

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, September 12, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lou Vanech, chair
JM Allen
Skeet Boyle
Roy Delesbore
Paula Downes
Johnetta Evans-Thomas
Daniel Garza
Veronica Garza
Eddie Gibbs
Johnny Harris, Jr.
John Humphries
Kevin Jackson
Roy Jefferson, III
Catherine Kirkwood
Christopher Lahart
Lesley Lopez-Williams
Albert McKinney
Marlene McNeese-Ward
Lupe Martinez
Nancy Miertschin
Johnnie Petry
Lucy Reyna
John Sahn
Kimbrae Sanders
Thomas Vaughan
Tracy Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve DeCorte, excused
Michael DeGuzman, excused
Liza Espinosa, excused
Joe Fuentes, Jr., excused
Gretchen Hollingsworth, excused
Veronica Jacobs, excused
Joseph Osei-Frimpong, excused
Kaye Reynolds, excused
Michael Springer, excused
Thomas Urban, excused
Steven Walker

OTHERS PRESENT

Jose Dixon, COH
Evelyn Pierce
Priscilla Roberts, Medicare
Beau J. Mitts, HCHD
Harry Coleman, COH
Charles Henley, HIV Services
Jerry Larson
Christopher Schmitt, TRG
K. Hubert
Riva Okonkwo, FUUSA
Jim Staley
Jim Hutchinson
Modelle Brudner
Tori Williams, RWPC
Georgette L. Monaghan, RWPC

Call to Order: Louis E. Vanech, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:41 a.m. by asking for a moment of reflection.

Training: HRSA Membership Requirements: Williams presented the attached information.

Adoption of the Agenda: *Motion: it was moved and seconded (Garza, V., Downes) to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.*

Adoption of the Minutes: *Motion: it was moved and seconded (Lopez-Williams, Jefferson, III) to adopt the August 8, 2002 minutes. Abstention: Sahn. Motion carried.*

Vanech introduced new Council member John Sahn. Priscilla Roberts was also introduced. She works with Medicaid benefits for mothers and children.

Update on ADAP Ad Hoc Committee: Miertschin stated that Congress is in the process of determining the ADAP budget. The hope is that Congress will approve the proposed increases for all Titles and funnel some of the increases into ADAP. The committee is staying informed and will only have meetings when there is something on which to take action. Wilson stated that the good news is that there will NOT be a suspension of Priority I and II drugs, however, there will no longer be Priority III medications. The bad news is that TDH will use language that will move the eligibility percentage rates up and down according to the level of funding that is currently available. All members were urged to attend the November 1, 2002 meeting of the State Advisory Committee. Mierstchin stated that the committee does not have the power to change rules, but it does make recommendations for changes.

Update on Housing Ad Hoc Committee: Vanech stated that the committee will be having a dress rehearsal tomorrow. Anyone wanting to join this committee, please attend tomorrow's meeting. The goal is to get HOPWA to underwrite Technical Assistance for the community.

Scholarship Available for the Hospital District HIV/AIDS Conference: Contact Vanech if you are interested in using the scholarship which was offered to the Planning Council. The Conference will be at Hornberger on Friday, September 20, 2002.

Public Comment

Written comment – see the attached Robison email dated 08-20-02. Henley stated that TDH is designing a new data system. They are willing to interface with CPCDMS. In response to Henley's email and Springer's letter advocating that Houston does not want to include client names in the computer system, TDH has stated that this will not be necessary in order to have the two systems interface (see attached email from TDH).

Vanech invited those that attended the HRSA conference in Washington to summarize their experiences: Vanech: It was very rewarding. He made contacts with people from Dallas, Newark, and several other EMA's. Houston is very fortunate in that we have more resources and often produce work products which are emulated by other cities.

Harris, Jr.: He attended workshops which were consumer driven and was able to gather a lot of information from other PWA's.

Lopez-Williams: She attended workshops on youth and women. Overall, Houston is on the ball.

Report from Standing Committees

Quality Assurance Committee: Veronica Garza, Chair, stated that there is no report as the committee did not meet in August. Please see the attached calendar for the Standards of Care and Outcome Measures Work Groups that will begin in October.

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: Paula Downes, Chair, reported on the following:

Update of the 2000 Comprehensive Plan: FYI: Please see the attached, final version of the document.

2002 HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment: FYI: Hard copies of this document are available at the back of the room. CD copies will soon be available. The document can also be downloaded from the Council website.

Summit Work Group: FYI: Williams stated that this work group has been assembled as a result of Goal B of the 2000-05 Comprehensive Plan that states that service providers will meet quarterly for community planning purposes. The goal is organize quarterly one-hour breakfast meetings for high level decisions makers. The next work group meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on October 22, 2002.

Advances in Meds/Treatments: Boyle, vice-chair gave the following reports:

Presentation on HIV Medications and Substance Abuse: FYI: See the attached copy of the presentation.

HIV/AIDS and the Incarcerated: FYI: The next presentation is tentatively scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2002 at the Center for AIDS. The committee is hoping that attendance will be better if the location is off-site and in the evening. Vanech requested that transportation and child care be provided and advertised on the flyers.

Administrative Assessment Committee: Jackson reported that there is no report as the committee did not meet in August.

Affected Community Committee: Skeet Boyle, Chair, reported on the following:

Greeters at Council Meetings: *Motion: Have two greeters at each Council meeting to greet the public and help people understand how to sign up for public comment, where to sit and how to get an agenda. Motion carried.*

Client's Rights Cards: FYI: See the attached cards.

Council Participation in Health Fairs: FYI: Please sign up with Monaghan to help with these events (see attached list of fairs).

Operations Committee: Roy Delesbore, Chair, gave the following reports:

Grievance Policy 1000.01: *Motion: To amend lines 6 and 7 as indicated on the attached. Abstention: Reyna. Motion carried.*

Project LEAP: *Motion: To approve the attached service definition which includes keeping the name of the program as Project LEAP. Motion carried.*

Process if Someone Grieves the Grievance Committee: FYI: Keep the Grievance Policy as is since everything coming out of committees is a recommendation and must be approved by the Steering Committee and Council.

Policy for Receiving Honorariums: FYI: The Committee is working on a policy regarding members not accepting honorariums if they represent the Council. The committee welcomes feedback as they draft this policy.

Priority & Allocations Committee: Marlene McNeese-Ward, Chair, reported that there is no report as the committee did not meet in August.

Report from Office of Support: Tori Williams, Manager, summarized the attached report. Also, see the attached "Individuals Eligible to Run for Council Chair in 2003" which is included as an FYI.

Report from HIV Services: Charles Henley, Director, HIV Services, HCHD, summarized the attached report.

Old Business: See the attached Quarterly Committee Reports.

New Business

From the PC Members:

Lopez-Williams stated that the Adolescent Teen Clinic is holding jam sessions via a new program called "Positive Vibes". On October 12, 2002, there will be a fund raiser for the clinic that will feature "Hip-hop" poetry and other performances. Lopez-Williams will email Williams information for distribution to the Council.

Report from Title II: Schmitt stated that RFP's will be sent out in November. McNeese-Ward publicly thanked Schmitt for his hard work and expertise. Schmitt will be moving to Philadelphia. Jefferson, III also thanked Schmitt for his contributions to the Council.

Title III: Mierstchin stated that she also attended the HRSA conference in Washington. This was her third conference and it was by far the best. Overall, Houston is very fortunate.

STAGE spokesperson: Jackson stated that an important Priority and Allocations Committee meeting will take place on September 23, 2002. October will mark STAGE's second year. Jackson also thanked Schmitt for his many contributions and hard work. There is a retreat in Longview on October 3, 4, 2002. At that time, there will be an election of new officers. The Title II Needs Assessment process will begin in December.

STAGE spokesperson for Title I: Boyle has been working with the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Naomi Madrid has been going to the rural areas and gathering information for the bylaws and applications. At one time members from the rural areas seemed to feel that Houston had it's own agenda and was trying to drive the process. These feelings seem to have been resolved.

CPG and the Mayor's Task Force on HIV/AIDS: McNeese-Ward stated that there is an upcoming CPG Conference in Anaheim, California. The Task Force is targeting different areas in Houston such as the: north in September, southeast in October, and southwest in November. The Mayor will be holding a press conference at 11:00 a.m. on September 27, 2002. The Task Force meets every Friday at 10:00 a.m. at 8000 Stadium Street. McNeese-Ward thanked Vanech for his letter to Ada Edwards welcoming her into the HIV/AIDS community and offering his help and support. See the attached.

HOPWA: Allen stated that HOPWA has an open-ended process and there are RFP's available.

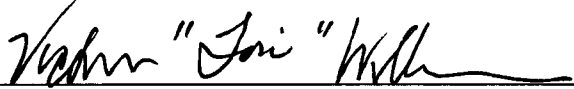
Announcements:

Wilson will get Williams information on the ADAP Forum for distribution to Council members.

Garza, D. stated that Thomas Street needs volunteers. The graduation for Project LEAP will be at 6:00 p.m. on September 27, 2002 at Bering United Methodist Church. Please contact Dena Gray for more information. This would be a good time for Council members to get feedback from the latest graduates.

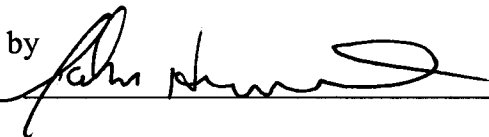
Adjournment: Motion: it was moved and seconded (Lopez-Williams, Jackson) to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Tori Williams, Manager

10-3-02
Date

Draft Certified by
Council Chair: 

Date 10-3-02

Final Approval by
Council Chair: _____

Date _____