

**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 12, 2015

Meeting Location: 2223 W. Loop South, Room 416

Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Steven Vargas, Chair	Peta-gay Ledbetter	Modelle Brudner, Liaison, Judge Emmett
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair	Nancy Miertschin	Venita Ray
Connie Harris, Secretary	Kevin Moore	Raleigh Delesbore
Roland Amboree	Robert Noble	
Ted Artiaga	Shital Patel	STAFF PRESENT
Ruth Atkinson	Teresa Pruitt	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Curtis Bellard	Leslie Raneri	Carin Martin
David Benson	Cecilia Ross	Tasha Traylor
Skeet Boyle	Carol Suazo	Heather Keizman
Ella Collins-Nelson	C. Bruce Turner	
Amber David	David Watson	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	Larry Woods	Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley
Gene Ethridge		Marcus D. Benoit
Herman Finley	MEMBERS ABSENT	Terrance Benson
Paul Grunenwald	Melody Barr, excused	
Steven Harris	Michael Bass, excused	<i>Office of Support</i>
Angela F. Hawkins	Chad Brandt, excused	Tori Williams
Arlene Johnson	Tana Brown, excused	Amber Alvarez
J. Hoxi Jones	Bianca Burley, excused	Georgette L. Monaghan
John Lazo	Januari Leo, excused	

See attached chart for individual voting information

Call to Order: Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and asked for a Moment of Reflection.

During the welcoming remarks, Vargas stated that Eric Twombly passed away in December. Many thanks to Atkinson who worked with the Office of Support and Bering Church to organize a small service for him. Had she not done this, there would have been no opportunity to formally recognize his passing and contributions to the Council. HRSA has contracted with a vendor to collect information on the local impact of the Affordable Care Act on Ryan White. Vargas was recently interviewed for the study and continues to be in touch with the

study administrators who may want to come to Houston for more in-depth interviews. Vargas will work closely with C. Martin since she is also being interviewed for the study. Appreciation was extended to the following individuals for their invaluable help with the HIV and the Affordable Care Act Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Friday, February 6, 2015 at Legacy Community Health Services-Montrose: Ethridge and Ross for recruiting volunteers and volunteers: Ethridge, Ross, Teresa Pruitt, Kevin Moore, Bellard, Tana Brown, Amboree and Herman Finley. The March 14, 2015 Educational Workshop/Town Hall meeting will provide free assistance in tax preparation.

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

Adoption of the Minutes: Motion #2: it was moved and seconded (Turner, Pruitt) to adopt the December 11, 2014 minutes. Motion carried. Abstentions: Amboree, Finley, Grunenwald, Patel.

Results of the Mentor Program Study at Thomas Street : Dr. Tom Giordano Baylor College of Medicine & Thomas St. Clinic, former Council member, presented the attached Power Point presentation entitled “Mentor Approach for Promoting Patient Self-care (MAPPS)”.

Open Meetings Act Training : Venita Ray, Attorney at Law, Employee at Legacy-Montrose and Coordinator for POP+, former Council member, presented the attached Power Point presentation entitled “Business Must Be Conducted in Meetings Open to the Public”.

Public Comments and Announcements : C. Harris read the guidelines regarding public comment. David expressed concern for the City of Houston Service Linkage process, some clients are bring refused services from one agency to the next because they don’t have enough letters regarding their HIV status. Vargas advised David to bring this up for the How to Best Meet the Need Process.

Reports from Committees:

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: David Benson, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Collaboration with Local Business Community: As a result of the speaker letter and communication with the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Nancy Miertschin was invited to present on HIV and homelessness to the case management staff at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital. Miertschin stated that the audience was interesting. Meeting with staff not funded by Ryan White brought it home to her that there is need for more interface with these providers. Lazo added that there has been a 2nd request for the Speakers Bureau, Metropolitan Chamber of Senior Services Alliance request information of the HIV Plus Population and Dr. Patel has been invited to be the speaker.

Feasibility Special Study Report: **Motion #3**: *Approve the attached Feasibility Special Study Report. Motion carried unanimously.*

Staff was instructed to assess whether any additional cost savings could be achieved through pharmacy assistance programs.

Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment Study Products: The Committee reviewed two informational products developed as a result of the first phase of the Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment Study. The informational products were distributed online and to case management supervisors. Follow up surveys were planned to be conducted with study participants at the close of the current open enrollment period. Please see *10 Things PLWHA Need to Know about the Health Insurance Marketplace and Open Enrollment* (consumer document) and *Helping Consumers Navigate the ACA Marketplace* (case manager document).

HRSA Correspondence: Please see the attached letter from HRSA dated 01/07/15 regarding an evaluation of the early impact of the Affordable Care Act on the Ryan White Program.

National HIV Care and Treatment Access Issues: The Committee reviewed national trends in Health Insurance Marketplace plan HIV care and treatment access issues, particularly plan formulary issues. Please see Qualified Health Plan (QHP) HIV Care and Treatment Access Issues.

Committee Goals: Please see the final 2014 Comprehensive HIV Planning Quarterly Report.

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

Town Hall Meetings: There will be two Town Hall meetings for consumers regarding enrollment in a Quality Health Plan through the Marketplace, information on how to use a health insurance plan, the tax implications of enrolling in the Marketplace and the law regarding health insurance and the LGBT community. See attached description of the first meeting. See attached flyer for the 2nd meeting on March 14, 2015.

Project LEAP 2015: Please help recruit applicants for Project LEAP 2015.

Quality Assurance Committee: No report.

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

Report from the Administrative Agency: Part B: See the attached reports:

- 2014/15 RW Part B Service Utilization, dated 12/30/14
- 2014/15 DSHS State Services Service Utilization, dated 12/30/14
- Houston RW Health Insurance Program Service Utilization, 12/08/14
- Houston RW Health Insurance Program Service Utilization, 01/06/15

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

Reports & Announcements at Council Meetings: ***Motion #4:*** *Regarding monthly Council meetings, written Task Force Reports and Announcements must be turned in to the Office of Support before 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before the Council meets. Verbal Task Force Reports will not be entertained at meetings and announcements from Council members will be limited to 30 seconds. Flyers brought to meetings are to be placed on the information table.* Discussion: ***Minority Opinion:*** Have the Secretary enforce strict time limits for Task Force Reports as opposed to prohibiting a verbal report. ***Motion failed.*** Yays: Lazo, Jones, Hawkins, Ross, Suazo, Watson, Atkinson, Bellard, Johnson, Pruitt, C. Harris, Gorden. Nays: Tuner, Woods, Grunenwald, Miertschin, Benson, Escamilla, Patel, S. Harris, Amboree, Boyle, David, Raneri, Noble, Moore, Finley, Ethridge, Ledbetter. ***Motion #5:*** *it was moved and seconded (Escamilla, Amboree) to send back to the committee to continue working on ideas to shorted task force reports. Motion carried unanimously*

Survey Regarding Council Quorum: Please fill out the enclosed survey and turn it in to Amber Alvarez, or leave it at your place when you leave the meeting. As you know, the Operations Committee is exploring a number of ways to make sure that the Council can make quorum at every meeting this year. The survey will give some very valuable information.

Timeline of Critical 2015 Council Activities: Williams walked the members through the attached Timeline of Critical 2015 Council Activities.

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

Report from Ryan White Grant Administration (RWGA): Carin Martin, Manager, summarized the attached report. Martin stated that the Notice of Award for Carryover Funds has been received.

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

New Business:

Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D: See Miertschin's attached report

Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC): No report.

Update from Task Forces:

- **African American:** see attached January Meeting Minutes. Johnson-Fairley included the attached flyer on the Texas Black Woman's Initiative Meeting Agenda.
- **Latino:** See Vargas's attached report.
- **MSM:** See Vargas's attached report.
- **Transgender:** No report.
- **Youth:** Johnson-Fairley stated the next meeting will be meeting Tuesday, February 17th from 10: 00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Leonel Castillo Center. The Youth Taskforce typically meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, same time, same place as above.
- **Hepatitis C:** See Vargas's attached report.
- **Urban AIDS Ministry:** David stated St. John's will have a team in the upcoming AFH AIDS Walk.

HIV and Aging Group: Turner stated that meetings and involvement is not exclusive to people over 50, all are encouraged to come and participate. Meetings are always the fourth Friday of the month at 3:00 p.m. at the Montrose Center.

Texas HIV/AIDS Coalition: Turner stated that there will be a training tonite at 6:00 p.m. for the upcoming Austin Advocacy Day at Legacy Community Services, 4th Floor.

SPNS Grant: HIV and the Homeless Program: See Miertschin's attached report.

Medical Updates: Shital Patel, MD, stated that the two newest FDA medications to treat HIV Infection - Evotaz and Prezcoibix have been approved. Both meds replace a 2-pill regimen with 1 pill. Martin added that both medications have been added to the formulary. Patel stated that she would be happy to address any medical updates the Council members have; please send requests to the Office of Support and they will relay requests to Dr. Patel.

Announcements: Vargas asked members to make note of the attached flyers regarding the following: The University of Houston's HIV and Anxiety Study, the newspaper article spotlighting Venita Ray and the announcement regarding Peta-gay Ledbetter. Escamilla stated that it is National Condom Week.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria "Jon" Williams

Victoria Williams, Manager

03/05/15

Date

Draft Certified by
Council Chair: S Vargas

Date 03/12/15

Final Approval by
Council Chair: S Vargas

Date 03/12/15

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #3			Motion #4			Motion #3			Motion #4				
	ABSENT	Comp HIV Plan YES	Carried NO	ABSTAIN	Operations YES	Failed NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	Comp HIV Plan YES	Carried NO	ABSTAIN	Operations YES	Failed NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS														
Steven Vargas, Chair				C			C	Peta-gay Ledbetter	X				X	
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X			X			Nancy Miertschin	X				X	
Connie Harris, Secretary		X			X			Kevin Moore	X				X	
Roland Amboree		X				X		Robert Noble	X				X	
Ted Artiaga		X		X				Shital Patel	X				X	
Ruth Atkinson		X			X			Teresa Pruitt	X			X		
Curtis Bellard		X			X			Leslie Raneri	X				X	
David Benson		X				X		Cecilia Ross	X			X		
Skeet Boyle		X				X		Carol Suazo	X			X		
Ella Collins-Nelson	l m			X				C. Bruce Turner	X				X	
Amber David		X				X		David Watson	X			X		
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X		Larry Woods	X				X	
Gene Ethridge		X				X		MEMBERS ABSENT						
Herman Finley		X				X		Melody Barr, excused						
Paul Grunenwald		X				X		Michael Bass, excused						
Steven Harris		X				X		Chad Brandt, excused						
Angela F. Hawkins		X			X			Tana Brown, excused						
Arlene Johnson		X			X			Bianca Burley, excused						
J. Hoxi Jones		X			X			Januari Leo, excused						
John Lazo		X			X									

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #5				Motion #				Motion #5				
	ABSENT	Operations YES	Carried NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	Operations YES	Carried NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	Operations YES	Carried NO	ABSTAIN	
MEMBERS													
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Peta-gay Ledbetter	X			
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X							Nancy Miertschin	X			
Connie Harris, Secretary		X							Kevin Moore	X			
Roland Amboree		X							Robert Noble	X			
Ted Artiaga		X							Shital Patel	X			
Ruth Atkinson		X							<i>Teresa Pruitt, lm 1:58</i>	X			
Curtis Bellard		X							<i>Leslie Raneri, lm 1:40</i>	X			
David Benson		X							<i>Cecilia Ross, lm 1:52</i>	X			
Skeet Boyle		X							Carol Suazo	X			
Ella Collins-Nelson		X							C. Bruce Turner	X			
Amber David		X							David Watson	X			
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X							Larry Woods	X			
Gene Ethridge		X							MEMBERS ABSENT				
Herman Finley		X							Melody Barr, excused				
Paul Grunenwald		X							Michael Bass, excused				
Steven Harris		X							Chad Brandt, excused				
Angela F. Hawkins		X							Tana Brown, excused				
Arlene Johnson		X							Bianca Burley, excused				
J. Hoxi Jones		X							Januari Leo, excused				
John Lazo		X											