lopez	Modelle Brudner, Liaison for County Judge Emmett
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair	Nancy Miertschin	Ramiro Hernandez
Leslie Raneri, Secretary	Kevin Moore	Camden Hallmark, City of Houston (COH)
Roland Amboree	Shital Patel	Robert Taylor, COH
Ruth Atkinson	Terrence Redix	Marlene McNeese, COH
Curtis Bellard	Cecilia Ross	Lynn Selzer, Gilead
David Benson	C. Bruce Turner	Sabrina Taylor
Bianca Burley	Nadine Wallace	Keith Dunn
Burnest Carter	David Watson	Mikel Marshall, ViiV Healthcare
Ella Collins-Nelson	Larry Woods	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
Amber David	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Rene de Buenrostro	Melody Barr, excused	Charles Henley
Chris Escalante	Michael Bass, excused	Heather Keizman
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	Skeet Boyle, excused	Carin Martin
Gene Ethridge	Paul Grunenwald, excused	
Jerry Garza	Januari Leo, excused	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Gabriel Gonzalez	Greg Monk, excused	Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley
Tracy Gorden	Teresa Pruitt	
Connie Harris	Eric Twombly, excused	<i>Office of Support</i>
J. Hoxi Jones	Tamika White	Tori Williams
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Lena Williams-Ellis	Georgette L. Monaghan

See the attached chart at the end of the minutes for individual voting information.

**Call to Order:** Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and asked for a moment of reflection. He welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting of 2014.

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

Adoption of the Minutes: ***Motion #2:*** *it was moved and seconded (Watson, Ethridge) to adopt the December 12, 2013 minutes, with the following changes: under Members change Evelio Escalante to Evelio Escamilla; on the voting chart indicate that Ben Barnet was excused and Greg Monk was present. Motion carried.*

Abstentions: Gonzalez, Harris, Wallace, Woods.

**Training:** Re-Linkage to Care: Marlene McNeese, Bureau Chief Bureau of HIV/STD and Viral Hepatitis Division Houston Department of Health and Human Services, presented the attached Power Point presentation entitled “Merck Foundation HIV Care Collaborative (HCC): The Houston Expanded Linkage to Care Initiative (ELCI)”.

**Public Comments and Announcements:** Raneri read the guidelines regarding public comment, there were no comments.

**Reports from Committees:**

**Affected Community Committee:** Gene Ethridge, Co-Chair, reported on the following: The first Affected Community Committee meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2014.

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Evelio Salinas Escamilla, Co-Chair, gave the following reports: 2014 HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment: The first draft of the 2014 Houston Area HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment report is complete, see attached. The Analysis Workgroup will meet on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the document. A meeting of the NAG to discuss the document has also been scheduled for February 20, 2014. All are welcome to attend to both meetings. The report is scheduled for review by the Steering Committee and Planning Council at their March meetings.

2014 Comprehensive HIV Planning Timetable: Several planning deliverables are scheduled for release in 2014, including an epi data update, the evaluation of the Comprehensive HIV Plan Year 2, and both the rural and CPG needs assessments, see attached milestones timetable for January 2014 – June 2014.

2013 Quarterly Committee Report: See the attached report.

**Quality Assurance Committee:** Cecilia Ross, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Waiting List Issue: The first Waiting List Workgroup meeting was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. The attached “Summary Results of the Waiting List Workgroup” was handed out and discussed. The next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. If members are interested in attending, please contact Williams to be included on the meeting distribution list.

Ryan White Health Insurance Workgroup: Bruce Turner, Chair, gave the following report:

Members were updated on local enrollment in the Affordable Care Act, the Houston area Ryan White Health Insurance Pilot Program and guidance from the Texas Department of State Health Services. The Workgroup is now on hiatus; members will be notified if/when they need to meet again. Henley stated that the State has issued an urgent request for the total number of clients with Affordable Care Act (ACA) policies receiving assistance through the local health insurance program. This is in response to a possible pilot program that would use ADAP funds to enroll ADAP clients in the Marketplace.

**Priority and Allocations Committee:** Bruce Turner, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Reports from the Administrative Agent – Part A: See the attached:

- FY 2013 Service Utilization Report, dated 01-06-14
- FY 2013 Procurement Report, dated 01-06-14

**Operations Committee:** David Watson, Co-Chair, gave the following reports:

2014 Council Orientation: Council Orientation was held on January 30, 2014. Evaluation results will be presented at the March Council meeting.

2014 Mentor/Mentee Luncheon: The 2014 Mentor/Mentee Luncheon was held on January 22, 2014. It was a successful event.

Project LEAP 2013: See the attached 2013 Project LEAP Final Report.

Project LEAP 2014: **Motion #3**: *Accept the attached Project LEAP 2014 Service Definition*; see underlined text indicating two revisions. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**2014 Council Timeline:** Tori Williams, Manager, walked members through the following, attached items:

- A. Memo regarding the end of year petty cash procedures
- B. **IMPORTANT**: Joint Meeting 11:30 a.m., Thursday, February 20, 2014
- C. Timeline of Critical 2014 Council Activities

**Report from Office of Support:** Tori Williams, Manager, summarized the attached report.

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration:** Charles Henley, Manager, summarized the attached report.

**Report from The Resource Group:** Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley, Health Planner, The Resource Group, summarized the attached report. She added that Maurice Marshall is the new Client Level Data Analyst.

**New Business:**

Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D: Miertschin reported on the following: HRSA has issued an FOA for supplemental funds for Part C; an additional FOA will soon be issued for Part D. These funds would be for one year only. In April, HRSA will conduct a Part C and D site visit with Harris Health System.

Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC), City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department: Gorden reported on the following: Please see the attached fair-housing survey that needs to be filled out and given back to the Office of Support. The Council asks that we get as many people as possible to fill out the survey. See the attached handout about Fair Housing entitled, *It's The Law*.

Community Prevention Group (CPG): Finley gave the following report: The HHPCPG held its annual orientation for returning and new members on Thursday, January 23, 2014. Two members of the CPG are also Council members: Harris and Finley. The next meeting will be from 4 – 6 pm on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at the Looscan Neighborhood Library.

**Update from Task Forces:**

**Aging:** Turner stated that this particular Task Force is not sponsored by the City Health Department. On Friday, February 21, 2014, Hadayia will give a presentation on “What services have risen to the top and are needed by individuals over 50 years of age and positive”.

**African American:** David reported on the following: February 7, 2014 the Task Force saturated the city with testing and utilization of the mobile unit. Maxine Young gave a demonstration on female condoms which was well received. Finley took pictures of all the events which will be posted on Facebook. The Task Force is launching a new website tomorrow.

**Latino HIV (LHTF):** Vargas gave the following report: The last meeting was cancelled due to weather. Members of the LHTF have been invited to participate in the Latino Commission on AIDS' Latinos in the Deep South Advocacy Day, and will be flown to Montgomery, Alabama, to assist colleagues with their efforts. The same members, all of whom participated in last year's Dennis DeLeon Sustainable Leadership Institute, will be presenting on the work accomplished in 2013 and promoting *National Latino AIDS Awareness Day*. A draft of the presentation will be review at the February LHTF meeting. The next meeting will be from 2 – 4 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2014 at the West End Multi-Service Center.

**MPACT (MSM):** Vargas gave the following report: The group discussed last year's success, and brainstormed on ideas and projects for this year. New members are always being sought, so please consider attending the next meeting if you are concerned about the rising infection rates among young gay men. The next meeting is scheduled from 7 – 8 p.m. on Monday, February 17, 2014 at The Montrose Center.

Transgender: Escalante stated that even though the Transgender Center closed in late January, the different groups are meeting in alternate locations.

Youth: Fairley-Johnson reported on the following: they will be collaborating with Baylor College of Medicine to hold an event dedicated to HIV+ Youth Linkage to Care & Retention on March 11, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the United Way. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

Hepatitis C: Vargas gave the following report: Because the January meeting was cancelled, there was no report. Meeting was cancelled. The Task Force encouraged participation in a Hepatitis C Training Workshop set for Wednesday, February 26, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Third Ward Multi-service Center – Auditorium. This is hosted by Alan Franciscus, Executive Director of [HCVAdvocate.org](http://HCVAdvocate.org), a great website for HCV materials and information. Organizations were invited to send two representatives since there are only 50 available seats. Registration is at <http://houstonprevention.com/>. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2014 from 3:00- 4:30 p.m. at the Third Ward Multiservice Center.

Syphilis: Finley stated that due to the resignation of the other Co-Chair, the Task Force will not meet until another one co-chair has been appointed.

Legislative Updates: Miertschin stated that the Medication Advisory committee will be meeting on Friday, February 21, 2014 in Austin.

SPNS Grant: HIV and the Homeless Program: Miertschin stated that this program will soon post position openings for a Medical Case Manager and two Service Linkage Workers.

Medical Updates: Dr. Patel reported on the following: During her rounds at Ben Taub Hospital she is seeing a lot of HIV positive young adults in ICU, including three neuro-syphilis cases. Groups like the Council are making a difference, but there is still a lot of work to do, especially regarding linkage to care and trying to get individuals back into care. She is seeing more young adults coming into care than ever before.

Announcements: Escalante stated that the HIV Support Group has two events scheduled this week; both are at AAMA. One is an evening event on February 13, 2014 and the other is on February 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Finley announced that today is Connie Harris's birthday and Bunny Woods will be on a Channel 13 segment highlighting his 230 + weight loss.

Henley announced that he is retiring from Harris County and his position as the Manager of Ryan White Grant Administration. His last day will be March 31, 2014. He has enjoyed working in the HIV/AIDS field, will miss the Planning Council and wishes his colleagues and friends the very best.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victoria Williams, Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Draft Certified by  
Council Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Final Approval by  
Council Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Council Voting Records for February 13, 2014

C = Chair of the meeting LM = Left the meeting LR= Left the room	Motion #1				Motion #2					Motion #1				Motion #2			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS																	
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Nelson Lopez		X				X		
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair		X				X			Nancy Miertschin		X				X		
Leslie Raneri, Secretary		X				X			Kevin Moore		X				X		
Roland Amboree		X				X			Shital Patel, 12:20	X				X			
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			Terrence Redix		X				X		
Curtis Bellard		X				X			Cecilia Ross		X				X		
David Benson, 1:00	X				X				C. Bruce Turner		X				X		
Bianca Burley, 12:12	X				X				Nadine Wallace		X						X
Burnest Carter, 12:24	X				X				David Watson		X						X
Ella Collins-Nelson		X				X			Larry Woods		X				X		
Amber David		X				X			ABSENT:								
Rene de Buenrostro		X				X			Melody Barr								
Chris Escalante		X				X			Michael Bass								
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X			Skeet Boyle								
Gene Ethridge		X				X			Paul Grunenwald								
Jerry Garza, 12:12	X				X				Januari Leo								
Gabriel Gonzalez				X		X			Greg Monk								
Tracy Gorden		X				X			Teresa Pruitt								
Connie Harris				X		X			Eric Twombly								
J. Hoxi Jones, 12:15	X				X				Tamika White								
Peta-gay Ledbetter, 12:18	X				X				Lena Williams-Ellis								

C = Chair of the meeting LM = Left the meeting LR= Left the room	Motion #3										Motion #3			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN							ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS														
Steven Vargas, Chair				C						Nelson Lopez	X			
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair		X								Nancy Miertschin	X			
Leslie Raneri, Secretary		X								Kevin Moore	X			
Roland Amboree		X								Shital Patel, 12:20	X			
Ruth Atkinson		X								Terrence Redix	X			
Curtis Bellard		X								Cecilia Ross	X			
David Benson, 1:00	X									C. Bruce Turner	X			
Bianca Burley, 12:12		X								Nadine Wallace	X			
Burnest Carter, 12:24		X								David Watson	X			
Ella Collins-Nelson		X								Larry Woods	X			
Amber David		X								ABSENT:				
Rene de Buenrostro		X								Melody Barr				
Chris Escalante		X								Michael Bass				
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X								Skeet Boyle				
Gene Ethridge		X								Paul Grunenwald				
Jerry Garza, 12:12		X								Januari Leo				
Gabriel Gonzalez		X								Greg Monk				
Tracy Gorden		X								Teresa Pruitt				
Connie Harris		X								Eric Twombly				
J. Hoxi Jones, 12:15		X								Tamika White				
Peta-gay Ledbetter, 12:18		X								Lena Williams-Ellis				