

**Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council**  
**Office of Support**  
2223 West Loop South, Suite 240, Houston, Texas 77027  
832 927-7926 telephone; 713 572-3740 fax  
<http://rwpchouston.org>

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members, Houston Ryan White Planning Council

Copy: Glenn Urbach, Ryan White Grant Administration  
Mauricia Chatman, Ryan White Grant Administration  
Tiffany Shepherd, The Resource Group  
Sha'Terra Johnson, The Resource Group  
Diane Beck, Ryan White Office of Support

**Email Copy Only:**  
Lt. Commander Lawrence Momodu, HRSA  
Commander Luz Rivera, PACE  
Lt. Commander Rodrigo Chavez, PACE  
Ann Robison, the Montrose Center  
Marlene McNeese, Houston Health Department  
Charles Henley, Consultant

From: Tori Williams, Director, Ryan White Office of Support  
Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023  
Re: Meeting Announcement

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Please remember that the Council will be using the hybrid format at least until the end of April 2023 so you can participate by phone or in person. **But, we need 11 people to meet in-person at the church in order to make quorum.** Council Member Peta-gay Ledbetter has kindly volunteered to bring a salad for everyone who attends in person so it is very important that you contact Rod to RSVP, even if you cannot attend:

**Ryan White Planning Council Meeting**  
12 noon, Thursday, February 9, 2023

**Meeting Location: Online or via phone**

Click on the following link to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/995831210?pwd=UnlNdExMVFFqeVgzQ0NJNkpieXlGQT09>

Meeting ID: 995 831 210      Passcode: 577264

Or, use the following telephone number: 346 248-7799

**In Person:** St. Philip Presbyterian Church, 4807 San Felipe St, Houston, Texas 77056

Please RSVP to Rod at 832 927-7926 or by responding to her email reminders. Thank you.

# HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL



*We envision an educated community where the needs of all persons living with and/or affected by HIV 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.*

## AGENDA

12 noon, February 9, 2023

### **Meeting Location: Online or via phone**

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/995831210?pwd=UnlNdExMVFFqeVgzQ0NjNkpieXlGQT09>

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Or, use the following telephone number: 346 248-7799

- I. Call to Order Crystal R. Starr, Chair  
Ryan White Planning Council
- A. Welcome, Moment of Reflection and Introductions
  - B. Adoption of the Agenda
  - C. Approval of the Minutes
  - D. A History of Minority AIDS Initiative Funding in the Houston EMA Charles Henley  
Former Manager  
RW Grant Administration
- II. Public Comments 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. If you work for an organization, but are representing yourself, please state that you are attending as an individual and not as an agency representative. Individuals can also submit written comments to the Council Secretary who would be happy to read the comments on behalf of the individual at this point in the meeting. The Chair of the Council has the authority to limit public comment to 1 minute per person. All information from the public must be provided in this portion of the meeting. Council members please remember that this is a time to hear from the community. It is not a time for dialogue. Council members and staff are asked to refrain from asking questions of the person giving public comment.)
- III. Reports from Committees
- A. Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee Allen Murray and  
Steven Vargas, Co-Chairs  
No report
  - B. Affected Community Committee Rodney Mills and  
Diana Morgan, Co-Chairs  
No report
  - C. Quality Improvement Committee Tana Pradia and  
Pete Rodriguez, Co-Chairs  
No report
  - D. Priority and Allocations Committee Peta-gay Ledbetter and  
Bobby Cruz, Co-Chairs  
No report

- E. Operations Committee Ronnie Galley and  
Cecilia Lignons, Co-Chairs  
*Item: 2023 New Member Orientation & Mentor/Mentee Meeting*  
*Recommended Action: FYI: Verbal update on the January 19, 2023  
New Member Orientation and the Mentor/Mentee Meeting.*
- Item: 2023 Council Orientation*  
*Recommended Action: FYI: Verbal update on the 2023 Council  
Orientation, hosted by the 2022 Operations Committee.*
- Item: HRSA Letter re: Consumer Incentives*  
*Recommended Action: FYI: See the attached letter from HRSA dated  
December 6, 2022, which relates to two options for reimbursing  
consumers for attending meetings: Option 1: provide a gift card to  
consumers who attend Ryan White meetings. Option 2: reimburse  
consumers for transportation, childcare services and meals (only if  
needed for health reasons). Please submit thoughts and comments  
to the Office of Support for consideration at the February 14, 2023  
Operations Committee meeting. Until the Council approves changes  
to the petty cash policy that align with the new policy, consumers will  
be reimbursed for transportation to and from RW meetings and for  
childcare so that a member who is also a parent can attend a RW meeting.*
- Item: Survey on Format for 2023 Ryan White Meetings*  
*Recommended Action: FYI: See the results of the survey of all  
2022 Council members regarding the preferred format for Council  
and committee meetings. Please submit thoughts and comments to  
the Office of Support for consideration at the February 14, 2023  
Operations Committee meeting.*
- IV. 2023 Council Activities Tori Williams  
A. Petty Cash Memorandum  
B. Open Meetings Act Training Memorandum  
C. 2023 Timeline of Council Critical Activities
- V. Report from the Office of Support Tori Williams, Director
- VI. Report from Ryan White Grant Administration Glenn Urbach, Manager
- VII. Report from The Resource Group Sha'Terra Johnson  
Health Planner
- VIII. Medical Updates Shital Patel, MD  
Baylor College of Medicine
- IX. New Business (**During Virtual Meetings, Reports Will Be Limited to Written Reports Only**)  
A. AIDS Educational Training Centers (AETC) Shital Patel  
B. Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D Dawn Jenkins  
C. HOPWA Megan Rowe

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| D. Community Prevention Group (CPG)  | Kathryn Fergus    |
| E. Update from Task Forces:  |                   |
| • Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)  |                   |
| • African American   | Sha'Terra Johnson |
| • Latino   |                   |
| • Youth  |                   |
| • MSM  |                   |
| • Hepatitis C  | Steven Vargas     |
| • Project PATHH (Protecting our Angels Through Healing Hearts)<br>formerly Urban AIDS Ministry |                   |
| F. HIV and Aging Coalition   | Skeet Boyle       |
| G. Texas HIV Medication Advisory Committee   | Bruce Turner      |
| H. Positive Women's Network  | Diana Morgan      |
| I. Texas Black Women's Initiative  | Sha'Terra Johnson |
| J. Texas HIV Syndicate   | Steven Vargas     |
| K. END HIV Houston   |                   |
| L. Texans Living with HIV Network  | Steven Vargas?    |

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment

\* *ADAP = Ryan White Part B AIDS Drug Assistance Program*

\*\* *TDSHS = Texas Department of State Health Services*

**HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES  
RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL**



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*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, December 8, 2022

Meeting Location: St. Philip Presbyterian Church 4807 San Felipe, Houston, Texas 77056  
and Zoom teleconference

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
Crystal Starr, Chair	Tana Pradia	Connie Whitworth, Janssen
Ardry "Skeet" Boyle,	Paul Richards	
Titan Capri	Faye Robinson	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
Tony Crawford	Pete Rodriguez	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Robert "Bobby" Cruz	Imran Shaikh	Mauricia Chatman
Johnny Deal	Robert Sliepka	
Ronnie Galley	Steven Vargas	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Dawn Jenkins	C. Bruce Turner	Sha'Terra Johnson
Daphne L. Jones		
Denis Kelly	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<i>Office of Support</i>
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Kevin Aloysius, excused	Tori Williams
Cecilia Ligons	Veronica Ardoin, excused	Mackenzie Hudson
Tom Lindstrom	Melody Barr	Diane Beck
Josh Mica	Rosalind Belcher, excused	Rod Avila
Rodney Mills	Johanna Castillo, excused	
Diana Morgan	Evelio Escamilla, excused	
Matilda Padilla	Roxane May	
Shital Patel	Holly Renee McLean, excused	
Oscar Perez	Andrew Wilson	

**Call to Order:** Crystal Starr, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

During the opening remarks, Starr said that today is World AIDS Day, a day to acknowledge and support the millions globally and thousands locally who live with HIV. Today is the last Council meeting of 2022. It has been an honor to be the chairperson; members' valuable time and dedication have not gone unnoticed. There has been a lot of change this year, and a lot of work. But, as usual,

the Council and the staff have worked together to make this a productive year. Starr also thanked Ronnie and Johanna for joining her at Commissioners Court last week to receive the World AIDS Day Resolution. At Court, Starr thanked all members of the Court, especially the Judge, for supporting the Houston Ryan White Program. Both Republican and Democratic members of the Court thanked the Council for the work that we do. Starr then called for a Moment of Reflection.

**Adoption of the Agenda: Motion #1:** *it was moved and seconded (Mica, Boyle) to adopt the agenda with the following changes: under Operations Committee change Slate of Nominees to Election of Officers and under Report from Ryan White Grant Administration change Keizman to Jason Black.*  
**Motion carried.**

**Approval of the Minutes: Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Mica, Ligons) to approve the November 10, 2022 minutes.* **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Boyle, Morgan, Patel, Richards.

**Training: Ryan White Election Policy:** Ronnie Galley, Co-Chair of the Operations Committee, reviewed the Council's election policy, see attached.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** None.

#### **Reports from Committees**

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Josh Mica, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
No report since the 2022 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan is about to be submitted.

**Affected Community Committee:** Rodney Mills, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
No report since committee members attended the Reunion Project and will be representing the Planning Council at World AIDS Day events throughout the day today.

**Priority and Allocations Committee:** Bobby Cruz, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
No report since the Committee completed its work for the 2022 planning year in October. See the attached Quarterly Committee Report.

**Quality Improvement Committee:** Daphne Jones, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
Reports from the Administrative Agent – Part A/MAI\*: See the attached reports:

- FY22 Procurement Report Part A/MAI, 10/14/22
- FY22 Service Utilization Report Part A/MAI, 10/14/22
- CQM Committee Quarterly Report (2 parts), 8/01/22

Reports from the Administrative Agent – Part B/SS\*\*: See the attached reports:

- FY22 Procurement Report Part B, 11/02/22
- FY22 Service Utilization Report Part B, 11/02/22
- FY22 Procurement Report DSHS SS\*\*, 11/02/22
- FY21 Health Insurance Assistance Report, 09/28/22

FY22 Standards of Care - Part A/MAI: **Motion #3:** *Endorse all changes to the FY23 Part A/MAI Standards of Care as presented on attached summary sheet.* **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Lindstrom

FY22 Standards of Care - Part B and State Services: **Motion #4:** *Endorse all changes to the FY23 Part B/SS Standards of Care as discussed in the presentation from The Resource Group, see attached.*  
**Motion carried.** Abstentions: Crawford, Lindstrom.

**Operations Committee:** Ronnie Galley, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Memorandum of Understanding, Part A Stakeholders: **Motion #5:** *Approve the revised, attached Memorandum of Understanding among Part A stakeholders.* **Motion carried unanimously.**

Election of 2023 Council Officers: See the attached slate of nominees and their credentials. Galley opened the floor for additional nominations; none were made.

**Motion #6:** *it was moved and seconded (Ledbetter, Vargas) to elect by acclamation the individuals on the attached list of nominees as officers for the 2023 Ryan White Planning Council (Chair: Starr, Vice Chair: Boyle, Secretary: Mica).* **Motion carried unanimously.**

Starr presented the following certificates:

- Leadership – members of the 2022 Steering Committee
- Appreciation – members who are retiring
- Perfect Attendance – for Council and/or standing committees
- Outstanding New Council Member

2023 Important Meeting Dates: Please note the following in-person meetings:

- Mentor/Mentee Luncheon – Thursday, January 19
- 2023 All-day Council Orientation at III by Wolfgang Puck – Thursday, January 26

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

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration:** Mauricia Chatman reported that the RFP closed on December 5th; the internal review is underway and will be followed by the external review. Glenn Urbach has been hired as the new Ryan White Program manager; he will start on December 19th. Until then, Jason Black will serve as the interim manager.

**Report from The Resource Group:** Sha’Terra Johnson, Health Planner, said they had no report this month. They are in the process of moving and will provide an update next month.

**Announcements:** Vargas thanked Dr. Levison, who is working on a great project reaching out to Latinos living with HIV in Boston and at Thomas Street Health Center as well. He and Pradia reviewed part of the pilot study and he appreciated Starr providing a letter of support from the Planning Council.

**Adjournment:** the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m..

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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Tori Williams, Director

Date

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Committee Chair

Date

\* MAI = Minority AIDS Initiative Funding

\*\* SS = State Services Funding

**Council Voting Records for December 8, 2022**

C = Chaired 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 #3 2023 Part A SOC/PM Carried					Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 2023 Part A SOC/PM 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
MEMBERS													MEMBERS												
Crystal Starr, Chair				C				C				C	Paul Richards		X					X				X	
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle,		X						X	X				Faye Robinson		X				X				X		
Titan Capri		X				X			X				Pete Rodriguez		X				X				X		
Tony Crawford		X				X			X				Imran Shaikh		X				X				X		
Robert “Bobby” Cruz		X				X			X				Robert Sliepka		X				X				X		
Johnny Deal		X				X			X				Steven Vargas		X				X				X		
Ronnie Galley		X				X			X				C. Bruce Turner		X				X				X		
Dawn Jenkins		X				X			X																
Daphne L. Jones		X				X			X																
Denis Kelly		X				X			X																
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X			X				<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>												
Cecilia Ligons		X				X			X				Kevin Aloysius												
Tom Lindstrom		X				X					X	Veronica Ardoin													
Josh Mica		X				X			X				Melody Barr												
Rodney Mills		X				X			X				Rosalind Belcher												
Diana Morgan		X						X	X				Johanna Castillo												
Matilda Padilla		X				X			X				Evelio Escamilla												
Shital Patel		X						X	X				Roxane May												
Oscar Perez		X				X			X				Holly Renee McLean												
Tana Pradia		X				X			X				Andrew Wilson												



C = Chaired the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #4 2023 Part B/SS SOC Carried				Motion #5 Part A MOU Carried				Motion #6 Election of Officers Carried								Motion #4 2023 Part B/SS SOC Carried				Motion #5 Part A MOU Carried				Motion #6 Election of Officers 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	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN				
MEMBERS																																	
Crystal Starr, Chair				C				C				C	Paul Richards		X				X				X				X						
Ardry "Skeet" Boyle,		X				X				X			Faye Robinson		X				X				X				X						
Titan Capri		X				X				X			Pete Rodriguez		X				X				X				X						
Tony Crawford				X		X				X			Imran Shaikh		X				X				X				X						
Robert "Bobby" Cruz		X				X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X				X				X						
Johnny Deal		X				X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X				X				X						
Ronnie Galley		X				X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X				X				X				X						
Dawn Jenkins		X				X				X																							
Daphne L. Jones		X				X				X																							
Denis Kelly		X				X				X																							
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>																				
Cecilia Ligons		X				X				X			Kevin Aloysius																				
Tom Lindstrom				X		X				X			Veronica Ardoin																				
Josh Mica		X				X				X			Melody Barr																				
Rodney Mills		X				X				X			Rosalind Belcher																				
Diana Morgan		X				X				X			Johanna Castillo																				
Matilda Padilla		X				X				X			Evelio Escamilla																				
Shital Patel		X				X				X			Roxane May																				
Oscar Perez		X				X				X			Holly Renee McLean																				
Tana Pradia		X				X				X			Andrew Wilson																				
Matilda Padilla		X				X				X			Andrew Wilson																				

# 2023 Ryan White Planning Council

## OFFICERS

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Crystal R. Starr, Chair

Ardry "Skeet" Boyle, Jr., Vice Chair

Josh Mica, Secretary

## MEMBER LISTING

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\*New Members

Kevin Aloysius	Allen Murray
Servando Arellano *	Matilda Padilla
Rosalind Belcher	Shital Patel
Caleb Brown *	Oscar Perez
Titan Capri	Tana Pradia
Johanna Castillo	Paul Richards
Tony Crawford	Faye Robinson
Robert "Bobby" Cruz	Pete Rodriguez
Kathryn Fergus *	Ryan Rose *
Kenia Gallardo *	Megan Rowe *
Ronnie Galley	Evelio Salinas Escamilla
Dawn Jenkins	Imran Shaikh
Daphne L. Jones	Robert Sliepka
Cecilia Ligons	Carol Suazo *
Roxane May	C. Bruce Turner
Rodney Mills	Steven Vargas
Diane Morgan	

*Membership list as of 01/18/23*

## OFFICE OF SUPPORT STAFF

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Tori Williams, Director

Mackenzie Hudson, Health Planner

Diane Beck, Council Coordinator

Rod Avila, Assistant Coordinator

# 2023 Ryan White Planning Council Orientation

January 26, 2023



**9:00 a.m. WELCOMING REMARKS**


*Crystal Renee Starr, Chair,  
Ryan White Planning Council*

**9:05 a.m. ALL MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

*Crystal R. Starr, Facilitator*

- Officers
- Committee Chairs
- New Members
- Continuing Members

**9:45 a.m. FORMAL RELATIONSHIPS**

- Tori Williams, Liaison for the Ryan White Program to County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Chief Elected Official
  - Crystal R. Starr, Chair  
Ryan White Planning Council
  - Tori Williams, Director, Office of Support for the Ryan White Planning Council
  - Glenn Urbach, Manager  
Ryan White Grant Administration  
Harris County Public Health (Part A)
  - Sha Terra Johnson, Health Planner  
Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group (Part B)
- 



**10:30 a.m. BREAK**

**10:40 a.m. COMMITTEE BREAKOUT ROOMS**

- Determine monthly meeting day and time

**11:00 a.m. WHO'S WHO AT RYAN WHITE**

*Diane Beck, Council Coordinator  
Office of Support*

- Interactive Game: go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and enter code 7862 5219

**11:40 a.m. TIMELINE OF CRITICAL  
2023 COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

*Tori Williams, Director, Office of Support*

**11:50 a.m. WE NEED YOU! 2022-2026  
INTEGRATED HIV PREVENTION  
AND CARE PLAN ACTIVITIES**

*Tori Williams, Director, Office of Support and  
Mackenzie Hudson, Health Planner,  
Office of Support*



**12:25 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS**

*Crystal R. Starr, Chair  
Ryan White Planning Council*



December 6, 2022

Dear Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Colleagues:

The community input process is a requirement in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program legislation and is implemented in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part A as Planning Councils (PC) or Planning Bodies (PB). The Health Resources and Services Administration's HIV/AIDS Bureau (HRSA HAB) recognizes and understands the value of clients who receive RWHAP Part A services actively participating and being involved in the planning process for HIV service delivery, as this drives services that are tailored to the needs of clients in the jurisdiction.

Nonetheless, the RWHAP statute prohibits RWHAP Part A recipients from making cash payments to intended recipients (i.e., clients) of RWHAP Part A services. See Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) § 2604(i); see also [HAB Policy Clarification Notice \(PCN\) 16-02](#). This prohibition is not limited to service-related costs, and thus applies to administrative costs like PC and PB expenses as well. Therefore, RWHAP Part A recipients may not reimburse PC or PB members who are clients via a cash payment with RWHAP funds.

However, per HAB PCN 16-02, RWHAP Part A recipients can support the participation and meaningful engagement of people with lived experience in PC or PB meetings by providing gift cards, vouchers, coupons, or tickets that can be exchanged for a specific service or commodity. RWHAP recipients are advised to administer voucher and store gift card programs in a manner that assures vouchers and store gift cards cannot be exchanged for cash or used for anything other than the allowable goods or services, and that systems are in place to account for disbursed vouchers and store gift cards.

Alternatively, RWHAP Part A PCs or PBs may provide clients with meals during in-person meetings scheduled around meal times (only if needed for health reasons), transportation to and from meetings, and/or child care services for the children of clients who participate in meetings.

Additional considerations can include adjusting PC or PB meeting times to occur after business hours or on weekends to reduce conflict with client work schedules. Lastly, non-RWHAP funding sources (e.g., general revenue funds) are not similarly restricted, and thus can be utilized for a variety of purposes, including to compensate clients for attending PC or PB meetings.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that clients are meaningfully involved in the planning process for service delivery in RWHAP Part A jurisdictions.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Chrissy Abrahms Woodland, MBA

Chrissy Abrahms Woodland, MBA  
Director  
Division of Metropolitan HIV/AIDS Programs

# **Survey of 2022 Ryan White Planning Council Members Preferences for In-person Vs. Virtual Meetings**

Prepared by Mackenzie Hudson, January 9, 2023

## **Summary Of Results**

In December 2022, a survey was conducted to analyze Ryan White Planning Council member preferences for in-person vs. virtual meetings and barriers to meeting attendance. All in all, 30 out of 34 Council members completed the survey, making for an 88% completion rate. Importantly, when it came to meeting format, 60% (the majority) of members prefer a hybrid format. A minority of participants, 36%, indicate that they prefer in-person only Council meetings. One Council member indicates a preference for virtual only meetings.

In regard to other obligations, 73% report that they have no obligations to inhibit in-person attendance, but 26% of respondents report that they have work or other obligations. Council members report several reasons for difficulty with in-person attendance, the two most common being travel time to the meeting and travel for work or personal reasons. In regards to how many 2022 Council meetings the respondent could have attended in-person, 33% of participants report that they could attend less than all of the meetings, with some reporting as few as 4 meetings they could have attended. The most common reason for not being able to attend all Council meetings is work obligations.

When asked how to make reaching quorum easier, the most common response is to provide incentives, including lunch, gift cards, and monetary incentives. Out of 15 respondents to this question, 6 (40%) say that providing incentives is important, with 4 of 6 (66%) of these participants referring to lunch specifically as the provided incentive. Again, out of 15 respondents to this question, 3 (20%) state that continuing hybrid meetings is important for reaching quorum. In regards to making important decisions, 59% of participants respond that they feel it did not matter whether important decisions are made in-person or virtually. However, 41%, a minority of participants, feel that in-person is better for making important decisions. As regards attentiveness in meetings, the majority, 60%, of participants feel that they were more attentive in-person than virtually. However, 40% of participants feel it did not matter whether in-person or virtual for their level of attentiveness.

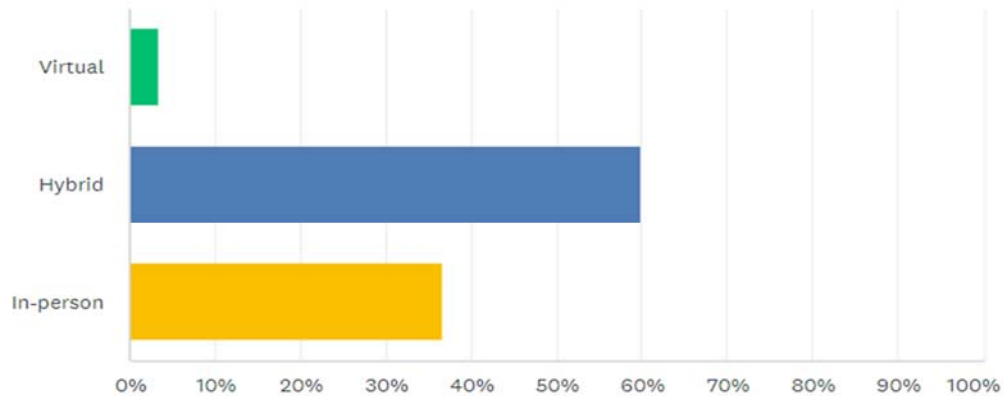
(Continued on next page)

## Introduction

In December 2022, a survey was conducted to analyze Council member's preferences for in-person vs. virtual meetings and barriers to meeting attendance. In all, out of 34 Council members, 30 members responded to the survey, making for an 88% completion rate of the survey. The survey was completed virtually by all, even though a pen and paper option was provided. Only members of the 2022 Ryan White Planning Council were asked to complete the survey, given their knowledge of meeting conduct and experience of in-person and virtual meetings.

### Q1. In-person vs. Virtual vs. Hybrid

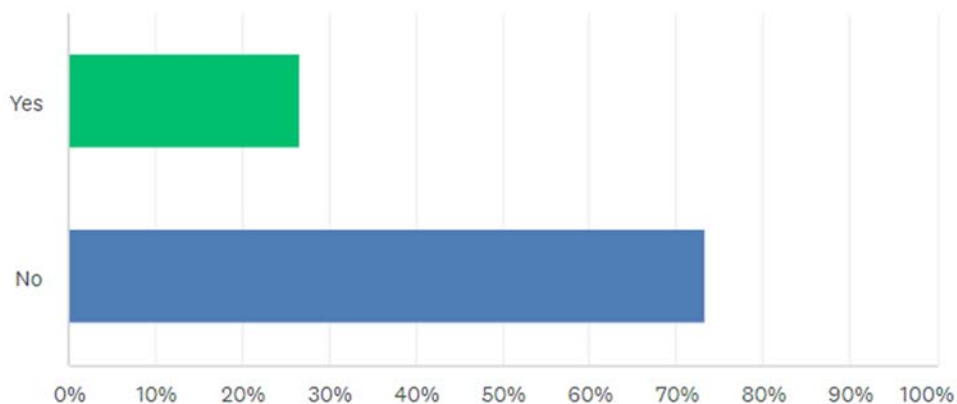
The question 'Do meetings work best for you only in virtual, hybrid, or in-person format?' was asked of Council members.



The majority, 18 of 30 or 60%, of members prefer a hybrid format. The second most popular choice is in-person only, with 11 of 30 respondents or 36%. Only 1 of 30 or 3% of respondents prefer a virtual only meeting format.

### Q2. Other Obligations

The question 'Do you have work or other obligations that inhibit you from attending in-person?' was asked of Council members.



The most common response is ‘No’, with 22 of 30 or 73% of respondents reporting that they have no other obligations to inhibit in-person attendance. However, a minority of participants, 8 of 30 or 26%, report that they have other obligations that would inhibit in-person attendance.

### **Q3. Reasons for Difficulty with In-Person Attendance**

‘What are the reasons your work or other obligations will not let you attend in-person?’ was asked of Council members. The most common obligation that hinders attendance is travel time to the meetings. For example, one member said, “Sometimes time to travel is a challenge – some meetings I can attend in-person – the virtual option gives flexibility.” Another member said, “I travel from different sites almost daily. Participating virtually allows me to join meetings while ‘on the go’ instead of having to be absent. I also travel often for work outside of Houston--- same issue as above.”

Another barrier to attendance at meetings is travel for work or personal reasons. One member said, “I travel for business and personal reasons and several times I was out of town and only could participate by attending on Zoom. One of those times I was attending a funeral, so it is very important for the council to have hybrid meetings.”

### **Q4. Maximum Number of Meetings Possible to Attend in 2022**

‘What is the maximum number of meetings you could have attended in-person in 2022?’ was asked of Council members. The most common (modal) answer, with 8 of 30 or 23%\* of participants, is that the respondent could have attended all 2022 Council meetings. However, 10 of 30 or 33%\* of participants reported that they could attend less than all of the meetings, with some reporting as few as 4 meetings they could have attended. Possible number of meetings that could have been attended ranged from 4 to 11 Council meetings. The average number of meetings that could have been attended, if it was less than all meetings, is 8 meetings. The most common reason for not being able to attend all Council meetings is work obligations.

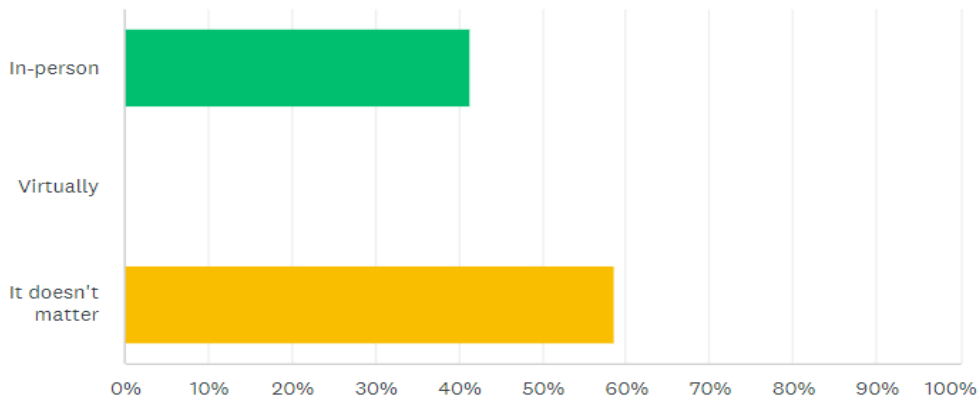
\*Percentages do not sum to 100% because not all Council members completed this question.

### **Q5. Making Quorum Easier**

Council members were asked ‘What are some suggestions you have to make reaching quorum easier?’. Out of 15 respondents to this question, 6 (40%) said that providing incentives was important, with 4 of 6 (66%) of these participants referring to lunch specifically as the provided incentive. For example, one member says, “The suggestion I would have is to provide lunch (including a cookie or desert) as a permanent policy for in-person meetings.” Again, out of 15 respondents to this question, 3 (20%) state that continuing hybrid meetings is important for reaching quorum. One member said, “hybrid – covid is still around” and another said “have the option for both in-person and virtual” as their opinion for making reaching quorum easier.

### **Q6. Making Important Decisions**

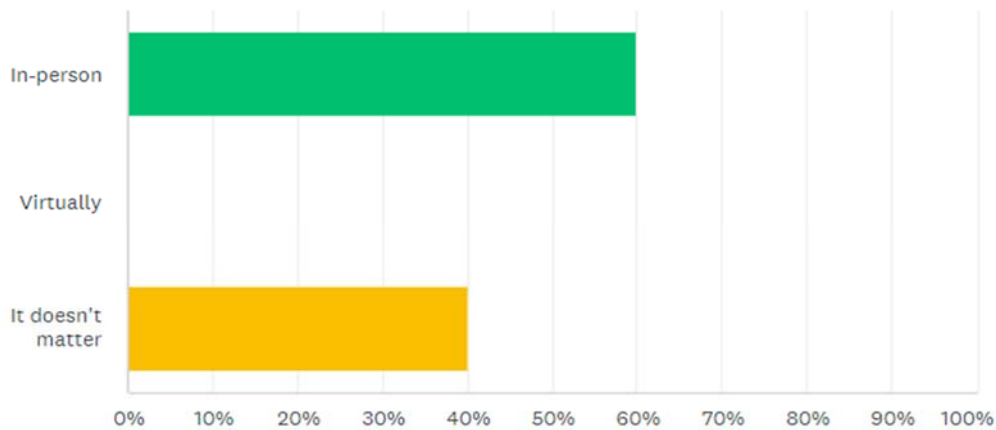
Members were asked ‘In your opinion, is it better to make important decisions in-person, virtually, or it doesn’t matter?’.



The majority of participants, 17 of 30 or 59%, respond that they thought it did not matter whether in-person or virtual for making important decisions. However, a minority, 12 of 30 or 41% of participants, feel that in-person is better for making important decisions.

**Q7. Format Where Members are Most Attentive**

Council members were asked, 'Are you more attentive in-person, virtually, or it doesn't matter?'



The majority of participants, 18 of 30 or 60%, are more attentive in-person than virtually. A minority, 12 of 30 or 40%, feel that they are equally attentive in-person and virtually.



**Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council**  
**Office of Support**  
2223 West Loop South, Suite 240, Houston, Texas 77027  
832 927-7926 telephone; 713 572-3740 fax

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members, Ryan White Planning Council  
Affiliate Members, Ryan White Committees

Copy: Glenn Urbach

From: Tori Williams, Director, Ryan White Office of Support

Date: January 26, 2023

Re: End of Year Petty Cash Procedures

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The fiscal year for Ryan White Part A funding ends on February 28, 2023. Due to procedures in the Harris County Auditor's Office, it is important that all volunteers are aware of the following end-of-year procedures:

- 1.) Council and Affiliate Committee members must turn in all requests for petty cash reimbursements **at or before the end of the day on Friday, February 17, 2023.**
- 2.) Requests for petty cash reimbursements for childcare, food and/or transportation to meetings before March 1, 2023 **will not be reimbursed at all if they are turned in after March 31, 2023.**

Please call Tori Williams at the number listed above if you have questions or concerns about how these procedures will affect you personally.

(OVER FOR TIMELINE)

**March 1**

**2022**.....

Beginning of  
fiscal year 2022

**Feb 17**

**2023**.....

Turn in all  
receipts

**Feb 28**

**2023**.....

End of fiscal  
year 2022. Possibly  
no money available  
to write checks until  
early April

**March 31**

**2023**

Turn in all remaining receipts  
for fiscal year 2022 or you  
will not be reimbursed for  
those expenses incurred between  
March 1, 2022 and Feb. 28, 2023

**Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council**  
**Office of Support**  
2223 West Loop South, Suite 240, Houston, Texas 77027  
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<http://rwpchouston.org>

## **Memorandum**

To: Members, Houston Ryan White Planning Council  
Affiliate Members, Ryan White Committees

From: Tori Williams, Director, Ryan White Office of Support

Date: January 26, 2023

Re: Open Meetings Act Training

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Please note that all Council members are required to take the Open Meetings Act training at least once in their lifetime. Affiliate members are encouraged to take the training. If you have never viewed the training video, or if you do not have a certificate of completion on file in our office, you must take the training and submit the certificate to the Office of Support before March 31, 2023. The training takes 60 minutes and can be accessed through the following link (if you have difficulty with the link, copy and paste it into Google and it should lead you to the correct area of the Attorney General's website):

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/og/oma-training>

If you do not have access to high-speed internet, you are welcome to contact Rod in the Office of Support to arrange a time to come to the office.

Upon completion of training, you will be provided with a code that is used to print a certificate of completion. Using the code, you may obtain the certificate from the Attorney General's Office in the following ways:

Print it from the Attorney General web link at:

[https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/forms/openrec/og\\_certificates.php](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/forms/openrec/og_certificates.php)

Or, call the Office of Support with the validation code and the staff will print it for you.

We appreciate your attention to this important requirement. Do not hesitate to call our office if you have questions.

## DRAFT

### Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

## Timeline of Critical 2023 Council Activities

(Revised 01-30-23)

A square around an item indicates an item of particular importance or something out of the ordinary regarding the date, time or meeting location. **The following meetings are subject to change. Please check our website at <http://rwpchouston.org> or call the Office of Support at: 832 927-7926 to confirm details regarding a particular meeting.**

**General Information:** The following is a list of significant activities regarding the 2023 Houston Ryan White Planning Council. People living with HIV, providers and members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide public comment at any of the meetings described below. For more information on Planning Council processes or to receive monthly calendars and/or meeting packets, please contact the Office of Support at 832 927-7926 or visit our website at: <http://rwpchouston.org>.

**All Ryan White Council and Committee meetings will be held virtually in January 2023, possibly via hybrid format after January. Routinely, the Ryan White Steering Committee meets monthly at 12 noon on the first Thursday of the month. The Council meets monthly at 12 noon on the second Thursday of the month.**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Thurs. Jan. 26 | Council Orientation. 2023 Committee meeting dates will be established at this meeting.   |
| Thurs. Feb. 2  | 12 noon. First Steering Committee meeting for the 2023 planning year.  |
| Feb. date TBD  | 10 am, Orientation for new 2023 Affiliate Committee Members.   |
| Feb. dates TBD | Integrated Plan: Quality of Life workgroup, Evaluation workgroup, HIV Education Coalition and HIV Data Committee meet to create timelines and organize their 2023 work products. |
| Thurs. Feb. 9  | 12 noon. First Council meeting for the 2023 planning year.   |

Tues. Feb. 14	5:00 pm. Deadline for submitting <b>Proposed Idea Forms</b> to the Office of Support. The Council is currently funding 17 of the 28 allowable HRSA service categories. The Idea Form is used to ask the Council to make a change to a funded service or reconsider a service that is not currently being funded in the Greater Houston area with Ryan White funds. The form requires documentation that justifies why a particular service should be funded and why it is not a duplication of a service already being offered through another funding source. Anyone can submit an Idea Form. Contact the Office of Support at 832 927-7926 to request forms.
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|-----------------|--|
| Thurs. Feb. 23  | 12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to approve the <b>policy on allocating FY 2023 unspent funds, FY 2024 priority setting process</b> and more.   |
| March dates TBD | EIIHA Workgroup and the Project LEAP/Proyecto VIDA Advisory Committee meet.  |
| Tues. March 14  | Joint meeting of the Quality Improvement, Priority & Allocations and Affected Community Committees to determine the criteria to be used to select the <b>FY 2024 service categories</b> for Part A, Part B, MAI and <i>State Services</i> funding. |
| Mon. March 20   | <b>Consumer Training</b> on the How to Best Meet the Need process.   |
| Thurs. April 6  | 12 noon. Steering Committee meets.   |

<b>Thurs. April 13</b>	12 noon. Planning Council meets. <b>1:30 – 4:30 pm. Council and Community Training for the How to Best Meet the Need process.</b> Those encouraged to attend are community members as well as individuals from the Quality Improvement, Priority & Allocations and Affected Community Committees. Call 832 927-7926 for confirmation and additional information.
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**DRAFT**

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

**Timeline of Critical 2023 Council Activities**

(Revised 01-30-23)

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Mon. April 17 10 am – 5 pm, Special workgroup meetings. Topics to be announced.

April 18 - 26

**The following workgroups will be scheduled to meet. Call 832 927-7926 for confirmation and to receive meeting packets.**

10:30 am. **Date to be announced.** **How To Best Meet the Need Workgroup #1** at which the following services for FY 2024 will be reviewed:

- Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Care (including Emergency Financial Assistance – Pharmacy Assistance, Local Pharmacy Assistance, Medical Case Management, Outreach and Service Linkage – Adult and Rural)
- Ambulatory/Outpatient Medical Care (including Medical Case Management and Service Linkage – Pediatric)
- Referral for Health Care and Support Services
- Clinical Case Management
- Non-Medical Case Management (Service Linkage at Testing Sites)
- Vision Care

1:30 pm. **Date to be announced.** **How To Best Meet the Need Workgroup #2** at which the following services for FY 2024 will be reviewed:

- Health Insurance Premium & Co-pay Assistance
- Medical Nutritional Therapy (including Nutritional Supplements)
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse Treatment/Counseling
- Non-Medical Case Management (Substance Use)
- Oral Health – Untargeted & Rural

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. **Date to be announced.** **How To Best Meet the Need Workgroup #3** at which the following services for FY 2024 will be reviewed:

- Early Intervention Services
- Emergency Financial Assistance - Other
- Home & Community-based Health Services (Adult Day Treatment)
- Hospice
- Linguistic Services
- Transportation (van-based - Untargeted & Rural)

Thurs. April 27 12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to allocate **Part A unspent funds.**

Mon. May 1 5:00 pm. Deadline for submitting **Proposed Idea Forms** to the Office of Support. (See February 15 for a description of this process.) Please contact the Office of Support at 832 927-7926 to request a copy of the required forms.

Tues. May 16 **How to Best Meet the Need Workgroup** meets for recommendations on the **Blue Book.** The Operations Committee reviews the FY 2024 Council Support Budget.

Tues. May 16 Quality Improvement Committee meets to approve the **FY 2024 How to Best Meet the Need results** and review **subcategory allocation requests.** Draft copies are forwarded to the Priority & Allocations Committee.

**DRAFT**

Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

**Timeline of Critical 2023 Council Activities**

(Revised 01-30-23)

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Tues. May 23	7:00 pm., Public Hearing on the <b>FY 2024 How To Best Meet the Need results.</b>
Wed. May 24	Time TBD. Special Quality Improvement Committee meeting to review public comments regarding <b>FY 2024 How To Best Meet the Need results.</b>
Thurs. May 25	12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to recommend the <b>FY 2024 service priorities</b> for Ryan White Parts A and B and <i>State Services</i> funding.
Thurs. June 1	12 noon. Steering Committee meets to approve the <b>FY 2024 How to Best Meet the Need results.</b>
Thurs. June 8	12 noon. Council approves the <b>FY 2024 How to Best Meet the Need results.</b>
Week of June 12-15	Dates and times TBD. Special Priority & Allocations Committee meetings to draft the <b>FY 2024 allocations for RW Part A and B, MAI and State Services funding.</b>
June or August	Quality Improvement Committee reviews the results of the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism and hosts Standards of Care training.
Thurs. June 22	12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to approve the <b>FY 2024 allocations for RW Part A and B, MAI and State Services funding.</b>
Mon. June 26	7 pm. Public Hearing on the <b>FY 2024 service priorities and allocations.</b>
Tues. June 27	Time TBD. Special meeting of the Priority & Allocations Committee to review public comments regarding the <b>FY 2024 service priorities and allocations.</b>
July/Aug.	Workgroup meets to complete the proposed <b>FY 2024 EIIHA Plan.</b>
Thurs. July 6	12 noon. Steering Committee approves the <b>FY 2024 service priorities and allocations.</b>
Thurs. July 13	12 noon. Council approves the <b>FY 2024 service priorities and allocations.</b>
Fri. July 14	5 pm. Deadline for submitting a Project LEAP application form. See July 26 for description of Project LEAP. Call 832 927-7926 for an application form.
Thurs. July 27	12 noon. If necessary, the Priority & Allocations Committee meets to address problems Council sends back regarding the <b>FY 2024 priority &amp; allocations.</b> They also allocate <b>FY 2022 carryover funds. (Allocate even though dollar amount will not be avail. until Aug.)</b>
Wed. July 26	<b>Project LEAP</b> classes begin. Project LEAP is a free 17-week training course for individuals living with or affected by HIV to gain the knowledge and skills they need to help plan HIV prevention and care services in the Houston Area. To apply, call 832 927-7926.

(continued)

## DRAFT

### Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council

## Timeline of Critical 2023 Council Activities

(Revised 01-30-23)

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- Thurs. Aug. 3      12 noon. ALL ITEMS MUST BE REVIEWED BEFORE BEING SENT TO COUNCIL – THIS STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IS THE **LAST CHANCE TO APPROVE ANYTHING NEEDED FOR THE FY 2024 GRANT**. (Mail out date for the August Steering Committee meeting is July 27, 2023.)
- Mon. Aug. 21      **Consumer Training** on Standards of Care and Performance Measures.
- Fri. Sept. 1      5:00 pm. Deadline for submitting **Proposed Idea Forms** to the Office of Support. (See February 14 for a description of this process.) Please contact the Office of Support at 832 927-7926 to request a copy of the required forms.
- Tues. Sept. 19      Joint meeting of the Quality Improvement, Priority & Allocations and all Committees to review data reports and make suggested changes.
- Mon. Sept. 25      **Consumer-Only Workgroup** meeting to review FY 2024 Standards of Care.
- Tues. Oct. 17      Operations Committee reviews the Memorandum of Understanding between all Part A stakeholders & Letter of Agreement between Part B stakeholders.
- October or November      Date & time TBD. Community Workgroup meeting to review **FY 2024 Standards of Care** for all service categories.
- Thurs. Oct. 26      12 noon. Priority & Allocations Committee meets to allocate FY 2023 unspent funds.
- Nov. 1      10:00 am. Commissioners Court to receive the World AIDS Day Resolution.
- Thurs. Nov. 9      12 noon. Council recognizes all Affiliate Committee Members.
- Fri. Dec. 1      **World AIDS Day**.
- Thurs. Dec. 14      12 noon. Election of Officers for the 2024 Ryan White Planning Council.

**The Washington Post**

*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

# HIV at center of latest culture war after Tennessee rejects federal funds

The red-state pushback reflects growing tensions over federal priorities over public health issues

By [Ariana Eunjung Cha](#) and [Fenit Nirappil](#)

January 26, 2023 at 6:18 a.m. EST

Tennessee has rejected millions of dollars from the federal government for HIV/AIDS prevention — a move that public health experts worry will politicize the response to the disease and has the potential to destabilize decades of progress in getting the epidemic under control.

The controversy, which critics say was triggered by questions about the inclusion of transgender and abortion rights groups, is the latest example of Republican pushback against federal leadership and oversight that has resulted in clashes in areas that once had bipartisan support.

“This is something that is dangerous,” said Greg Millett, director of public policy for Amfar, a leading AIDS nonprofit, and a former senior policy adviser in the White House Office of National AIDS Policy until 2014. “This is part of a larger backlash against public health we’ve been seeing in our country the past few years.”

The tensions in Tennessee began in the fall, when Republican Gov. Bill Lee voiced disapproval of two HIV grant recipients spotlighted in conservative media — a task force on transgender health issues and Planned Parenthood. The conflict escalated late last week when the state announced that after May 31, it would no longer accept any money from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for testing, prevention and surveillance of HIV.

State officials said they would continue to support HIV testing and prevention but would focus on first responders, victims of human trafficking, and mothers and children. In contrast, the federal program prioritizes men who have sex with men and transgender people, particularly in communities of color, who are at greatest risk of HIV, according to federal surveillance data.

“It’s pretty hard not to think that part of the motivation is to restrict funding to groups we don’t like and don’t want to support,” said Wayne Smith, who runs a faith-based HIV prevention program in Knoxville that will lose about \$10,000 for testing each year.

Joseph Cherabie, an infectious-disease physician at Washington University in St. Louis who oversees an HIV prevention program, called the decision “a coordinated effort in order to try to dehumanize and stigmatize the LGBT community.”

Those who have long battled HIV say they are fearful about the human cost. Indiana drew national scrutiny in 2015 when one rural county saw 200 new HIV cases in a short period driven by intravenous drug use, at a time when then-Gov. Mike Pence delayed allowing a clean needle exchange program. And in 2017, after then-Florida Gov. Rick Scott returned \$54 million in unspent federal funds for HIV, the state saw the highest number of new HIV diagnoses in the United States.

For advocates of the gay and transgender communities in Tennessee, concerns about new disease outbreaks are magnified by the fact that Shelby County, home to Memphis, already has one of the highest rates of new HIV infections in the United States. Nationwide, about 35,000 new cases are reported each year.

Lee told reporters Friday that he still believes HIV prevention is “very important,” but that “we think we can do that better than the strings attached with the federal dollars that came our way.”



But neither he nor state health officials would explain why they decided to target new groups, how they planned to distribute state funding or what shape their programs would take.

Health-care groups said the decision to forgo federal funding would allow state officials to elevate conservative organizations whose goals may be more about imposing their values on others because the state would no longer have to follow CDC guidelines on scientific, evidence-based medicine. They drew parallels to how “crisis pregnancy centers” backed by social conservatives advertise themselves as health-care entities but are primarily concerned with preventing women from getting abortions.

Tennessee has received about \$8.3 million annually from the CDC for HIV prevention efforts. The governor’s office said it is committed to maintaining the same funding levels.

CDC spokesman Scott Pauley said the agency had not received official notification from the Tennessee Department of Health withdrawing from the CDC’s funding.

“We would certainly be concerned if the services people in Tennessee need to stay healthy were interrupted, or if public health capacity to respond to HIV outbreaks and bring an end to this epidemic were hindered,” he said.

## Bipartisan history

For several decades, HIV/AIDS had seemed to be insulated from the partisan politics that has created conflict and confusion for other health-care goals — over the coronavirus response, abortion rights, surgeries that help people transition to their self-identified genders and even the expansion of Medicaid.

It was President George W. Bush who signed legislation in 2003 authorizing PEPfar, or the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which some have described as the most effective government effort ever to address a global disease outbreak.

President Barack Obama helped reorient domestic strategy to focus on PrEP drugs to stop the spread of new infections and provided the means to make those medications available through federal funding and mandating insurance coverage. President Donald Trump continued that tradition in his 2019 State of the Union address, announcing an initiative to stop new HIV infections in the United States by 2030.

Some of the funds coming to Tennessee had in fact been authorized under Trump’s plan, which concentrated resources on 50 “hot spots,” including Shelby County, that are leading the country in new infections.

Even before Tennessee’s decision, there had been other signs of a splintering of the bipartisan coalition supporting federal HIV surveillance and prevention policies.

In Texas, religious employers brought a suit arguing that they shouldn’t have to pay for HIV-prevention drugs that are mandated by the Affordable Care Act, and in September, a federal judge sided with them, citing the right to religious freedom. And in West Virginia, state and local officials imposed new barriers on sterile-syringe programs targeted at reducing the spread of HIV even as the Biden administration has pushed to expand them.

Jeremiah Johnson, acting executive director of PrEP4All, an HIV advocacy group, pointed out that the lifetime cost of a single new HIV infection is estimated at \$500,000.

“It’s always disconcerting when we end up being considered less important to invest in, and less important to invest our health-care concerns. It’s a slippery slope. ... Whom does public health serve?” he asked.

But community groups say the battle isn't over.

Molly Rose Quinn, executive director of OutMemphis, Tennessee's largest LGBTQ health organization, said groups across the state are trying to figure out alternative funding and exploring whether the grants could bypass the state and be administered by a county or other municipality that would partner with community groups.

"A state choosing to back away from federal money for health care — if they do get away with it — could introduce a very dangerous pattern," she said. Her group has received \$180,000 from the CDC program for HIV testing.

"We're just really freaked out, honestly," Quinn added. "We are concerned not only for the people we serve directly, but statewide, the HIV transmission rates are alarming in this part of the country."

## Backlash over transgender issues

The issue that blew up the Tennessee program was unrelated to HIV prevention.

Groups that relied on the grants said they had operated mostly without controversy until October, when they were pulled into a conservative firestorm over surgeries at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital's transgender care clinic in Nashville that help people transition to the gender that matches how they identify. An article on a conservative news site falsely accused Planned Parenthood's Memphis clinic of conducting such surgeries on youths, as well, and a transgender task force getting CDC funding was accused, again falsely, of starting as an HIV prevention group but then expanding "to promote transgender surgeries and abortion."

Lee, who was running for reelection as governor, promised a "thorough investigation."

He disavowed and defunded the task force, citing its "extreme ideologies." The group had been created in 2018, before he took office, to develop HIV prevention programs for transgender people and sought to provide a guidebook of trans-affirming health-care providers and webinars. It had received \$10,000 annually from the CDC grant. Around the same time, Planned Parenthood officials said that they were told they would no longer receive HIV tests from the state to distribute to their patients and that a free-condom program they had managed for decades would lose its \$225,000 annual funding.

"The attacks are getting worse and worse, day by day in our community," said Ray Holloman, who chairs the nine-member Task Force for Transgender Health.

Ashley Coffield, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi, said ending the AIDS epidemic requires a coordinated federal strategy, rather than one-off efforts by a single state — especially one that borders so many other states. She worries about new disease outbreaks "not just in the highest risk, but in the general population."

"Walking away from these programs could take HIV back a generation," Coffield said.