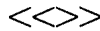


HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL



We envision an educated community where the needs of all HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected individuals are met by accessible, effective, and culturally sensitive health and psychosocial services that are part of a fully coordinated system. The community will continue to intervene responsibly until the end of the epidemic.

The Houston Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) Ryan White Planning Council will improve the quality of life and advocate for those infected and/or affected with HIV/AIDS by taking a leadership role in the planning and assessment of HIV resources

MINUTES

Thursday, May 5, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lou Vanech, chair
Steve DeCorte
Michael DeGuzman
Roy Delesbore
Paula Downes
Liza Espinosa
Johnetta Evans-Thomas
Joe Fuentes, Jr.
Daniel Garza
Johnny Harris, Jr.
John Humphries
Kevin Jackson
Roy Jefferson, III
Christopher Lahart
Lupe Martinez
Nancy Miertschin
Joseph Osei-Frimpong
Johnnie Petry
Kimbrae Sanders
Michael Springer
Thomas Urban
Thomas Vaughan
Steven Walker
Lesley Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

JM Allen
Skeet Boyle, excused
Michele Curtis
Veronica Garza, excused
Eddie Gibbs, excused
Gretchen Hollingsworth, excused
Veronica Jacobs, excused
Catherine Kirkwood, excused
Albert McKinney, excused
Douglas Morse, excused
Lynn Pannill, excused
Lucy Reyna, excused
Kaye Reynolds, excused
Tracy Wilson, excused
Marlene McNeese-Ward, excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Rodney Goodie, St. Hope
Charles Henley, HIV Services
Christopher Schmitt, TRG
Bill Kersten, Bering Omega
Jim Stanley, County Health Dept.
Tracy, Stroudwater
Tori Williams, RWPC
Rita A'Andrea, RWPC
Modelle Brudner, Judge Eckels
Georgette L. Monaghan, RWPC
Jerry Harris, HDHHS, Epi

Call to Order: Louis E. Vanech, called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. by asking for a moment of reflection.

Training regarding "The Difference Between HIV and AIDS Prevalence and How this Affects Council Decisions": Tori Williams reviewed the attached chart "Prevalence Differentials" and explained that HRSA is moving in the direction of using both HIV and AIDS Prevalence for membership and other requirements. Charles Henley stated that HIV Prevalence is non-AIDS, which excludes all numbers in the AIDS Prevalence box. HIV Prevalence is based on estimates. AIDS Prevalence is based on real, reported cases.

Adoption of the Agenda: *Motion: it was moved and seconded (Humphries, Williams, L.) to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.*

Adoption of the Minutes: *Motion: it was moved and seconded (Jefferson, Jackson) to adopt the April 11, 2002 minutes with the following change: age 3, 2nd paragraph from the bottom, the 2nd sentence should read: "There was antidotal evidence from members of the work group to keep Project LEAP"...*
Abstentions: DeCorte, Humphries, Delesbore, Springer, Martinez. Motion carried.

Update on Meeting with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee: Vanech reported that there were nine Council members and two guests present. The meeting was very productive and a worth while endeavor. Congresswoman Lee said she would take some action steps to address some of the items discussed. Walker stated that much of discussion was focus on HOPWA. Vanech stated that he would like to see others meeting set up with Congressman Green, Senator Hutchinson, etc. Williams, L. suggested Tom Delay. Springer asked if the projected short fall in ADAP was discussed? Vanech responded that because time was limited that question was not discussed. Petry stated that Congress is working on a bill now that would extend ADAP coverage through Medicaid.

Public Comment: Rodney Goodie, St. Hope Foundation, praised the Council for their response to the gap in the Rural Food Pantry Service. As the current provider he reported the following: St. Hope opened up a Food Pantry in Conroe April 1, 2002. Currently 65 clients are being served. Meats and several other food items that were not readily available in the past, are now available daily. All of the food has been and is approved by a licensed dietician. Goodie thanked AFH, Brentwood, and the Houston Challenge Foundation for filling in so there was no a gap in services. St. Hope is working on adding another site in the Fort Bend area. Goodie thanked the now dissolved Northwest AIDS Coalition for the donation of their freezers and expertise in making it a smooth transition. Harris, Jr. stated that he has heard from clients that in order to receive services at the food pantry they are required to receive medical care first. Goodie responded that this is untrue. There are three medical care providers in Conroe.

Report from Standing Committees

Quality Assurance Committee: DeCorte, vice-chair, reported on the following:

Training on April 17, 2002: The training was well attended and the presenters were good.

"How to Best Meet the Need": The committee will present the work group recommendations at the next meeting.

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: Downes, Chair, gave the following reports:

2002 HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment: *Motion: To approve the attached Epi Report. Discussion: Downes stated that the Epi report is well written, very informative, and thanked Schmitt for his hard work. Vanech also thanked Schmitt. Motion carried.*

2002 HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment FYI: Please see the attached memo regarding proofreading for DRAFT #2 of the document. Downes stated that the document is incredible and thanked Kulick and D'Andrea for their hard work.

2002 HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment: FYI: The dates of the two community meetings will be announced after the assessment has been approved by NAG and the Council. Vanech thanked DeCorte and Ken Malone, who have been the point people for NAG.

JCPC: FYI: This group will be meeting at 10:00 a.m on Monday, June 24, 2002.

Advances in Meds/Treatments: Steve Walker, Chair, reported on the following:

Last month was the committee's first 2002 public presentation. The topic was on HIV and Depression. The meeting was attended by approximately 35 people. The two presentations (see attached) were excellent. Resulting recommendations were sent to the Quality Assurance Committee to improve services. The June presentation will discuss Side Effect Management.

Administrative Assessment Committee: Michael DeGuzman, Chair, reported on the following:

Project LEAP Evaluation: The subcommittee met this morning and sent their recommendations to the Operations Committee. Williams, T. stated that those interested in the recommendations should attend the next Operations Committee meeting. DeGuzman stated that this process proved to be more difficult than originally thought and input is needed.

Affected Community Committee: Williams, L., Vice-chair made the following report:

2002 Council Participation in Community Health Fairs: The committee could not secure a booth for the Houston International Festival. The Council is on the mailing list for 2003. Upcoming events in which the Council will be participating include the: Chevron African American Arts Festival at Project Row Houses, Juneteenth Festival, El Grito Festival in September, and EMPOWER. Vanech asked if the committee would look into entering the Gay Pride Parade. Humphries asked if the committee would look into the African-American Expo.

RWPC Brochure: Diane Clark did a terrific job in drafting a tri-fold brochure. The final product will be available for review soon.

Public Hearing: FYI: Please see the attached agenda for the hearing scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 29, 2002. Williams, T. stated that the Municipal Access channel will tape and televise the hearing. The Public Hearing will present the "How to Best Meet the Needs" recommendations, recommended FY03 priorities, and the 2002 HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment. Walker suggested holding a Public Hearing in the rural areas. Williams, T. stated that the reason for having it televised is to reach individuals who are home-bound or have difficulty participating in the hearing.

Operations Committee: Delesbore, Chair, stated that the last "How to Best Meet the Needs" work group will be at noon on Tuesday, May 14, 2002 at HACS.

Priority & Allocations Committee: DeGuzman, vice-chair, gave the following reports:

2002 Policy for Addressing Unobligated Funds: *Motion: To approve the attached policy. Abstention: Fuentes, Jr. Motion carried.*

Requests for Allocation Increases: *Motion: To approve the attached recommendations regarding FY02 allocation increases. Discussion: DeCorte asked how the budget effects registrations billed to primary care sites? Henley responded that primary care sites with case management contracts can bill registrations to case management. Otherwise, the primary care sites are billed directly for registrations. Fuentes, Jr. (after declaring a conflict of interest) stated that the Council needs to look into this issue as registrations billed to primary care eat up a lot of money. Henley responded that this is a specific provider issue and the Council does not need to deal with this. Petry stated that according to the latest Epi figures, the State of Emergency is still in place and the Council should stay focused on providing quality care for the African-Americans. Miertschin asked that since the other primary care providers did not submit a request targeting African-Americans, will the funds going to be going to the right place? Henley stated that the committee looked at the fact that the unspent money was originally to be used to target African Americans and they intentionally re-allocated it so that it would continue to target African*

*Americans. Delesbore/DeCorte called for the question. **The call for the question passed.** The original motion was voted on. Opposed: Williams, L., Vaughan, Humphries, Garza, D., Miertschin. Abstentions: Delesbore, Springer, Downes, Fuentes, Jr. **Motion carried.***

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

Report from HIV Services: Charles Henley, Director, HIV Services, HCHD: No report.

Old Business: See attached Quarterly Committee Reports.

New Business

From the PC Members: Humphries stated that Donald R. Watkins has been doing a test drive for the past two weeks. Findings will be presented at the June Council meeting. 80% of those tested had never heard of the CPG or the Ryan White Planning Council.

Delesbore reported that the Texas Department of Health will be holding two Public Hearings at 5425 Polk, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The May 28, 2002 hearing will address "Access to Medicare". The June 25, 2002 hearing will address "HIV Prevention".

Miertschin stated that she attended the TDH/HIV Medical Advisory Meeting last week and they discussed contacting Title I Planning Councils to discuss the future funding short-fall. Delesbore stated that even with the discounted drug prices there is going to be a funding short fall. Springer stated that projections show that new medications will not be accepted. Vanech stated that pressure needs to be applied to the drug companies to lower their prices. Henley stated that TDH will ask for more money and the Council needs to make sure that any money given is used for clients living within the Houston EMA.

Petry asked about what the status of the adolescent program? Mierstchin stated that they have a physician and some interim staff available every Monday at LBJ Hospital.

Report from Titles II: Springer reported that Title II had an \$100,000 funding increase. However, the following day state services were cut \$100,000. Therefore, they are at level funding. Springer reported that the restructuring process has been difficult.

STAGE: STAGE spokesperson Jackson reported that STAGE is up and running.

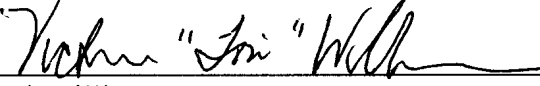
STAGE: Council spokesperson to STAGE Vanech reported that since DeCorte has resigned from this position, he will attend the next two meetings and appoint a new Council representative in August. If anyone is interested in serving in this position, please see him. Miertschin stated that she is on the membership committee and they need more diversity in their membership.

Mayor's Task Force on HIV/AIDS: Walker reported that City Council member Ada Edwards has been appointed chairperson. She met with Katy Caldwell, Naomi Madrid, Dena Gray, Barbara Joseph, and Walker to review the 1999 plan. The Mayor is interested and committed to an increase in funding for HIV Prevention. It is important that the Council continue to advocate with Edwards and the Mayor so that the State of Emergency doesn't get lost in the shuffle. Vanech requests that the Council be included in the proceedings and be added as a regular item on their agenda.

Williams, L., asked the Council to review the attached information on the "Staying Alive" conference.

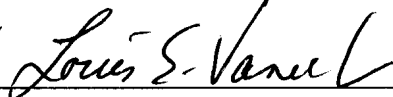
Adjournment: Motion: it was moved and seconded (Fuentes, Jr., Downes) to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Tori Williams, Manager

6/5/02
Date

Draft Certified by
Council Chair: 

Date 6/07/02

Final Approval by
Council Chair: 

Date 6-13-02