

## 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, July 10, 2014

Meeting Location: Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church  
2025 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Houston, Texas 77008

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

See attached chart for individual voting information

Call to Order: Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and welcomed the Project LEAP students.

Vargas asked for a moment of reflection.

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

Adoption of the Minutes: **Motion #2**: *it was moved and seconded (Turner, Gonzalez) to adopt the June 12, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Leo, Monk, Twombly.

**Public Comments and Announcements:** Finley read the guidelines regarding public comment. K. Sveska stated that he would like the Council to reconsider establishing the Food Pantry service category to help those that have special dietary needs. V. Ray asked members to review the attached Positive Organizing Project (POP) training that she is spear heading. **Motion #3:** *it was moved and seconded (Raneri, Harris) to allow the Council to review M. Giwa's Public Comment later in the meeting.* Discussion: Giwa went to the Office of Support with the intent of making public comment instead of the off-site meeting location; staff member D. Beck will deliver written copies of Giwa's comments to the Council meeting as soon as possible. ***Motion carried.*** Nay: Collins-Nelson.

### **Reports from Committees:**

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

Reports from the Administrative Agency – Part A, see the attached reports:

- Houston EMA NGA Summary FY 2010 - 2014
- National Ryan White Part A Awards, FY 2012 - 2014

Reports from the Administrative Agent – Part B, see the attached reports:

- FY13 Procurement – Ryan White Part B, dated 6/23/14
- FY13/14 Procurement – State Services, dated 6/23/14

FY 2015 Ryan White Service Priorities: **Motion #4:** *Approve the attached FY 2015 Service Priorities for Ryan White Parts A and B, Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) and State Services.* ***Motion carried.*** Abstentions: Barr, Benson, Collins-Nelson, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Patel, Woods.

FY 2015 Allocations – Level Funding Scenario: **Motion #5:** *Approve the attached FY 2015 Level Funding Scenario for Ryan White Parts A and B, MAI and State Services funding.* ***Motion carried.*** Abstentions: Barr, Benson, Collins-Nelson, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Patel, Woods.

FY 2015 Allocations – Decrease Funding Scenario – MAI: **Motion #6:** *Approve the attached FY 2015 Decrease Funding Scenario for Ryan White MAI funding.* ***Motion carried.*** Abstentions: Barr, Benson, Collins-Nelson, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Patel, Woods.

FY 2015 Allocations – Increase Funding Scenario – MAI: **Motion #7:** *Approve the attached FY 2015 Increase Funding Scenario for Ryan White MAI funding.* ***Motion carried.*** Abstentions: Barr, Benson, Collins-Nelson, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Patel, Woods.

FY 2015 Allocations – Decrease Funding Scenario – Part A: **Motion #8:** *Approve the attached FY 2015 Decrease Funding Scenario for Ryan White Part A.* ***Motion carried.*** Abstentions: Barr, Benson, Collins-Nelson, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Patel, Woods.

FY 2015 Allocations – Increase Funding Scenario – Part A: **Motion #9:** *Approve the attached FY 2015 Increase Funding Scenario for Ryan White Part A.* ***Motion carried.*** Abstentions: Barr, Benson, Collins-Nelson, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Patel, Woods.

FY 2015 Allocations – Increase Funding Scenario – Part B & State Services: **Motion #10:** *Approve the attached FY 2015 Increase Funding Scenario for Ryan White Part B and State Services.* ***Motion carried.*** Abstentions: Barr, Benson, Collins-Nelson, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Patel, Woods.

FY 2015 Allocations – Decrease Funding Scenarios – Part B & State Services: **Motion #11:** *Motion 7: Approve the attached FY 2015 Decrease Funding Scenario for Ryan White Part B and State Services.* ***Motion carried.*** Abstentions: Barr, Benson, Collins-Nelson, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Patel, Woods.

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Nancy Miertschin, Co-Chair, gave the following reports:

2014 Special Studies: Office of Support staff will begin data collection for the Feasibility and Affordable Care Act enrollment special studies in June. Please see the accompanying 2014 Special Studies Timetable for additional information.

Year 2 Comprehensive HIV Plan Evaluation Workgroup: The Year 2 Comprehensive HIV Plan Evaluation Workgroup met on June 11, 2014 to review completion of the objectives, activities, and benchmarks designated for Year 2. Please see the accompanying staff recommendations regarding the Year 2 Evaluation Process. The Workgroup will meet again on July 22, 2014.

Quarterly Committee Report: Please see the accompanying Quarterly Committee report.

**Affected Community Committee:** Gene Ethridge, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Training: HIV, Stigma and Mental Health: Montrose Center representative, Keville Ware, presented the attached information about HIV, Stigma and Mental Health. He also provided the attached handout regarding AIDS Survivor Syndrome (ASS).

Ryan White Public Hearing: The June 30, 2014 Ryan White Public Hearing went well. Ethridge thanked everyone who participated.

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

2014 Community Events: See the attached list of 2014 events where the Council will have a presence.

2014 Greeters: See the attached list of greeters for the 2014 Council meetings.

**Quality Assurance Committee:** Cecilia Ross, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Waitlist Workgroup: The Waitlist Workgroup met on June 19, 2014 to review the results of two focus groups hosted by Ryan White Grant Administration, see attached summary. The next workgroup meeting will be scheduled after The Resource Group has hosted their focus groups. In the meantime, both Administrative Agencies will continue to monitor consumer complaints and waitlists.

**Operations Committee:** Ruth Atkinson, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Ryan White Petty Cash Childcare Form: FYI: See the attached, Childcare Form which reflects the Petty Cash Policy changes that were approved at the May 2014 Planning Council meeting.

**Report from Office of Support:** Tori Williams, Manager, summarized the attached report. Williams stated that, thanks to Miertschin, the Council has been invited to send two representatives to speak at a Bi-Regional meeting hosted by the US Department of Health and Human Services in Atlanta on August 12, 2014. Vargas and former Health Planner Jennifer Hadayia will describe Houston's success in integrating prevention and care planning for the *2012 Houston Area Comprehensive HIV Prevention and Care Services Plan*.

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

**Report from The Resource Group:** see attached report.

**Project LEAP Presentation:** Alvarez and the Project LEAP students presented the results of the mini needs assessments that were designed by the two classes. See the attached power point presentation for details.

Modelle Brudner announced the 15 year anniversary of Office of Support staff Diane Beck and Georgette L. Monaghan. She congratulated them and will be giving them their certificates at a later date.

**Public Comment:** Giwa's public comment arrived and was distributed and reviewed by Planning Council members.

**New Business:**

Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D: Nancy Miertschin stated that HRSA is doing some restructuring. As a result, Part C will be included in a different geographic region and have a different Project Officer; this should not affect the Planning Council. The Part C continuation application is due on July 21, 2014. No Part D updates.

Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC): No report.

HOPWA: No report.

Community Prevention Group (CPG): Herman Finley stated that everyone is really busy helping with Houston HITS Home, the city-wide testing effort.

African American Task Force: Herman Finley said that, along with Houston HITS Home, there will be testing at the "Annual TRE' Day" Celebration at NRG stadium and a local Houston rapper will be performing as a way of giving back to his community on his birthday.

Latino HIV Task Force (LHTF): Steven Vargas reported that LHTF members held the "Entre Hombres - Guy Talk" men's health event on June 12, 2014. Education on various topics was provided as well as snacks and beverages. Various raffle items were given away, and the Task Force debriefed to discuss what worked and what did not work. Preliminary discussions are being held related to the upcoming National Latino AIDS Awareness Day on October 15, 2014. If anyone would like to be a part of the planning sessions, please attend the next Task Force meeting. And please "LIKE" LHTF on Facebook. The Latino HIV Task Force Houston Facebook page has photos from recent events. Next Meeting: Friday, July 25, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the West End Multi-service Center, 170 Heights Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77009.

MPACT (MSM): Steven Vargas stated that MPACT Task Force members worked with the Latino HIV Task Force on the "Entre Hombres - Guy Talk" men's health event described above. The group also participated in this year's Pride Parade as part of the Houston Department of Health and Human Services float on Saturday, June 28, 2014. *Please join the Task Force as the group needs input on what to do for the rest of the year!* Next Meeting: Monday, July 21, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at The Montrose Center, 401 Branard Street, Houston, Texas, 77006.

Transgender Task Force: Chris Escalante reported that the Support Groups continue to meet. See their new website and calendar of events.

Hepatitis C Task Force: Steven Vargas reported that the HCV Task Force will not be meeting in June or July, and instead is focusing on assisting with the Houston HITS Home initiative. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Third Ward Multiservice Center, 3611 Ennis, Houston, Texas 77004.

HIV and Aging: Bruce Turner stated that the group met on the third Friday of the month at noon in the Montrose Center in room 106. Anyone wishing to join should bring your own lunch. Upcoming speakers and topics will be: July speaker: Hyron Hall from the City of Houston will discuss HIV/STD Prevention; August speaker: Dr. Kass from Thomas Street Clinic who will present information on HIV Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND) and September: a representative from the Alzheimer's Association will discuss services available for those suffering with dementia.



HIV and Aging: Bruce Turner stated that the group met on the third Friday of the month at noon in the Montrose Center in room 106. Anyone wishing to join should bring your own lunch. Upcoming speakers and topics will be: July speaker: Hyron Hall from the City of Houston will discuss HIV/STD Prevention; August speaker: Dr. Kass from Thomas Street Clinic who will present information on HIV Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND) and September: a representative from the Alzheimer's Association will discuss services available for those suffering with dementia.

Legislative Updates: Januari Leo reported that The White House recently held a meeting to discuss HIV/AIDS in the South; Texas was underrepresented. Regarding the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO), the opposition submitted 50,000 signatures in an effort to overturn the ordinance; they need 17,000 signatures to put the ordinance on the November ballot. The City Secretary has 30 days to check the rolls. If 17,000 valid signatures are found the ordinance will go away until November. The Texas State Legislature will reconvene in January 2015. Currently, the focus is on voter registration.

SPNS Grant: HIV and the Homeless Program: Nancy Miertschin reported that all staff positions have been filled.

Medical Updates: Shital Patel, MD reported that research data will be available soon on single tablet regimens and switch trials. Data is being gathered to see if clients with a controlled viral load on multiple regimens can be successfully switched to newer, single tablet regimens.

**Announcements:**

- Escalante thanked Project LEAP student CJ Clay for contributing t-shirts and assisting with in HIV testing event at the Veterans Administration.
- Gorden stated that there is a Positive Living Conference in Florida, September 19-24, 2014 and the National Summit Women Living with HIV will be in the same hotel September 17-19, 2014, for more information see Gorden.
- Alvarez reminded the Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee that there will not be a meeting following the Planning Council meeting today. The Office of Support has received HRSA Guidance for submitting the Grant. There is an EIIHA Workgroup meeting next week, Thursday, July 17, 2014.
- Leo asked members to read the Living without Limits flyer included in the packet.
- Atkinson reminded the Operations Committee that July and August meetings are cancelled and be prepared to being Planning Council interviews in September.
- Ethridge stated that the Affected Community Committee is also on vacation in July.
- Finley stated that St. Hope's Healthy Relationships is still going and incentives are being provided, see him for more details.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria "Toni" Williams

Victoria Williams, Manager

08/04/14

Date

Draft Certified by  
Council Chair: J. Vargan

Date 08/07/14

Final Approval by  
Council Chair: J. Vargan

Date 08/14/14

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	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS																
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Greg Monk	X						X
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair		X				X			Kevin Moore, 12:09							
Leslie Raneri, Sec., 12:16									Shital Patel, 12:21							
Roland Amboree		X				X			Cecilia Ross	X				X		
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			C. Bruce Turner	X				X		
Melody Barr		X				X			Eric Twombly	X						X
Curtis Bellard		X				X			Larry Woods	X						
David Benson		X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>							
Skeet Boyle		X				X			Michael Bass							
Bianca Burley, 12:25									Burnest Carter							
Ella Collins-Nelson, 12:11									Amber David							
Chris Escalante		X				X			Rene de Buenrostro							
Gene Ethridge		X				X			Evelio Salinas Escamilla							
Gabriel Gonzalez		X				X			Jerry Garza							
Tracy Gorden		X				X			J. Hoxi Jones							
Paul Grunenwald		X				X			Teresa Pruitt							
Connie Harris		X				X			Terrence Redix							
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X			Nadine Wallace							
Januari Leo		X					X		David Watson							
Nancy Miertschin		X				X			Tamika White							

## Council Voting Records for July 10, 2014

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room	Motion #3			Motion #4				Motion #3			Motion #4			
	ABSENT	Public Comment YES	Carried NO	ABSTAIN	Service Priorities YES	Carried NO		ABSTAIN	ABSENT	Public Comment YES	Carried NO	ABSTAIN	Service Priorities YES	Carried NO
MEMBERS														
Steven Vargas, Chair				C			C	Greg Monk	X				X	
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair		X					X	Kevin Moore, 12:09	X				X	
Leslie Raneri, Sec., 12:16		X			X			Shital Patel, 12:21						X
Roland Amboree		X			X			Cecilia Ross	X				X	
Ruth Atkinson		X			X			C. Bruce Turner	X				X	
Melody Barr		X					X	Eric Twombly	X				X	
Curtis Bellard		X			X			Larry Woods	X					X
David Benson		X					X	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>						
Skeet Boyle		X			X			Michael Bass						
Bianca Burley, 12:25								Burnest Carter						
Ella Collins-Nelson, 12:11		X					X	Amber David						
Chris Escalante		X			X			Rene de Buenrostro						
Gene Ethridge		X			X			Evelio Salinas Escamilla						
Gabriel Gonzalez		X			X			Jerry Garza						
Tracy Gorden		X			X			J. Hoxi Jones						
Paul Grunenwald		X			X			Teresa Pruitt						
Connie Harris		X			X			Terrence Redix						
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X			X			Nadine Wallace						
Januari Leo		X					X	David Watson						
Nancy Miertschin		X					X	Tamika White						

## Council Voting Records for July 10, 2014

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room	Motion #5				Motion #6					Motion #5				Motion #6			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS																	
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Greg Monk	X				X			
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair				X				X	Kevin Moore, 12:09	X				X			
Leslie Raneri, Sec., 12:16		X				X			Shital Patel, 12:21			X					X
Roland Amboree		X				X			Cecilia Ross	X				X			
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			C. Bruce Turner	X				X			
Melody Barr				X				X	Eric Twombly	X				X			
Curtis Bellard		X				X			Larry Woods			X					X
David Benson				X				X	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>								
Skeet Boyle		X				X			Michael Bass								
Bianca Burley, 12:25		X				X			Burnest Carter								
Ella Collins-Nelson, 12:11				X				X	Amber David								
Chris Escalante		X				X			Rene de Buenrostro								
Gene Ethridge		X				X			Evelio Salinas Escamilla								
Gabriel Gonzalez		X				X			Jerry Garza								
Tracy Gorden		X				X			J. Hoxi Jones								
Paul Grunenwald		X				X			Teresa Pruitt								
Connie Harris		X				X			Terrence Redix								
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X			Nadine Wallace								
Januari Leo				X				X	David Watson								
Nancy Miertschin				X				X	Tamika White								

## Council Voting Records for July 10, 2014



C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room	Motion #7				Motion #8					Motion #7				Motion #8			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS																	
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Greg Monk	X				X			
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair				X				X	Kevin Moore, 12:09	X				X			
Leslie Raneri, Sec., 12:16		X				X			Shital Patel, 12:21			X				X	
Roland Amboree		X				X			Cecilia Ross	X				X			
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			C. Bruce Turner	X				X			
Melody Barr				X				X	Eric Twombly	X				X			
Curtis Bellard		X				X			Larry Woods			X				X	
David Benson				X				X	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>								
Skeet Boyle		X				X			Michael Bass								
Bianca Burley, 12:25		X				X			Burnest Carter								
Ella Collins-Nelson, 12:11				X				X	Amber David								
Chris Escalante		X				X			Rene de Buenrostro								
Gene Ethridge		X				X			Evelio Salinas Escamilla								
Gabriel Gonzalez		X				X			Jerry Garza								
Tracy Gorden		X				X			J. Hoxi Jones								
Paul Grunenwald		X				X			Teresa Pruitt								
Connie Harris		X				X			Terrence Redix								
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X			Nadine Wallace								
Januari Leo				X				X	David Watson								
Nancy Miertschin				X				X	Tamika White								

## Council Voting Records for July 10, 2014

	Motion #9				Motion #10					Motion #9				Motion #10			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room																	
MEMBERS																	
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Greg Monk	X				X			
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair				X				X	Kevin Moore, 12:09	X				X			
Leslie Raneri, Sec., 12:16		X				X			Shital Patel, 12:21			X					X
Roland Amboree		X				X			Cecilia Ross	X				X			
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			C. Bruce Turner	X				X			
Melody Barr				X				X	Eric Twombly	X				X			
Curtis Bellard		X				X			Larry Woods			X					X
David Benson				X				X	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>								
Skeet Boyle		X				X			Michael Bass								
Bianca Burley, 12:25		X				X			Burnest Carter								
Ella Collins-Nelson, 12:11				X				X	Amber David								
Chris Escalante		X				X			Rene de Buenrosto								
Gene Ethridge		X				X			Evelio Salinas Escamilla								
Gabriel Gonzalez		X				X			Jerry Garza								
Tracy Gorden		X				X			J. Hoxi Jones								
Paul Grunenwald		X				X			Teresa Pruitt								
Connie Harris		X				X			Terrence Redix								
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X			Nadine Wallace								
Januari Leo				X				X	David Watson								
Nancy Miertschin				X				X	Tamika White								

## Council Voting Records for July 10, 2014

C = Chair of the meeting  
 lm = Left the meeting  
 lr = Left the room

	Motion #11								Motion #11				
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	
MEMBERS		P & A	Carried										
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Greg Monk	X			
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair				X					Kevin Moore, 12:09	X			
Leslie Raneri, Sec., 12:16		X							Shital Patel, 12:21			X	
Roland Amboree		X							Cecilia Ross	X			
Ruth Atkinson		X							C. Bruce Turner	X			
Melody Barr				X					Eric Twombly	X			
Curtis Bellard		X							Larry Woods			X	
David Benson				X					<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>				
Skeet Boyle		X							Michael Bass				
Bianca Burley, 12:25		X							Burnest Carter				
Ella Collins-Nelson, 12:11				X					Amber David				
Chris Escalante		X							Rene de Buenrostro				
Gene Ethridge		X							Evelio Salinas Escamilla				
Gabriel Gonzalez		X							Jerry Garza				
Tracy Gorden		X							J. Hoxi Jones				
Paul Grunenwald		X							Teresa Pruitt				
Connie Harris		X							Terrence Redix				
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X							Nadine Wallace				
Januari Leo				X					David Watson				
Nancy Miertschin				X					Tamika White				