

Who was Ryan White?

Ryan White was born December 6, 1971 in Kokomo, Indiana. At three days old he was diagnosed with severe Hemophilia and doctors began treating him with a new medication that was made from blood. In December 1984, while in the hospital with pneumonia, Ryan was diagnosed with AIDS – he had been infected by a tainted batch of medication. His T-cell count was 25.

When his health improved he tried to return to school, but school administrators voted to keep him out for fear of someone getting AIDS. Thus began a series of court battles, and Ryan attended class by phone. Eventually, he won the right to attend school but he was not welcome anywhere, even at church.

The controversy brought him into the spotlight and he became known as the ‘AIDS boy’. Many celebrities supported his efforts. He made appearances around the country and on TV promoting the need for AIDS education to fight stigma; his hard work resulted in awards and a TV movie.

For the most part, Ryan was a normal, happy teenager. He had a job and a driver’s license, he attended sports functions and his studies were important to him. He looked forward to graduating high school in 1991. On April 8, 1990, Ryan passed away at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. He was 18 years old.

Ryan’s mother continues to dedicate herself to his dream of easing the stigma and discrimination faced by so many people living with HIV. She still speaks to audiences about her family’s experience and the role that Ryan played in opening so many hearts and minds. She also remains a vocal advocate for HIV/AIDS programs, including the Ryan White CARE Act.



What is the Ryan White Planning Council?

The Ryan White Planning Council is a diverse group of volunteers who are affected by HIV in many different ways. Membership includes consumers (people living with HIV), service providers, local health care providers, representatives from other Ryan White programs and others.

The role of the Council is to determine how to best provide services in Houston and the surrounding 10-county area based on the guidance of the Ryan White Program, a federal law that authorizes funding to provide medical services for people living with HIV.

Every 3 years the Council, in cooperation with other planning groups in the community, interviews hundreds of people living with HIV to find out what services are needed and used, as well as services that are needed but unavailable or hard to get. This information is combined with data about the local epidemic and more to design services and allocate funds to the services.



Council members are appointed by the Harris County Judge and are then assigned to at least one committee. Committees are responsible for specific tasks and make recommendations that are reviewed by the full Council.

Membership on the Council requires a commitment of about 4 to 6 hours each month.

How Can I Participate?



We invite you to apply to be a member of the Ryan White Planning Council or a committee member. Call or send an email to our office and we will mail you an application, or you can apply online.

Not sure if you are ready for membership? Come by and watch the Council in action! All meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend... you are also invited to speak before the Council or any of the committees by signing up before the meeting begins.

The meeting calendar, Council publications and a wealth of other information is available on our website at www.rwpcHouston.org or through the Planning Council’s Office of Support by calling 832 927-7926.

Houston Ryan White Planning Council

Timeline of Annual Activities

Consumers, providers and the general public are encouraged to attend and provide public comment at any of the meetings described below. For more information on Council processes or to receive monthly calendars and/or meeting packets, contact the Office of Support at 713 572-3724 or visit us on the web: www.rwpcHouston.org.

JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Develop the annual Council calendar.
FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Deadline for submitting New Idea Forms. Call the Office of Support (713 572-3724) for info and to request the required forms. There are two additional deadlines in June and September.– The Council and all committees hold their first meeting of the year.– The Priority & Allocations (P&A) Committee meets to approve the policy for allocating unspent funds, priority setting and more.
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The Council approves the Joint Epidemiological Report.– The Office of Support notifies the public about the Subcategory Allocation review process.– The EIIHA Workgroup meets.– Consumer Training for the <i>How to Best Meet the Need</i> (HTBMN) process.
MARCH / APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Project LEAP class begins. Project LEAP is a free 17-week training course for persons living with and/or affected by HIV to gain the knowledge and skills needed to help plan HIV prevention and care services in the Houston Area. See the following page for more info.
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The Council and community training for the Quality Improvement (QI) Committee's HTBMN process; HTBMN Workgroups convene.– P&A allocates Ryan White (RW) Part A unspent funds.
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– HTBMN Workgroup for the Blue Book. The Operations Committee reviews the Council Support budget.– QI meets to approve the HTBMN results and review subcategory allocation requests.– P&A meets to recommend service priorities for RW Part A/B and State Services funding.– Public Hearing on the HTBMN results.
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Deadline for submitting New Idea Forms. See February (above) for more info.– The Steering Committee and Council each meet to approve the HTBMN results.– Special P&A meetings to draft the funding allocations for RW Part A/B and State Services.– QI meets to review the assessment of the administrative mechanism.– P&A meets to approve the funding allocations for RW Part A/B and State Services.– Public Hearing on the recommended service priorities and funding allocations.
JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The Steering Committee and Council approve the service priorities and funding allocations.
JULY / AUGUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– EIIHA Workgroup meets to make recommendations for the EIIHA Plan.
SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Deadline for submitting New Idea Forms. See February (above) for more info.– Consumer Training on Standards of Care and Performance Measures.
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Consumer Workgroup to review Standards of Care and Performance Measures.– Community Workgroup to review Standards of Care and Performance Measures.
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Council recognizes external committee members.– Joint meeting of all Committees to review data reports and suggest changes.– Commissioners Court to receive the World AIDS Day Resolution.
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– World AIDS Day (December 1st)– Council meeting to elect officers for next year.– Project LEAP evaluation.