

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council
1310 Prairie Street, Suite 800, Houston, TX 77002
832 927-7926 telephone; <http://rwpchouston.org>

Memorandum

To: Members, Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee

Kenia Gallardo, Co-Chair	Kathryn Fergus	Evelio Salinas Escamilla*
Robert Sliepkas, Co-Chair	Glen Hollis	Jose Serpa-Alvarez
Jay Bhowmick*	Kenneth Jones	Imran Shaikh
Johanna Castillo	Shital Patel	Steven Vargas*
Titan Capri	Beatriz E.X. Rivera	<i>Georgina German</i>

Members, Research, Data, & Implement. and Monitoring, Quality Assurance & Eval. Committees

Gloria Sierra, Co-Chair	Eliot Davis	Herman Finley, Co-Chair
Hongmei Wang	Jason Thomas	Mary Guidry, Co-Chair
Amber David	Jeffrey Meyer*	Glen Hollis
Bianca DeLeon	Jill Jahns	Michael Ruggerio
Daisy Perez	Johnny Deal	
Deneen Francis	Paul “Conlee” Stone	
Dominique Guinn	Reynauld White	

* = *Member of multiple committees*

Copy: Aryana Butler
Tiffany Shepherd
Marlene McNeese
Sha’Terra Johnson
Diane Beck
Ama Williams
Miyase Koksas-Ayhan
Mauricia Chatman
Oscar Perez
Beth Allen
David Babb – email only
Janice Burns – email only
G. Hollingsworth – email
Algernon Moorhead

From: Tori Williams, Ryan White Office of Support

Date: Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Re: Meeting Reminder

Please note that there will be a joint, hybrid meeting of the Comprehensive HIV Planning, Research and Data, and Monitoring and Evaluation Committees. Details are as follows:

**Joint Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee
Research, Data & Implementation Committee and
Monitoring, Quality Assurance, & Evaluation Committee Meeting**

2:00 pm, Thursday, July 11, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89330219598?pwd=RW9wKzFCWHI6SzRRNG12VndnR21YUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 3021 9598

Passcode: 253271

Or, call 346 248-7799

In-person location: Bering Church, 1440 Harold St., Houston, TX 77006. Please park and enter the building from the parking lot behind the church on Hawthorne Street.

Please contact Rod to RSVP, even if you cannot attend. Rod can be reached by telephone at 832 927-7926 or by email at: Rodriga.Avila@harriscountytexas.gov. Thank you!

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

Joint Meeting of the Comprehensive HIV Planning, Research, Data & Evaluation, and the Monitoring, Quality Assurance and Evaluation Committees 2:00 pm, Thursday, July 11, 2024

Please note that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) is prohibited at Ryan White sponsored meetings.

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89330219598?pwd=RW9wKzFCWHl6SzRRNG12VndnR21YUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 3021 9598 Passcode: 253271 To join via telephone call: (346) 248-7799

In-person location: Bering Church, 1440 Harold Street, Houston, TX 77006. Please park and enter the building from behind the church on Hawthorne Street.

AGENDA

-
- I. Reminder Regarding the Joint Meeting Process Tori Williams
- II. Call to Order Kenia Gallardo, *She/Her/Hers*, and
Robert Sliepka, *Him/His/They*
Co-Chairs
- A. Welcoming Remarks and Moment of Reflection
- B. Introductions
- C. Adoption of the Agenda
- D. Approval of the Minutes
- III. Public Comment and Announcements
(NOTE: If you wish to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, please sign up on the clipboard at the front of the room. No one is required to give his or her name or HIV status. All meetings are audio taped by the Office of Support for use in creating the meeting minutes. The audiotape and the minutes are public record. If you state your name or HIV status it will be on public record. If you would like your health status known, but do not wish to state your name, you can simply say: "I am a person living with HIV", before stating your opinion. If you represent an organization, please state that you are representing an agency and give the name of the organization.)
- IV. Comprehensive HIV Planning Updates Beth Allen
Interim Health Planner
- A. Houston EMA/HSDA Epidemiological Supplement
- B. Houston EMA/HSDA HIV Needs Assessment
- C. EHE/Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Planning Body Tori Williams
1. See attached Summary of May 2024 Activities
2. See attached Updates on EHE Goals
- D. HRSA Initiative to Expunge Criminal Records
- V. EHE/Integrated Planning Evaluations All
- VI. Next Meeting: September 12, 2024
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjourn

Agenda/Documentation of Progress for the Research, Data & Implementation and the Monitoring, Quality Assurance & Evaluation Committees

2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 14 2024

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NEXT MEETING DATE: _____

SUMMARY OF MEETING (over if more space is needed):

DECISIONS MADE & TASK ASSIGNMENTS:

Submitted by: _____
Aryana Butler or Ama Williams, Staff

Date: _____

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

**Joint Meeting of the Comprehensive HIV Planning,
Integrated Plan Research, Data & Evaluation, and the Integrated Plan
Monitoring, Quality Assurance and Evaluation Committees**

2:00 pm, Thursday, March 14, 2024

Meeting Location: Bering Church 1440 Harold St, Houston, TX 77006 and Zoom teleconference

Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	IP COMMITTEES MEMBERS PRESENT
Robert Sliepka, Co-Chair	Johanna Castillo, excused	Nike Blue
Jay Bhowmick**	Kenia Gallardo	Bianca DeLeon
Titan Capri	Shital Patel, excused	Ms. Dee Francis
Kathryn Fergus	Jose Serpa-Alvarez, excused	Mary Guidry
Glen Hollis**	Imran Shaikh, excused	Jill Jahns
Kenneth Jones	Gina German	Jeffrey Meyer
Beatriz E.X. Rivera		Michael Ruggerio
Evelio Salinas Escamilla**		Aryana Butler, HHD staff
Steven Vargas**		
<i>Ronnie Galley</i>		OTHERS PRESENT
		Josh Mica, he/him/él, RWPC Chair
		Sha’Terra Johnson, TRG
		Maylyne Gonzalez, TRG Intern
		Beth Allen, Consultant
		Tori Williams, Office of Support
		Diane Beck, Office of Support

** Comprehensive HIV Planning and Integrated Plan committee members

Call to Order: Robert Sliepka Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and asked for a moment of reflection.

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

Approval of the Minutes: *Motion #2:* *it was moved and seconded (Escamilla, Rivera) to approve the February 8, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Capri, Galley.

Public Comment: None.

Houston EMA/HSDA Epidemiological Profile: Williams said we will be working with Imran to write a full epi profile this year. In the meantime, we have the 2023 supplement available to use for planning.

Houston EMA/HSDA HIV Needs Assessment: Williams said that the needs assessment is still

moving along, Beck is singlehandedly working on this project. We still need about 150 surveys to meet our goal. Beck created a way to do it online and sent it out. Over 200 people sent a text and more than 50 completed a survey. This morning RWGA sent it to the case managers. Beck explained how the process works to get qualified do the online survey.

EHE/Integrated HIV Prevention & Care Planning Body: See attached Summary of February 2024 activities for all committees and workgroups, including their next meeting date. Each of the groups is doing very interesting work so if you are interested in being a part of any of them let Beck know and she will put you on the email list.

Training: Evaluation Skills Building: Escamilla provided training on evaluation tools and techniques. See attached PowerPoint presentation and links for America’s HIV Epidemic Analysis Dashboard (ahead.HIV.gov) and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Compass Dashboard. He also reviewed how this information applies to the chart of SMART goals.

Announcements: Williams said that the Ryan White committees do not meet in April so that members can participate in the How to Best Meet the Need process. All are invited to the training in April and at any of the workgroup meetings. This committee will meet again on May 9, 2024.

Adjournment: Motion: *it was moved and seconded (Vargas, Hollis) to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 p.m. Motion Carried.*

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Tori Williams, Office of Support Date

Chair of Committee Date

JA = Just arrived at meeting
 LM = Left the meeting
 C = Chaired the meeting

2024 Voting Record for Meeting Date March 14, 2024

MEMBERS	Motion #1: Agenda				Motion #2: Minutes			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Robert Sliepka, Co-Chair				C				C
Kenia Gallardo, Co-Chair	X				X			
Jay Bhowmick		X				X		
Johanna Castillo	X				X			
Titan Capri		X						X
Kathryn Fergus		X				X		
Glen Hollis		X				X		
Kenneth Jones		X				X		
Shital Patel	X				X			
Beatriz E.X. Rivera		X				X		
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X		
Jose Serpa-Alvarez	X				X			
Imran Shaikh	X				X			
Steven Vargas		X				X		
<i>Gina German</i>	X				X			
<i>Ronnie Galley</i>		X						X

Ending the HIV Epidemic/Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Planning Body

Summary Reports from Committees and Workgroups

May 2024

For more information about the groups listed below, please contact Diane Beck, RWOoS by telephone at 832 927-7926 or by email at: Diane.Beck@harriscountytexas.gov. All Committees & Workgroups meet virtually only, unless otherwise noted, and can be accessed by Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8899837982> Meeting ID: 889 983 7982

Join us for the next Leadership Team Meeting at 4 pm on Thursday, June 27, 2024. All are welcome

Aging and HIV Workgroup, 05/15/24, Diane Beck, RWOoS

Daniel Castellanos, DrPH, vice president of research and innovation at the Latino Commission on AIDS, presented a program on integrating HIV and aging care. Participants at the well-attended meeting agreed that aging services described in the presentation would be a great starting point for identifying those that needed to be added to HIV primary care. In July, Glenn Urbach, LMSW, the Ryan White grant administration program manager, will provide a service definition for case management targeting aging services. The workgroup will discuss modification of Ryan White standards of care. **Next meeting: Noon, Wednesday, July 17, 2024**

College Workgroup, Sha'Terra Johnson, TRG

Merging this group, which has yet to meet, with the Youth Workgroup is expected to launch it successfully in July. The co-chairs of the Leadership Team approved this change, allowing the two groups to meet together virtually. **Next Meeting: 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 2, 2024**

Consumer and Community Engagement Workgroup, 05/20/24, Cydney Clay, HHD

The group decided to integrate the College Workgroup into the Youth Workgroup and start an inventory of HIV services available on local college and university campuses. Road 2 Success community educational events are on hold until RWOoS can provide sandwiches. **Next meeting: 11 a.m., Monday, July 22, 2024**

Education and Awareness Committee,* 05/21/24, Tori Williams, RWOoS

After reviewing the goals and activities assigned to this committee, all convened agreed that it would be more efficient to merge this group with the Treat Committee. **Next Meeting: Noon, Friday, August 9, 2024**

Housing Workgroup, 05/23/24, Tori Williams, RWOoS

The workgroup has committed to two projects. The first will be working with Project LEAP students to produce one to two pamphlets for unhoused individuals. Potential topics are emergency housing resources and housing rights and resources. The second project will be collecting needs assessment data related to housing services in the greater Houston area. The most helpful will be the needs assessment, currently in the request-for-proposals stage, which is being conducted by the HOPWA program. The aim is to have two phases—phase 1, collecting needs assessment data, and, phase 2, creating an action plan. The hope is that phase 1 will be completed in the fall of 2025. **Next Meeting: 2 p.m., Friday, July 12, 2024**

Monitoring, Quality Assurance, and Evaluation Committee,* 05/09/24, Ama Williams, HHD

The committee did not meet in May so that members assigned to specific EHE/Integrated Planning committees and workgroups could attend May meetings and present evaluation plans at the next committee meeting. **Next meeting: 2 p.m., Thursday, July 11, 2024**

Needing In-Person Engagement Workgroup, 05/08/2024, Tori Williams, RWOoS

Members reviewed a plan to work with the AIDS Education and Training Center to create a three-part video series that includes HIV basics; information tailored to those who work with specific priority populations; and the

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Summary Report of Committees and Workgroups
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process for referring clients to local HIV prevention, testing and care services. The first series will be created in 2024 for case managers who work with the unhoused. There are approximately 1,000 case managers working with this group in the greater Houston area. In 2025, the series will be specifically designed for mental health workers, and in 2026, the series will be designed for staff who work with individuals impacted by coercive violence. **Next meeting: 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2024 (Note unusual day and time.)**

Prevention and Policy Committee, 05/14/24, Eliot Davis, HHD

Houston Health Department Deputy Assistant Director Marlene McNeese, MBA, and HHD Bureau of HIV/STI and Viral Hepatitis Prevention staffer Eliot Davis, LMSW, are assembling a report with updates on all EHE goals and activities. The aim is to present the report at the June Leadership Team meeting. In the meantime, the committee will gather information about the drawbacks of distributing condoms in Texas jails and prisons in order to understand both sides of the issue. Staff will provide a copy of the Prison Rape Elimination Act to the committee. FYI: Windham School District provides educational programs to students housed in correctional facilities across Texas. Some members suggested that the HHD website could provide more HIV prevention information about PEP and PrEP, as well as information about re-entry programs. Members also discussed sending PEP and PrEP information to therapists who work with those who have committed a sexual offense. **Next meeting: Noon, Tuesday, July 9, 2024**

Professional Health Care Engagement Workgroup, 04/29/24, Tori Williams, RWOoS

This workgroup met for the first time, and Josh Mica, Chair of the Houston Ryan White Planning Council, welcomed new co-chair, Evelyn Malone-Hicks, president of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, Houston Chapter. Together, they make a great team! (Thank you, Treat Committee Co-Chair Pete Rodriguez, for introducing Evelyn to the Houston EHE/Integrated Planning initiative.) After reviewing the workgroup goals, the group considered three proposed projects: (1) undertaking a series of videos to train case managers for the unhoused, mental health workers and those who work in shelters with individuals impacted by coercive violence; (2) training social workers and physicians, including physicians in private practice, in rural areas; and (3) educating front desk staff and other frontline workers how to create warm and knowledgeable relationships with clients living with HIV from the first visit. The members are to review the three projects and come to the next meeting with ideas and suggestions so that the group can select projects to implement in 2024. **Next meeting: 2 p.m., Monday, June 24, 2024. (Note unusual day and time.)**

Quality of Life and Social Determinants Committee

Steven Vargas, co-chair of the Research, Data, and Implementation Committee, and Josh Mica, Chair, Houston Ryan White Planning Council, recently agreed to co-chair this committee, which hasn't met since 2022. Soon, they will meet with Tori to plan next steps. In the meantime, the workgroups under the committee have been meeting and working on their goals and activities. **Next meeting: To be announced**

Racial and Social Justice Workgroup, 05/21/2024, Richon Ohafia, RWGA

After introductions, members reviewed agenda topics and participated in a presentation by Richon Ohafia, MPH, Ryan White Grant Administration, Health Equity Specialist, on definitions integral to racial and social justice. Discussions followed. Members are reviewing the AIDS United stigma index in preparation for the next meeting. Richon will provide a follow up presentation on Intersectionality at the July meeting. **Next meeting: 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 16, 2024—a hybrid meeting**

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Summary Report of Committees and Workgroups
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Research, Data, and Implementation Committee,* 05/09/24, Aryana Butler, HHD

The committee did not meet in May so that members assigned to specific EHE/Integrated Planning committees and workgroups could attend these May meetings and present evaluation plans at their next Committee meeting. **Next meeting: 2 p.m., Thursday, July 11, 2024.**

Respond Committee, 05/22/24, Sha'Terra Johnson, TRG

The May meeting was postponed until Eliot Davis has an opportunity to give an update on all EHE goals and activities at the June Leadership Team meeting. His presentation will provide guidance to the committee on next steps. **Next meeting: 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 24, 2024**

Status-Neutral Systems and Diagnose Committee, 05/08/24, Cydney Clay, HHD

Members evaluated each goal and discussed who would be responsible for evaluating that organizations were meeting their goals. Revisited the use of one overall survey to prevent repetitive links and prevent confusion. Reviewed each activity and determined that certain activities pertaining to policy can be switched out with the Prevention and Policy Committee. Committee members also discussed potentially scheduling a joint meeting with the Prevention and Policy Committee. **Next Meeting: 3 p.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

Treat, Education and Awareness Committee,* 05/10/24, Tori Williams, RWOoS

After reviewing projects that the five education workgroups are developing, the Treat Committee co-chairs suggested ways to pull some of the workgroups together to streamline the structure, increase membership on each workgroup and simplify the Joint Planning Body structure as a whole. Co-chairs each selected workgroups to join at the next meeting and to support personally. The committee also reviewed Goal 2D, which was identified as outdated, and requested that staff gather data on availability of free phones available to those who are unhoused. If most of the unhoused can get phones, Goal 2D can be eliminated. **Next Meeting Date: Noon, Friday, August 9, 2024**

Youth and College Workgroup,* 05/07/2024, Rod Avila, RWOoS

The workgroup welcomed three additional members who heard about the Youth Workgroup from the Latino HIV Task Force (Thank you, Gloria!). Underway are two initiatives. One will create a monthly program combining the efforts of three or four groups serving vulnerable young adults identified as formerly or currently unhoused, to develop a monthly, in-person (possibly hybrid) dinner and educational discussion meeting. The educational component will focus on HIV prevention and care, mental health, substance use, housing, employment and other topics. Twice a year, the group will be asked for input about designing medical and support services for youth. Decisions about food, presenters and more—particularly naming the program—will be made by a steering committee of elected consumers from each of the youth groups participating. In this way, the program will also teach leadership skills. A second initiative will develop a resource pamphlet for vulnerable young adults. **Next Meeting: 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 2, 2024**

* **Committee and Workgroup Changes:** The College Workgroup is merging with the Youth Workgroup under the name Youth and College Engagement Workgroup. The Education and Awareness Committee is merging with the Treat Committee under the name Treat, Education, and Awareness Committee. The Monitoring, Quality Assurance, and Evaluation Committee and the Research, Data, and Implementation Committee were merged previously.

Abbreviations: EHE, Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services initiative)

HHD, Houston Health Department

HOPWA, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS

PeP, post-exposure prophylaxis

PrEP, pre-exposure prophylaxis

RWGA, Ryan White Grant Administration

RWOoS, Ryan White Office of Support

TRG, The Houston Regional HIV Resource Group.



HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HOUSTONHEALTH.ORG



EHE Activities

Eliot Davis, LMSW – Policy Analyst
June 27, 2024

EHE Committees

Outreach & Community Engagement-

Co-Chairs: Cecilia Ligons, Ivan Prater, Miguel Jacquez

Education and Awareness-

Co-Chairs: Dr. Dominique Guinn, Ian Haddock, Steven Vargas

Status Neutral Systems-

Co-Chairs: Kevin Anderson, Amy Leonard, Oscar Perez

Research, Data, and Evaluation-

Co-Chairs: Kevin Aloysius, Chelsea Frand, Kendrick Clack

Policy and Social Determinants-

Co-Chairs: Januari Fox, Crystal Townsend, Michael Webb

Planning Partners





Pillars

DIAGNOSE

GOAL: Increase individual knowledge of HIV status by diagnosing at least 90% of the estimated individuals who are unaware of their status within five (5) years.

TREAT

GOAL: Ensure 90% of clients are retained in care and virally suppressed.

PREVENT

GOAL: Achieve 50% reduction in new HIV cases.

RESPOND

GOAL: Increase capacity to identify, investigate active HIV transmission clusters and respond to HIV outbreaks in 1 year.

Pillar 1 Activities

Encourage status awareness through increased screening, diverse non-stigmatizing campaigns, improved hiring practices, and updated accessibility in historically marginalized communities in Houston and Harris County.

Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Extend health center hours and/or partner with healthcare systems to demonstrate consideration for persons seeking services outside traditional hours.	Ongoing/In-progress	External Partners	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation
Explore a collaborative routine opt-out initiative with hospital emergency room providers outside a policy requirement.	Ongoing/In-progress	External Partners	Harris Health
Add five nurse-operated mobile units offering extended hours and bundled services (e.g., sexually transmitted infection [STI], hepatitis C, pre-exposure prophylaxis [PrEP], non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis [nPEP], body mass index assessment, glucose testing, immunizations, service linkage, partner services, etc.) to dispatch across Houston and Harris County.	Done	Internal & External Partners	AIDS Healthcare Foundation (2); Allies In Hope (2); Bee Busy Wellness (1); St. Hope (1)
Implement at minimum a yearly multilingual health education and promotion campaign empowering ALL sexually active Houstonians and Harris Countians to insist on initial and routine rescreening for HIV.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External Partners	Allies in Hope; Gilbreath- contract in the works (MPP active)
Prioritize hiring a diverse and representative staff whom people can trust to administer status-neutral services.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Pilot HIV and STI home testing kits and develop a protocol for timely, status-neutral follow-up, and quarterly evaluation to improve the service delivery.	Ongoing/In-progress	External Partners (Slated under new RFP for subrecipients)	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Legacy; Normaly Anomaly*
Re-establish an annual testing for tickets (e.g., "Hip Hop for HIV") event.	Ongoing/In-progress	External Partners	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS (?)
Conduct outreach efforts in screening locations near identified areas (e.g., college campuses, barber and beauty shops, shopping centers, and recreational centers) through ongoing partnerships with community leaders and gatekeepers	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External (DIS case-related screenings and MVU collaborations)	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center

Pillar 1 Activities

Advance legislative and non-legislative policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels to aid the End the HIV Epidemic initiative.



Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Educate policymakers on the need for a statewide mandatory offering of routine opt-out testing.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health
Revise policies that institute county-wide age-appropriate comprehensive sexual education that empowers youth to make informed decisions about their health.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Bee Busy Learning (Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center)
Advance county-wide policy modifications that require HIV testing and access to care for all arriving persons involved with the justice system and retest prior to facility release with enough medication and linkage to care if need determined.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Harris Health
Update local policies and procedures to implement an electronic automated reminder system and/or modify existing options to send annual screening reminders.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Allies in Hope; Harris Health; St. Hope
Conduct provider detailing (e.g., obstetrician/gynecologist, general practitioner, gerontologist) to promote internal policy changes to incorporate universal screening as a standard practice	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Allies in Hope; FLAS; Harris Health; Montrose Center; AETC

Pillar 2 Activities

Ensure rapid linkage to HIV medical care and rapid ART initiation for all persons with newly diagnosed or re-engaging in care.



Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
2A.1.1 *Not from HHD EHE*			Ave 360, AHF, St Hope; Harris Health; Legacy
Offer a 24-hour emotional support and resources line available with trauma informed staff considerate to the fact individuals are likely still processing a new diagnosis.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Harris Health; Legacy (FLAS & Allies?)
Health literacy campaign to educate those diagnosed on benefits of rapid start and TasP.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	BeeBusy; Montrose Center; St Hope; Harris Health; Legacy; Gilbreath
Support rapid antiretroviral therapy by providing ART "starter packs" for newly diagnosed clients and returning patients who have self-identified as being out of care for greater than 12 months.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	St Hope; Harris Health; Legacy; AIDS Healthcare Foundation; (Allies?)
Expand community partnerships (e.g., churches and universities) to increase rapid linkage and ART availability at community-preferred gathering venues.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation
Promote after-hour medical care to increase accessibility by partnering with providers currently offering expanded hours, like urgent care facilities.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation
Develop a provider outreach program focused on best HIV treatment-related practices and emphasizing resources options for clients (Ryan White care system) as well as peer-to-peer support resources for providers (e.g., Project ECHO, AETC, UCSF).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Provider & PMDFU)	AETC

Pillar 2 Activities

Support re-engagement and retention in HIV medical care, treatment, and viral suppression through improved treatment related practices, increased collaboration, greater service accessibility, and a whole-health emphasis.

Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Develop informative treatment navigation, viral suppression, and whole-health care support program including regularly held community forums designed to maximize accessibility.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (CPG, Town Halls, Symposia, HVHTF, Sub-contractor Mtgs) & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Partner with providers to expand hours and service location options based on community preferences (after-hours, mobile units, non-traditional settings).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Assess feasibility of expanded telehealth check-in options to enhance accessibility and promote bundling mobile care services (including ancillary services).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation
Increase the number of referrals and linkage to RW.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Increase integration, promotion, and the number of referrals to ancillary services (e.g., mental health, substance use, RW, and payment assistance) through expanded partnerships during service linkage.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Increase case management support capacity.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Develop system to monitor referrals to integrated health services.	Done	Internal (EPIC/HEDSS)	
Hire representative navigators, promote job openings in places where community members with relevant lived experience gather, and invest in programs such as the Community Health Worker Certification.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Survey users of services to evaluate additional service-based training needs.	Done	Internal (CPG & Training Unit)	
Conduct provider outreach (100 initial/100 follow-up visits) to improve multidisciplinary holistic health practices including importance of trauma-informed approach, motivational interview-based techniques, preferred language, culturally sensitive staff/setting, behavior-based risk vs demographic/race, and routine risk assessment screenings (mental health, gender-based or domestic violence, need for other ancillary services related to SDOH).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Provider & PMDFU) & External	Allies in Hope; FLAS; Harris Health; Montrose Center
Build and implement a mental health model for HIV treatment and care that includes routinizing screenings/opt-out integration into electronic health records.	Ongoing/In-progress	External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Source resources for referral/free initial mental health counseling sessions.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	St Hope

Pillar 2 Activities

Support re-engagement and retention in HIV medical care, treatment, and viral suppression through improved treatment related practices, increased collaboration, greater service accessibility, and a whole-health emphasis.

Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Maintain at least one crisis intervention specialist on service linkage staff.	Ongoing/In-progress	External	BeeBusy; FLAS; Harris Health; Legacy (Allies?)
Partner community health workers with local community gathering places (e.g., churches) to recognize and reach individuals who may benefit from support and linkage to resources.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Improve value of data to community by promoting inclusive, representative data collection on community selected platforms.**	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Widely share analyses of collected data with emphasis on complete context and value to community, including annual science symposium; Allow opportunities for community to share their stories to illustrate the personal connection.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (CPG, Town Halls, Symposiums, HVHTF, Sub-contractor Mtgs) & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Utilize a reporting system to endorse programs or environments that show training application and effort to end the epidemic. Conduct quarterly quality assurance checks after the secret shopper project established by END.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (CPG)	
Use the HIV system to fill gaps in healthcare by creating a grassroots initiative focused on social determinants of health.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Increase access to quality health care through promoting FQHCs to reduce the number of uninsured to under 10% in the next 10 years.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Harris Health; Legacy; Healthcare for the Homeless; St Hope; Ave 360*
Revamp data-to-care to achieve full functionality.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	

Pillar 2 Activities

Establish organized methods to raise widespread awareness on the importance of treatment.



Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Collaborate with CPG to gain real-time public input during meetings on preferred language and promotion of critical messages of Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) and Treatment as Prevention (TasP).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Collaborate with CPG to regularly promote diversifying clinical trials.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Increase education and awareness around the concept of U=U and TasP to reduce stigma, fear, and discrimination among PLWH.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Town Halls, Symposiums, CPG) & External	All Community Partners
Implement community preferred social marketing strategies over multiple platforms to establish messaging on the benefits of rapid and sustained HIV treatment (include basic terminology, updates on treatment/progress advances, and consideration for generational understanding of information).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	Gilbreath

Pillar 2 Activities

Advance internal and external policies related to treatment.



Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Implement and monitor immediate ART with a standard of 72 hours of HIV diagnosis for Test and Treat protocols.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies in Health; Montrose Center; St Hope; Harris Health; Legacy; Ave 360*
Revise policies to simplify linkage through use of an encrypted universal technology such as patient portal and/or apps to easily share information across health systems, remove administrative (e.g., paperwork and registration) barriers, incorporate geo-fencing alerts and anonymous partner elicitation.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AETC
Refresh policies to establish a retention/rewards program that empowers community to optimize health maintenance and encourages collaboration with health department services and resources.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (RFP) & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Focus on necessary requirements and reduce turnaround time from diagnosis to care (e.g., Change the 90-day window for Linkage Workers).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Update prevention standards of care to reflect a person-centered approach.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Develop standard of treatment and advocate for implementation for those incarcerated upon intake.	Done	Internal & External	Harris Health
Institute policies that require recurring trainings for staff/providers based on community feedback and focused on current preferred practices (emphasis on status-neutral approach, trauma-informed care, people first-language, cultural sensitivity, privacy/confidentiality, follow-up/follow-through).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Training Unit, CPG, HVHTF, Symposiums) & External	AETC & Denver Prevention Training Center; All funded partners
Revise funding processes and incentivize extended hours of operation to improve CBO workflow.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (RFP)	

Pillar 3 Activities

Integrate a status neutral approach in HIV prevention services by utilizing proven interventions to reduce new cases.

Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Develop a continuum of care for those utilizing prevention care services.	Done	Internal	
Establish prevention navigators with lived experience of the priority populations to assist engagement and "re"engagement in prevention services.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Offer and advocate for ongoing ancillary support options routinely offered during initial engagement.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Tailor proven behavioral, biomedical, and structural interventions, public health strategies, and social marketing campaigns from the Compendium of Evidence-based Interventions and Best Practices for HIV Prevention to the needs of Houston/Harris County.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Gilbreath

Pillar 3 Activities

Improve accessibility, information sharing, and monitoring of PrEP.



Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Increase access to PrEP clinical services by integrating PrEP/nPEP into routine services at HHD Health Centers.	Done (Integration) & Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Collaborate with medical providers in other specialties to integrate PrEP into routine preventative healthcare.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AETC & Denver Prevention Training Center
Expand PrEP services and hours to increase access including mobile, telehealth (e.g., Mistr, Sistr and Q Care Plus), and non-traditional settings.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation
Expand access to same-day PrEP for persons HIV negative by providing a 30-day starter pack; utilize non-traditional settings (e.g., faith-based organizations)	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health
Develop purposeful non-stigmatizing awareness messaging that normalizes PrEP and nPEP conversations with care teams.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Gilbreath
Create a PrEP Network information hub to help understand community practices and address challenges.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Website)	
Collaborate with local CBOs to develop a 24-hour nPEP hotline and Center of Excellence.	Not started	Internal & External	
Develop method of monitoring and reporting PrEP and a Continuum of Care.	Done (Development)/On-going (Monitoring & Reporting)	Internal	

Pillar 3 Activities

Address social determinants through a multi-level approach that reduces new cases and sustains health equity.

Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Increase service provider knowledge and capability to assess those in need of ancillary services.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Provider Outreach) & External	AETC & Denver Prevention Training Center
Provide funded organizations with payment points for linking people to PrEP, keeping appointments, and then linking people on PrEP to housing, transportation, food assistance, and other supportive services.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (RFP) & External	
Develop mental health and substance use campaigns to support self-efficacy/resiliency.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center; Gilbreath (Legacy ?)
Health departments partner more with colleges and school districts, Bureau of Adolescent Health to create a tailored strategic plan that better engages adolescent Houstonians/ Harris Countians.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	BeeBusy
Revitalize the Youth Task Force and seek funding for adolescent focused initiatives.	?		
Engage healthcare programs regarding inclusion of all HIV prevention strategies in their curriculums to educate future practitioners (e.g., medical, nurse practitioner, nursing, and other healthcare programs).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Provider Outreach) & External	TEPHI; University Grand Rounds
Reduce stigma and increase knowledge and awareness of PrEP and TasP through a biannual inclusive public health campaign focused on all populations.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	Gilbreath (All Funded Subrecipients*)
Train the workforce on a patient-centered (i.e., status neutral and trauma informed) prevention approaches to build a quality care system.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AETC & Denver Prevention Training Center (All Funded Subrecipients)

Pillar 4 Activities

Actively involve members of local communities in naming, planning, implementation, and evaluation by leveraging social networks, planning bodies, and community stakeholders in developing partnerships, processes, and data systems that facilitate response activities.

Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Invest in technological solutions that further our partnerships, processes, and mass communication dissemination.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Website, CDR/Surveillance Systems, Data Reporting & Dashboard) & External	Gilbreath
Host regularly scheduled community forums, presentations, and webinars with a variety of audiences such as residents, business owners, churches, bars, schools, and politicians. Increase transparency and buy-in by providing accurate information on important topics (e.g., privacy, protection, anonymity, gaps, recommended changes, and best practices).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (CPG, Town Halls, Symposiums, HVHTF, Sub-contractor Mtgs) & External	AETC & Denver Prevention Training Center
Expand the response Community Advisory Board (CAB) by incorporating interested participants from various taskforces, internal (e.g., Tuberculosis and HCV) and external stakeholders.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Conduct a feasibility study on outsourcing response activities to community partners.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Provide engaging non-stigmatizing safe spaces that promote information sharing on what is going on in neighborhoods and tailor recommendations. Normalize inclusive discussions and team building activities among residents and community leaders by broadly advertising meetings in multiple locations (e.g., Southwest, Montrose, Third Ward, Fifth Ward) to reduce stigma. Utilize these platforms to spotlight the great work communities are accomplishing to constantly reenergize buy-in.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Town Halls, Symposiums, CPG, HVHTF, Sub-contractor Mtgs)	
Conduct public health detailing to inform and educate providers about required disease reporting and how to effectively inform their patients.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Provider Outreach, PMDFU) & External	AETC & Denver Prevention Training Center; Allies; FLAS; Harris Health; Montrose Center

Pillar 4 Activities

Build a community-tailored program to investigate and intervene in active networks and ensure resources are delivered where need is the greatest.

Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Build contingency/surge capacity such as venue-based screenings cluster response efforts with existing contracted CBOs (when needed).	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center
Utilize case data and case studies to train both community partners and the HHD staff on better approaches to effectively respond to clusters, including the role partner services can play.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Town Halls, FIMR, CPG, HVHTF, Sub-contractor Mtgs)	
Integrate both CDR and time-space analysis to identify clusters.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal	
Conduct rapid response, ART linkage, and same-day PrEP in cluster investigations through close collaboration with contractors, care providers and other stakeholders.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal & External	AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Allies In Hope; Bee Busy Learning/Bee Busy Wellness; FLAS; Harris Health System; Legacy Community Health; St. Hope Foundation; Montrose Center

Pillar 4 Activities

Empower effective advocacy and policy changes at the local, state, and federal levels.



Activities	Status	Responsible Party(ies)	External Partners
Reestablish the CPG mandate to ensure community engagement and voice is consistently being heard.	Done	Internal	
Explore requirements necessary to change laws in the state by assessing current laws and implement annual assessment.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Town Halls, CPG, HVHTE)	
Examine the effects of HIV criminalization cases in the state to address policy barriers.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (Town Halls, CPG)	
Reevaluate and revise the partner index requirement within the State of Texas.	Ongoing/In-progress*	Internal	
Annually assess and provide report on data protection policies and procedures that ensure safeguards and firewalls protecting public health research and surveillance data from access by law enforcement, immigration, and protective services systems.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (S&C)	
Quarterly update the CDR plan in partnership with the community CAB.	Ongoing/In-progress	Internal (CPG)	

Questions?

THANK YOU!

Eliot.Davis@houstontx.gov



June 6, 2024

Dear Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Colleagues,

Experiences with the legal system can pose a significant barrier for people with HIV in many critical areas, including housing, employment, and access to public benefits. The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) is committed to ensuring that people with HIV who have had legal system involvement (defined as any person who is engaged at any point along the continuum of the legal system as a defendant, including arrest, incarceration, and community supervision) have access to core medical and support services to improve their HIV-related health outcomes.

As described in [HRSA HAB Policy Clarification Notice \(PCN\) #18-02 The Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program \(RWHAP\) Funds for Core Medical Services and Support Services for People Living with HIV Who Are Incarcerated and Justice Involved](#), RWHAP funds may be used to support people with HIV who are incarcerated and are expected to be eligible for HRSA RWHAP services upon their release.¹ HRSA HAB funded two specific RWHAP Part F Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program initiatives which included a focus on people who have been involved with the legal system: [Supporting Replication of Housing Interventions in the RWHAP \(SURE\)](#) and [Using Innovative Intervention Strategies to Improve Health Outcomes among People with HIV \(2iS\)](#), and HRSA HAB continues to learn best practices for supporting people with legal system involvement.

The expungement² of criminal records is an effective way to remove barriers to care and services, protect privacy, mitigate stigma, and support successful reentry into community.³ RWHAP funds may be used to aid in the expungement of criminal records.

The scope of allowable legal services as outlined under the "Other Professional Services" service category in [HRSA HAB PCN #16-02 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: Eligible Individuals and Allowable Uses of Funds](#) includes matters "related to or arising from [an individual's] HIV." To the extent that expunging a client's record is done to assist in obtaining access to services and benefits that will improve HIV-related health outcomes, RWHAP funds can be used to pay for the expungement of criminal records and associated costs. As policy and legal landscapes vary by geographic area, it is advisable that RWHAP recipients and subrecipients partner with legal service professionals and consult their own state and local laws to determine eligibility for expungement assistance.

¹ A case study of RWHAP funds being used for expungement: <https://publications.partbadap-2019.nastad.org/>

² Expungement is the process by which a defendant's criminal record is destroyed or sealed and thus treated as if it had never occurred. See https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/publications/teaching-legal-docs/what-is-expungement/

³ https://www.americanbar.org/groups/criminal_justice/publications/criminal-justice-magazine/2024/winter/evolving-landscape-sealing-expungement-statutes/

RWHAP recipients and subrecipients providing expungement services should develop policies and procedures to determine how RWHAP clients will receive expungement services.

In doing so, RWHAP recipients and subrecipients must ensure that:

- Such services are available and accessible to all eligible clients who seek them.
- The payor of last resort requirement⁴ is met.

HRSA HAB remains committed to serving individuals involved with the legal system and strives to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities for people with HIV across the United States. We remain committed to addressing barriers to care and appreciate the community input we have received in this area. Thank you for your ongoing efforts and dedication to providing HIV care and treatment to more than half a million people with HIV across the country and continuing to provide a whole-person approach to improving the lives of people with HIV.

Sincerely,

/Laura W. Cheever/

Laura Cheever, MD, ScM
Associate Administrator, HIV/AIDS Bureau
Health Resources and Services Administration

⁴ The Payor of Last Resort Requirement is described in HRSA HAB PCN #21-02 Determining Client Eligibility & Payor of Last Resort in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program at <https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/ryanwhite/grants/pcn-21-02-determining-eligibility-polr.pdf>