

Council Approved March 11, 2021

HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL



We envision an educated community where the needs of all persons living with HIV 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 living with and/or affected by HIV by taking a leadership role in the planning and assessment of HIV resources.

MINUTES

12 noon, Thursday, February 11, 2021
Meeting Location: Zoom teleconference

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Allen Murray, Chair	Gloria Sierra	Andrew Edmondson
Denis Kelly, Vice Chair	Robert Sliepka	Jaseudia Killion
Crystal Starr, Secretary	C. Bruce Turner	A. Daniel Ramos
Kevin Aloysius	Steven Vargas	Roxie G.
Veronica Ardoin	Andrew Wilson	Justin Ferill
Rosalind Belcher		Sonya
Ardry "Skeet" Boyle	MEMBERS ABSENT	Kimberly Peterson
Johanna Castillo	Tony Crawford	Cecilia Dennis
Mauricia E. Chatman	Ahmier Gibson	Miranda Grant
Enrique Chavez	Tom Lindstrom	Venita Ray
Kimberly Collins	Rodney Mills	Five others with no visible name
Robert "Bobby" Cruz	Deondre Moore	
Johnny Deal		STAFF PRESENT
Dawn Jenkins	OTHERS PRESENT	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Daphne L. Jones	Shelly Lucas, DSHS	Carin Martin
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Lt. Cdr. Rodrigo Chavez, PACE	Heather Keizman
Roxane May	Charles Henley	
Holly Renee McLean	Angela F. Hawkins	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Josh Mica	Eddie Givens	Sha'Terra Johnson
Diana Morgan	Lesley Williams	Crystal Townsend
Nkechi Onyewuenyi	Jon	Tiffany Shepherd
Matilda Padilla	Karin Petties	Hailey Malcolm
Shital Patel	James Lee	
Oscar Perez	Heather Eagleton	<i>Office of Support</i>
Faye Robinson	Tana Pradia	Tori Williams
Pete Rodriguez	Virginia	Ricardo Mora
Imran Shaikh	Januari Fox	Diane Beck

Call to Order: Allen Murray, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

During the opening remarks, Murray welcomed all members of the 2021 Ryan White Planning Council. He stated that the Council appreciates those in attendance, including guests, and values their input in today's important meeting. He also thanked Shelly Lucas for taking the time to be with us today. Murray called for a moment of reflection.

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

Approval of the Minutes: *Motion #2:* *it was moved and seconded (Kelly, Starr) to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes.* **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Aloysius, Boyle, Castillo, Collins, Jenkins, Ledbetter, Morgan, Onyewuenyi, Padilla, Patel, Sierra, Sliepka, Wilson.

Updates on ADAP and TDSHS Program Budgets: Shelly Lucas, MPH, Manager of the HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch, TDSHS reviewed the ADAP budget deficit handout, see attached. Lucas said that they worked to help consumers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by extending eligibility, allowing 90 day refills. There was a 20% growth in program participation last year which is much bigger than the usual 5-6% growth in previous years. Because of this, the program will run out of funds in March so they had to act fast. There are approximately 1,327 people across the state (about 569 in the Houston area) that will no longer qualify once the spend down is eliminated; some of those may still qualify if their situation has changed because of COVID (loss of job or lower income). The Hepatitis C program has been closed to new enrollment and those who are currently on the program should complete treatment in April. The ADAP program will be going back to 30 day refills and the limit on premiums for SPAP will be removed.

Public Comment and Announcements: Mica said as an ADAP consumer this is potentially harmful for him and it's not going to help with ending the epidemic. Not everyone will be able to get their meds through other sources and will have to go without. S. Johnson said that Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA), the Local Pharmacy Assistance Program (LPAP), Harborpath and enrolling clients in insurance plans are alternatives for providing them with medication assistance. Lucas said that Mica is correct, this situation does not help end the epidemic. The spend down policy was Texas' answer to the program's low Federal Poverty Level/Guidelines (FPL) and they don't know what will replace it. Pradia asked if TDSHS has requested CARES Act funds to help with the shortfall. She also expressed outrage that neither consumers nor providers were invited to provide input into the situation before a decision was made and implemented. There was no contact with the Local Pharmacy Assistance Program. Lucas said they are asking for some of the State's CARES Act funds. They had to act quickly and she fully understands the problem with the lack of public comment. They are setting up a town hall meeting for feedback and breakout groups to work on the Texas HIV Medication Program response. Patel said it would be helpful if providers could receive a list of their clients who might be affected by the eligibility changes. Lucas said they did not want to create a panic, clients who are concerned their eligibility should contact their provider or case manager to find out where their income falls on the FPL. L. Williams asked if they could reach out directly to the pharmaceutical companies for help. Lucas said no, that would be in violation of the ADAP task force agreement. She will send information about the Town Hall meeting to the Office of Support for distribution as soon as she has more information.

Reports from Committees

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: No report.

Affected Community Committee: No report.

Quality Improvement Committee: No report.

Priority and Allocations Committee: No report.

Operations Committee: Veronica Ardoin, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

2021 Mentor/Mentee Luncheon: Ardoin said that she was unable to attend but heard that the January 14, 2021 meeting was well attended.

2021 Council Orientation: Ardoin said that the 2021 Orientation was well attended and included great speakers. Kelly made it fun with the dance breaks.

2021 Council Activities: Williams pointed out the memorandum regarding Petty Cash procedures, Open Meetings Act Training and the 2021 Timeline of Critical Activities. The documents will also be reviewed at the first meeting of each committee.

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

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

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

Medical Updates: Dr. Patel presented information on the new ART injectable medication that was approved by the Federal Drug Administration in January and the updated mask recommendations.

Task Force Reports: Murray said that the Council agreed some time ago that they preferred not to have verbal Task Force Reports while meeting on Zoom. The Office of Support is happy to receive and distribute written reports in advance of all Council meetings.

Announcements: Vargas said that Dr. Patel was the newest member of the Texas HIV Syndicate. Townsend shared the link for fast track cities in the chat: <https://www.fast-trackcities.org/cities/houston>

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

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria "Tori" Williams
Victoria Williams, Director

Date 02/23/2021

Draft Certified by
Council Chair: Allen W. Murray

Date 03/04/2021

Final Approval by
Council Chair: Allen W. Murray

Date 03/11/2021

Council Voting Records for February 11, 2021

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				
MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Allen Murray, Chair				C				C	Nkechi Onyewuenyi		X						X
Denis Kelly, Vice Chair		X				X			Matilda Padilla		X						X
Crystal Starr, Secretary		X				X			Shital Patel		X						X
Kevin Aloysius		X						X	Oscar Perez		X				X		
Veronica Ardoin		X				X			Faye Robinson		X				X		
Rosalind Belcher		X				X			Pete Rodriguez		X				X		
Ardry "Skeet" Boyle ja 12:30pm		X						X	Imran Shaikh		X				X		
Johanna Castillo ja 12:34pm		X						X	Gloria Sierra		X						X
Mauricia E. Chatman		X				X			Robert Sliepka		X						X
Enrique Chavez		X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X				X		
Kimberley Collins		X						X	Steven Vargas		X				X		
Robert "Bobby" Cruz		X				X			Andrew Wilson		X						X
Johnny Deal ja 12:34pm		X				X											
Dawn Jenkins		X						X									
Daphne L. Jones ja 12:34pm		X				X			MEMBERS ABSENT								
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X						X	Tony Crawford								
Roxane May		X				X			Ahmier Gibson								
Holly Renee McLean		X				X			Tom Lindstrom								
Josh Mica		X				X			Rodney Mills								
Diana Morgan		X						X	Deondre Moore								