

Council Approved April 9, 2015

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, March 12, 2015

Meeting Location: 2223 W. Loop South, Room 532

Houston, Texas 77027

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

See attached chart 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.

During the welcoming remarks, Vargas thanked Gorden for chairing the Steering Committee last week in his absence.

Because Project LEAP applications were down in 2015, Cecilia Ross, Ethridge, Bellard, and Michael Kennedy are staffing booths at several clinics throughout town handing out flyers and encouraging individuals to apply for Project LEAP this year. Their efforts appear to be making a difference. Many thanks to them for their valiant and generous efforts.

And, thanks to Cecilia Ross, Ethridge and nine other Council and external committee members for volunteering to help with the ACA and HIV Educational Workshop at Ripley House at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 14th. We truly could not do the event without them. Hopefully, our volunteers will join with workshop participants and get their taxes prepared for free at the end of the workshop. Remember, you too may be eligible for this free assistance with filing your taxes so see the flyer in your packet, or talk to Williams after the meeting, if you want more information. Also, Modelle Brudner's mother passed away last week. If you wish to extend sympathy to Modelle and her family, feel free to add a note in the card that is being passed around.

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

Adoption of the Minutes: **Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Turner, Finley) to adopt the February 12, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Artiaga, Brown, Burley.

Roberts Review: John Lazo, Speech Communication Specialist, reviewed the attached "Roberts Rules of Order – Parliamentary Procedures" and "Steps in Making a Main Motion".

How To Best Meet the Need: Williams walked the members through the How to Best Meet the Need process.

Public Comment and Announcements: Giwa handed out the attached flyer entitled: Help #SaveRyanWhitePartD!!! She also read the attached email dated March 30, 2015. Venita Ray stated that the State Affairs Committee in Austin will be voting on Senate Bill 779 that will give access to HIV Test Results in all criminal cases.

Reports from Committees:

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: David Benson, Co-Chair, reported on the following: Collaboration with Local Business Community: The Senior Services Alliance requested a speaker on HIV among people aged 55 and up. Dr. Shital Patel spoke at the group's breakfast meeting on March 5th. Lazo stated the presentation was excellent. Turner requested that the Council be advised when these speaking engagements occur so members can attend if they want. Due to the success of the project, speaker information will be extended to smaller, suburban Chambers of Commerce.

2015-2017 Committee Activities Timeline: The 2015-2017 Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee Activities Timeline was updated to include additional 2017 activities.

Pilot Project Feasibility Special Study: The Committee reviewed the study addendum: Impact of Co-Pay Assistance Programs on Pilot Project Cost. The Committee found that, although manufacturers offer substantial support through co-pay assistance programs, most of marketplace plans evaluated in the study that cover these medications provide adequate coverage. With co-pay assistance programs included, the cost to support an unsubsidized 2015 marketplace plan for one year ranges between \$5,856 and \$15,134. The Committee also asked Alvarez to investigate the cost of care for consumers with hepatitis C co-infection. The Committee will provide a recommendation of whether to pursue the pilot project following its March meeting.

See the enclosed editorial published in the New England Journal of Medicine on potential outcomes of Supreme Court Case King v. Burwell.

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

HIV and ACA Educational Workgroups: The Council will be hosting a second HIV and ACA Educational Workgroup which will provide 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. By partnering with the Tax Free Program, those who attend the workshop and earn less than \$58,000 annually will be eligible to receive free assistance with filing their taxes immediately after the workshop is over. See the attached flyer.

Project LEAP 2015: Ethridge encouraged members to help recruit applicants for Project LEAP 2015. As stated in Vargas' opening remarks, Council members have been recruiting at HACS, Thomas Street Health Center and St. Hope Foundation in Bellaire.

Quality Assurance Committee: Roland Amboree, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

2015 Idea Form: **Motion #3:** *Approve the attached 2015 Idea Form. Motion carried unanimously.*

Ryan White Health Insurance Assistance Program: FYI: See the attached *Interim Guidance to Texas Administrative Agents on Health Insurance Assistance Services.*

Priority and Allocations Committee: Melody Barr, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Reports from the Administrative Agency: Part A: See the attached reports:

- FY14 RW Part A & MAI Procurement, dated 02/11/15
- FY14 RW Part A & MAI Service Utilization, dated 02/11/15

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

- 2014/15 RW Part B Procurement, dated 02/19/15
- 2014/15 DSHS State Services Procurement, dated 02/19/15
- 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

Reports for periods:

- 09/01/14 – 09/30/14, dated 11-04-14
- 09/01/14 – 10/31/14, dated 12-08-14
- 09/01/14 – 11/30/14, dated 01-06-15
- 09/01/14 – 12/31/14, dated 02-05-15

FY 2016 Guiding Principles and Criteria: **Motion #4:** *Approve the attached FY 2016 Guiding Principles and Decision Making Criteria. Motion carried unanimously.*

FY 2016 Priority Setting Process: **Motion #5:** *Approve the attached FY 2016 Priority Setting Process. Motion carried unanimously.*

FY 2015 Policy for Addressing Unobligated and Carryover Funds: **Motion #6:** *Approve the attached FY 2015 Policy for Addressing Unobligated and Carryover Funds. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

Reports & Announcements at Council Meetings: **Motion #7:** *Regarding monthly Council meetings, Medical Updates will be treated as a separate agenda item before New Business. Detailed 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. All Task Force Reports and Announcements from Council members will each be allowed 30 seconds to summarize the information. The Council Secretary is asked to enforce this policy. Flyers brought to meetings are to be placed on the information table. Motion carried.* Nay: Barr, Abstain: Turner.

2015 Council Attendance: See the attached attendance form which will be updated and included in monthly Council meeting packets.

2015 Evaluation of Council Orientation: See the attached 2015 Council Orientation Evaluation Results.

2015 Council Training Topics: Please see the attached Training Topics for 2015 Ryan White Planning Council Meetings.

Report from Office of Support: Tori Williams, Manager, gave a verbal report: All committees dedicated their February meetings to reviewing the Council Timeline and committee work product deadlines and task lists. Williams could not provide a budget report since the IFAS computer system is inaccessible while County department budgets are being set up.

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

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, Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC), HOPWA, Texas HIV/AIDS Coalition: No reports.

Community Prevention Group (CPG): See Finley's attached report.

Update from Task Forces:

- **African American:** Johnson-Fairley stated that the next meeting is on 03/13/15 at 1:00 p.m. at 4101 Market Street.
- **Latino:** See Vargas's attached report.
- **MSM:** Artiaga stated that the Task Force held a meeting on February 16, 2015 . They will be holding a testing event from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. on March 21st using the City Mobile Testing vehicle. Volunteer help is welcome.
- **Transgender:** Vargas stated that the group is still meeting and looking for a permanent home.
- **Youth:** Johnson-Fairley stated that on March 17th there will be 20 HISD schools participating in HIV Youth Day. The Youth Task Force typically meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Leonel Castillo Center, 2121 South Street. Lazo will give future reports.
- **Hepatitis C:** See Vargas's attached report.
- **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI):** Finley stated that this is also known as STICC. They meet at the Hiram Clark Center on the 3rd Thursday of the month, a free hot lunch is provided.
- **Urban AIDS Ministry:** David stated that five faith based teams participated in the AIDS Walk.

HIV and Aging Group: Turner stated that those who wish to attend meetings or get involved in the group do not have to be over age 50, all are welcome and encouraged to participate. Meetings are always the fourth Friday of the month at 3:00 p.m. at the Montrose Center. Ann Robbins will be presenting the "State of Care for Over 50" at the March 27, 2015 meeting.

Texas HIV Medication Program: Turner stated that the Advisory Board has not met in 2015. The first meeting will be in May at which they will review health programs.

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

Announcements: Atkinson and Ray encouraged members to support Texas Bill SP194 regarding HIV Op Out Drug which currently needs to be added to the agenda for the upcoming legislative session. Johnson reminded members about her Word of Life HIV/AIDS educational event, March 28, 2015 – see the Affected Community Committee report.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria L. Williams

Victoria Williams, Manager

04/01/15

Date

Draft Certified by
Council Chair:

J. Vargas

Date 04/02/15

Final Approval by
Council Chair:

J. Vargas

Date 04/09/15

Council Voting Records for March 12, 2015 – Page 1

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	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	Peta-gay Ledbetter, 12:17	X				X			
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X				X			Nancy Miertschin		X				X		
Roland Amboree		X				X			Kevin Moore		X				X		
Ted Artiaga		X					X		Robert Noble		X				X		
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			Leslie Raneri, 12:17	X				X			
Melody Barr, 12:24	X				X				Carol Suazo		X				X		
Curtis Bellard		X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X				X		
David Benson		X				X			David Watson		X				X		
Tana Brown		X					X		Larry Woods, 12:29	X				X			
Bianca Burley		X					X										
Ella Collins-Nelson		X				X			MEMBERS ABSENT								
Amber David		X				X			Michael Bass								
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X			Skeet Boyle								
Gene Ethridge		X				X			Chad Brandt								
Herman Finley		X				X			Connie Harris								
Paul Grunenwald		X				X			J. Hoxi Jones								
Steven Harris		X				X			Januari Leo								
Angela F. Hawkins		X				X			Shital Patel								
Arlene Johnson, 12:09	X				X				Teresa Pruitt								
John Lazo		X				X			Cecilia Ross								

Council Voting Records for March 12, 2015 – Page 2

	Motion #3			Motion #4				Motion #3			Motion #4				
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	YES	NO		ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO
C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone															
MEMBERS															
Steven Vargas, Chair				C			C	Peta-gay Ledbetter, 12:17	X				X		
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X			X			Nancy Miertschin	X				X		
Roland Amboree		X			X			Kevin Moore	X				X		
Ted Artiaga		X			X			Robert Noble	X				X		
Ruth Atkinson		X			X			Leslie Raneri, 12:17	X				X		
Melody Barr, 12:24		X			X			Carol Suazo	X				X		
Curtis Bellard		X			X			C. Bruce Turner	X				X		
David Benson		X			X			David Watson	X				X		
Tana Brown		X			X			Larry Woods, 12:29	X				X		
Bianca Burley		X			X										
Ella Collins-Nelson		X			X			MEMBERS ABSENT							
Amber David		X			X			Michael Bass							
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X			X			Skeet Boyle							
Gene Ethridge		X			X			Chad Brandt							
Herman Finley		X			X			Connie Harris							
Paul Grunenwald		X			X			J. Hoxi Jones							
Steven Harris		X			X			Januari Leo							
Angela F. Hawkins		X			X			Shital Patel							
Arlene Johnson, 12:09		X			X			Teresa Pruitt							
John Lazo		X			X			Cecilia Ross							

Council Voting Records for March 12, 2015 – Page 3

	Motion #5				Motion #6				Motion #5				Motion #6				
	ABSENT	YES	NO		ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES		NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT		YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES
C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone																	
MEMBERS																	
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Peta-gay Ledbetter, 12:17	X				X			
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X			X				Nancy Miertschin	X				X			
Roland Amboree		X			X				Kevin Moore	X				X			
Ted Artiaga		X			X				Robert Noble	X				X			
Ruth Atkinson		X			X				Leslie Raneri, 12:17	X				X			
Melody Barr, 12:24		X			X				Carol Suazo	X				X			
Curtis Bellard		X			X				C. Bruce Turner	X				X			
David Benson		X			X				David Watson	X				X			
Tana Brown		X			X				Larry Woods, 12:29	X				X			
Bianca Burley		X			X												
Ella Collins-Nelson		X			X				MEMBERS ABSENT								
Amber David		X			X				Michael Bass								
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X			X				Skeet Boyle								
Gene Ethridge		X			X				Chad Brandt								
Herman Finley		X			X				Connie Harris								
Paul Grunenwald		X			X				J. Hoxi Jones								
Steven Harris		X			X				Januari Leo								
Angela F. Hawkins		X			X				Shital Patel								
Arlene Johnson, 12:09		X			X				Teresa Pruitt								
John Lazo		X			X				Cecilia Ross								

Council Voting Records for March 12, 2015 – Page 4

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	MOTION #7				MOTION #				MOTION #7								
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	
MEMBERS																	
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	Peta-gay Ledbetter, 12:17	X							
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X							Nancy Miertschin	X							
Roland Amboree		X							Kevin Moore	X							
Ted Artiaga		X							Robert Noble	X							
Ruth Atkinson		X							Leslie Raneri, 12:17	X							
Melody Barr, 12:24			X						Carol Suazo	X							
Curtis Bellard		X							C. Bruce Turner			X					
David Benson		X							David Watson	X							
Tana Brown		X							Larry Woods, 12:29	X							
Bianca Burley		X															
Ella Collins-Nelson		X							MEMBERS ABSENT								
Amber David		X							Michael Bass								
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X							Skeet Boyle								
Gene Ethridge		X							Chad Brandt								
Herman Finley		X							Connie Harris								
Paul Grunenwald		X							J. Hoxi Jones								
Steven Harris		X							Januari Leo								
Angela F. Hawkins		X							Shital Patel								
Arlene Johnson, 12:09		X							Teresa Pruitt								
John Lazo		X							Cecilia Ross								