

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, April 10, 2014  
Meeting Location: 2223 W. Loop South, Room 416  
Houston, Texas 77027

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

See attached chart for individual voting information

Call to Order: Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. and thanked everyone for helping with the March Council meeting in his absence.

Vargas asked for a moment of reflection.

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

Adoption of the Minutes: **Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Turner, Finley) to adopt the March 13, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Amboree, Escamilla, Redix.

Training: 2014 Rural HASA HIV Needs Assessment: Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley Health Planner, The Resource Group, presented the attached Power Point presentation entitled: *Voices of Strengths: Linking Partnerships in HIV/AIDS Treatment*.

**Public Comments and Announcements:** Raneri read the guidelines regarding public comment; Vargas announced that each speaker could have up to three minutes for their public comment.

- Evelio Salinas Escamilla read his public comment, see attached. Vargas stated that Escamilla's comment will be sent to the Operations Committee to see if the Chair of the Council is allowed to send a letter to Ms. Wakefield.
- Lucy Trivino commented on materials that she distributed regarding Sanford-Brown College.
- Raneri read her attached written comment.
- See attached written comments from M. Giwa.

**Reports from Committees:**

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Evelio Salinas Escamilla, Co-Chair, reported on the following: EIIHA Workgroup: On March 27, 2014 the EIIHA Workgroup met, see attached summary report. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 22, 2014. Please see Monaghan to be included on the distribution list for future meeting packets. Escamilla stated that it is important that members attend these meetings.

**Affected Community Committee:** Roland Amboree, reported on the following: Committee Training: Tori Williams, Manager of the Office of Support, described the How To Best Meet the Need process and encouraged consumers and their friends to participate.

Monthly Meeting Topics: See the attached list of monthly training topics and off site meeting locations.

**Quality Assurance Committee:** Cecilia Ross, Co-Chair, gave the following reports: FY 2015 How To Best Meet the Need Training: Council members and others attended the FY 2015 How To Best Meet the Need (HTBMN) training on Thursday, April 3, 2014 as well as two HTBMN Workgroups the following Monday and Tuesday. Workgroup recommendations will be presented to the Quality Assurance Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. The meeting was changed to a Wednesday so that Project LEAP students can be in attendance.

Waitlist Workgroup: The Waitlist Workgroup met on March 25, 2014. See attached summary report. The next meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

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

- FY 2012 Chart Reviews: Primary Care and Vision Care

Reports from the Administrative Agent – Part B: See the attached reports:

- 2013 Chart Reviews: Case Management, Home & Community Based Services, Hospice, Mental Health, Oral Health, Outpatient Ambulatory Medical Care
- FY13 Procurement – RW Part B, dated 3/11/14
- 2013-14 Service Utilization – RW Part B, dated 3/11/14
- FY 2013/14 Procurement – State Services, dated 3/11/14
- FY 2013/14 Service Utilization – State Services, dated 3/11/14

**Priority and Allocations Committee:** No report.

**Operations Committee:** No report.

**Report from Office of Support:** Tori Williams, Manager, introduced Amber Alvarez, the new Health Planner for the Office of Support and she summarized the attached report.

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration:** Carin Martin, Interim Manager, summarized the attached report.

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

**New Business:**

**Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC):** Tracy Gorden stated that the the Housing Advisory Council will be meeting on May 16, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the City Housing Department at 601 Sawyer Street.

**HOPWA:** Melody Barr stated that they received a \$2 million increase in their recent grant award. Usually when an increase is allotted it means that the incidence rate (HIV to AIDS) is going up.

**Community Prevention Group (CPG):** Herman Finley stated that CPG met on March 24, 2014; discussion included: the upcoming event, formally known as "HIP HOP for HIV Awareness" and conducting the Prevention Needs Assessment, see attached information. The next meeting is on April 24, 2014.

Update from Task Forces:

- **African American:** Amber David stated that they are making condom packs for SPLASH; testing events are scheduled for 7-11, 2014. Finley stated this is one of the biggest African-American weekend events. Dena Hughes stated that surveys from the University of Pittsburg, Black Pride Project will be distributed at all SPLASH events in the seven UCHAP cities. The surveys are collecting data on multiple health issues, not just HIV. Bianca Burley stated that there is a Sanford-Brown College form on the information table. If members know of organizations that need volunteers, please fill out the form and Burley will distribute the information to students who might be interested in volunteering.
- **Latino:** Vargas gave the following report: Task Force members had a busy month. Members participated in the third Cohort of the Latino Commission on AIDS' Dennis DeLeon Sustainable Leadership Institute held in Montgomery, Alabama. They joined LULAC in celebrating their 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And, they helped promote and welcome attendees (mainly high school students) to an advance screening of the new Cesar Chavez movie. The LHTF also walked in the 15th Annual Cesar Chavez Parade on Saturday, March 29, 2014. They received a shout out from the stage at Hidalgo Park, and had our photos taken with State Representative Carol Alvarado and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. They are planning collaborations with the MPACT Task Force and the Hepatitis C Task Force in upcoming months. All are welcome to join them at their April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting for more information on these projects, and please "LIKE" them on Facebook. The Latino HIV Task Force Houston Facebook page has photos from the events mentioned above. Next Meeting: Friday, April 25, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the West End Multi-service Center (170 Heights Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77009).
- **MSM:** Vargas gave the following report: The group met and decided on items which provide more visibility for MPACT. Venues such as OKRA or La Tapatia Restaurant will be used to publicly meet and discuss HIV concerns and the MSM population, to develop hand-outs for distribution, or even making condom packs to distribute at events. Members also spoke about developing training sessions based on the ten things every gay man should ask their doctor. Plan on hearing more about these gatherings in the future since they will be open to the public to attend and participate. Next Meeting: Monday, April 21, 2014 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at The Montrose Center, (401 Branard Street, Houston, Texas 77006).
- **Transgender:** Chris Escalante stated that meetings have been held at various locations and they are working on a new website.
- **Youth:** Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley stated the next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2014, location to be determined. If someone wants to be added to the email reminder list, see Johnson-Fairley.

- **Hepatitis C:** Vargas gave the following report: The HCV Task Force is planning a series of events to promote a 5-day HCV awareness week of activities to include Univision Phone Bank promotion among other media outlets between May 1-15, and HCV testing at various agencies and locales between May 15 (*National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day*) and May 19 (*National Hepatitis Testing Day*). If a member or member's organization would like to take part in this effort, please join the Task Force at their next planning meeting. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Third Ward Multiservice Center (3611 Ennis, Houston, Texas 77004).
- **Syphilis:** Herman Finley stated that they are still on hiatus.
- **Urban AIDS Ministry:** Amber David stated that more northwest churches with black memberships are collaborating with the Hepatitis C Task Force to do testing. Paul Grunenwald stated that there is a new drug combo out for Hepatitis C and the hope is that it will be fast tracked and approved by October 2014. The drug has shown a 90% cure rate.

**Houston Aging and Positive Coalition:** At the March meeting Ella Collins-Nelson presented what the area Agency on Aging provides for people over age 60. She also provided information about a program that will assist with co-pays if one is on Medicare Part D. The April meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on the third Friday in May.

**Medical Updates:** Shital Patel, MD stated that the CROI Conference meets annually in March. It is a conference on retroviral and opportunistic infections. During the conference, there was a world-wide conference call to discuss different treatment options, the advancement of care for HIV and co-infections. There was a whole session on Prevention that included information on: PrEP, vaginal rings and medications that can be injected every three months for the prevention of HIV. Regarding the baby in Mississippi, it appears as if the child is still non-HIV. Two additional babies who were treated early are also HIV negative.

**Announcements:** Vargas stated that the Positive 713 Support Group will be meeting on Cinco de Mayo Day, at AAMA, 204 Clifton from 6-8:00 p.m. All are welcomed. Finley had several announcements and flyers with details about: 1) St. Hope Foundation's Grand Opening at their Sugar Land location; 2) Your Voice; 3) efforts to connect prevention, MSM and spirituality at a Sunday Brunch at Legacy Community Health Services Sunday on April 13, 2014. The event is free of charge and starts at 1 pm. "Sunday in the Spirit" provides live entertainment.

Gorden reminded members that on April 8<sup>th</sup> 24 years ago, the teenager, Ryan White, passed away. David asked members to review the information about the "Sharing Science Symposium" that was included in the meeting packet; an rsvp is required. On Saturday, a radio station will be sponsoring "Fit Family Expo" at Minute Maid Park from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; the cost is \$20. Dr. Patel asked members to review the attached four page document entitled: *2014 Texas STD Clinical Update*.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria "Jori" Willis  
Victoria Williams, Manager

5/1/14  
Date

Draft Certified by  
Council Chair: S. Vargas

Date 5/1/14

Final Approval by  
Council Chair: S. Vargas

Date 5/8/14 6/12/14

## Council Voting Records for April 10, 2014

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