

## Council Approved November 12, 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, October 8, 2015  
2223 W. Loop South, Room 532  
Houston, Texas 77027

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
Steven Vargas, Chair	Leslie Raneri	Modelle Brudner, Liaison, Judge Emmett
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair	Cecilia Ross	Denis Kelly
Connie Barnes, Secretary	Carol Suazo	Isis Torrente
Ted Artiaga	C. Bruce Turner	Kim Cook, UT School of Public Health
Curtis Bellard	David Watson	Jay Dee Fredricksen
Tana Brown	Larry Woods	
Bianca Burley		<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
Ella Collins-Nelson	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Gene Ethridge	Roland Amboree	Tasha Traylor
Herman Finley	Ruth Atkinson, excused	
Steven Harris	Melody Barr, excused	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Angela F. Hawkins	David Benson, excused	Ka'Cha Tousant, Intern
John Lazo	Skeet Boyle, excused	
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Chad Brandt, excused	<i>Office of Support</i>
Januari Leo	Amber David	Tori Williams
Nancy Miertschin	Evelio Salinas Escamilla	Amber Alvarez
Kevin Moore	Paul Grunenwald, excused	Diane Beck
Robert Noble	Arlene Johnson	
Shital Patel	J. Hoxi Jones	
Teresa Pruitt		

**Call to Order:** Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.; he welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of reflection.

During the welcoming remarks, Vargas stated that he and other Council Members attended the Sharing Science Symposium on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. He said that the topics presented were very interesting again this year; he and Nike Blue gave a plug for the upcoming comprehensive plan and

needs assessment processes. The Project LEAP Advisory Committee will be meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 12, 2015 in Room 416 to review the evaluation of Project LEAP 2015 and give input into Project LEAP 2016. He said that several graduates of this year's class have recently been appointed to serve on the committee.

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

**Approval of the Minutes:** ***Motion #2:** it was moved and seconded (Harris, Pruitt) to approve the September 10, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Ethridge, Moore, Woods.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** Kim Cook, UT School of Public Health distributed information about the YMAP program, a social network analysis of young MSM. Phase one looks at how social organizations relate to each other in the community and phase two will involve interviewing gay men ages 17-29. The program is currently in progress in Chicago and just started in Florida. They need 500 young MS for the study and so far they have recruited 138. They are willing to share their findings from the study with the Planning Council.

#### **Reports from Committees:**

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Nancy Miertschin, Co-Chair, reported on the following: FY 2016 EIIHA Plan Target Populations: The EIIHA Workgroup met on September 16, 2015. Participants included representatives from prevention and care, consumers and community members. The Workgroup recommended the following target populations for the FY 2016 EIIHA Strategy. Final approval was given by the Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee after reviewing input from the Council and community at large:

1. African Americans
2. Hispanics/Latinos age 35 and over
3. Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

Office of Support is to include information on HIV and aging in the EIIHA section of the HRSA application.

FY 2016 EIIHA Plan Target Populations: The Office of Support is to include a statement in the EIIHA section of the HRSA application recognizing that currently available epidemiologic data do not portray the need for testing, referral, and linkage in at-risk populations such as among those who are transgender, intersex, homeless, or post-release from incarceration.

Vargas announced the co-chairs for the two upcoming processes:

Needs Assessment Group: Part A – Ruth Atkinson, Part B – Robert Noble, and CPG – Jeffrey Campbell. Comprehensive Plan Leadership Team: Part A – Nancy Miertschin, Part B – Ted Artiaga, and CPG – Nike Blue.

**Operations Committee:** Teresa Pruitt reported on the following:

Electronic Media at Council Meetings: ***Motion #3:** It is recommended that electronic media not be used for participation in Council meetings since it does not address the core issue, which is meeting quorum. Motion carried unanimously.*

2016 Council Election Policy: Please note that nominations for officers for the 2016 Planning Council can be submitted to the Manager of The Office of Support up until the end of the November Steering

Committee meeting, after this time, nominations are added from the floor the day of the election. See the attached list of members who are eligible to run for Chair of the Planning Council.

**Conflict of Interest:** The Committee continues to discuss the Council's conflict of interest policy and is comparing it against the 2013 HRSA Part A manual. They are also creating a list of questions for a possible meeting with the Harris County Attorney.

**Affected Community Committee:** Gene Ethridge, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
**Consumer Workgroup on Standards of Care:** On Tuesday, September 22, 2015, there was a consumer-only workgroup meeting to review Ryan White Standards of Care and Performance Measures.

**2015 Community Events:** See the attached list of 2015 events at which there was a Council presence. Ethridge added that World AIDS Day events will be added to the list once the event list is received.

**2015 Greeters:** See the attached list of greeters at Council meetings.

**Quality Improvement Committee:** Cecilia Ross, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
An extra training on Standards of Care was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> for Quality Improvement members and others; it was very well attended and will be a part of the regular committee training schedule in 2016.

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

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

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration:** See the attached report.

**Report from The Resource Group:** See the attached report.

**Medical Updates:** Shital Patel, MD, Baylor College of Medicine, stated that Tenofovir, a component of Truvada, has several significant side effects including kidney irritation that is usually reversible, Fanconi's syndrome and bone mineral density loss. There is a new drug to replace Tenofovir which is currently referred to as TAF. TAF is considered to have similar antiretroviral efficacy to Tenofovir and may replace Truvada because it doesn't have the same side effects, which is especially good news for diabetics.

**New Business:**

**Community Development Advisory Council:** Gorden said that they will be meeting next Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

**Community Prevention Group (CPG):** Noble said that they had their last meeting for the year 2015.

**Update from Task Forces:**

- **African American:** Finley said they will meet tomorrow at noon at the Fifth Ward Multiservice Center on Market Street.
- **Latino:** Vargas presented the attached report.
- **MSM:** Artiaga presented the attached report.
- **Youth:** Lazo presented the attached report.

- **Hepatitis C:** Vargas presented the attached report.

**HIV and Aging:** Turner reported that Dr. Vanek from Legacy spoke about women who are aging with HIV in September. In October, Chad Brandt will present on mental health issues. They are in the process of planning the annual Christmas party which is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Montrose Center. There will probably not be a meeting of the Task Force in November. A Council member added that she participated in Brandt's anxiety study and it was very helpful.

**Legislative Updates:** Leo said that early voting in the City of Houston starts October 19 through October 30<sup>th</sup> and Election Day is November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**SPNS Grant: HIV and the Homeless Program:** Miertschin reported that they are still recruiting clients and currently lead all sites in enrollment. They have 140 participants currently enrolled in the program and need 150 by February. What they have learned could fill volumes; she hopes to share what they learn with the Planning Council. They have an opening for a service linkage worker for this project.

**Announcements:**

- Lazo stated that he is working with Houston Unites to pass the HERO ordinance. They are currently seeking volunteers to make phone calls and go door-to-door. Please see him or Denis Kelly for more information.
- Ethridge said that Living without Limits is in charge of dessert for the HIV and Aging party on December 5th. Last year there was a bake-off between the RWPC and CPG and he was hoping to do something similar this year. He will talk to the Affected Community Committee and see if they would like to participate and bring it back to the Planning Council next month.
- Pradia has been asked to join AIDS United.
- Gorden said that an organization from Atlanta had Poz Lives Matter t-shirts at the conference in Florida last month. If anybody would like one, see him for the contact information.
- Noble said that HACS will be conducting free HIV testing at several locations for National Latino HIV Awareness Day October 15th. They are also relaunching the couples testing and counseling initiative. The criteria includes: must be a couple, MSM, age 18-80 years; \$40 incentive plus a free anal pap test.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria "Joni" Williams

Victoria Williams, Manager

11/02/15

Date

Draft Certified by

Council Chair: Stacy

Date 11/05/15

Final Approval by

Council Chair: S. Vargas

Date 11/12/15

## Council Approved November 12, 2015

### Council Voting Record for October 8, 2015

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 Electronic Media at Council meetings Carried					Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 Electronic Media at Council meetings Carried			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS																									
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C				C	Leslie Raneri		X				X				X		
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X				X				X			Cecilia Ross		X				X				X		
Connie Barnes, Secretary		X				X				X			Carol Suazo		X				X				X		
Ted Artiaga		X				X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X				X				X		
Curtis Bellard		X				X				X			David Watson		X				X				X		
Tana Brown		X				X				X			Larry Woods		X					X			X		
Bianca Burley		X				X				X															
Ella Collins-Nelson		X				X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>												
Gene Ethridge		X					X			X			Roland Amboree												
Herman Finley		X				X				X			Ruth Atkinson												
Steven Harris		X				X				X			Melody Barr												
Angela F. Hawkins		X				X				X			David Benson												
John Lazo		X				X				X			Skeet Boyle												
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X				X			Chad Brandt												
Januari Leo		X				X				X			Amber David												
Nancy Miertschin		X				X				X			Evelio Salinas Escamilla												
Kevin Moore		X					X			X			Paul Grunenwald												
Robert Noble		X				X				X			Arlene Johnson												
Shital Patel	X				X				X				J. Hoxi Jones												
Teresa Pruitt		X				X				X			Larry Woods												