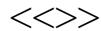


**HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES
RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL**



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

11:30 a.m., Thursday, October 13, 2011

Meeting Location: 2223 W. Loop South, Room 416, Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Cecilia Smith-Ross, Chair	Claudine Alexandre-McGill, excused	Sandra Longoria - Legacy Community Health Services
Pete Rodriguez, Vice-Chair	Roland Amboree	Tina Megdal - Legacy Community Health Services
Billie Lackins	Melody Barr, excused	Christina Nance - Baylor-Texas Children's Hospital
Sherifat Akorede	David Benson	Ann Reed - Bering Omega Community Services
Jackie Baldwin	David Garner	Eric James - Bering Omega Community Services
Ben Barnet	Jerry Garza, excused	
Michael Bass	Morénike Giwa, excused	STAFF PRESENT
Chris Escalante	Gabriel Gonzalez, excused	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Eddie Givens	Januari Leo, excused	Charles Henley
Linda Hollins	Lyla Ordonez, excused	Carin Martin
Melvin Johnson	Ruben Rosas, excused	
J. Hoxi Jones	Dr. Beverlee Solomon, excused	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Ernesto Macias	Lisa Tallent, excused	Yvette Garvin
Osaro Mgbere	Eric Twombly, excused	Yolanda Jones
Greg Monk	David Watson, excused	
Venita Ray		<i>Office of Support</i>
Terrence Redix		Tori Williams
Ryan Rushing		Jennifer Hadayia
C. Bruce Turner		Georgette L. Monaghan
Steven Vargas		
Nadine Wallace		

See the attached chart at the end of the minutes for individual voting information.

Call to Order: Cecilia Smith-Ross, Chair, Ryan White Planning Council, called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m. and asked for a moment of reflection.

ADAP Presentation: Smith-Ross explained that Dwayne Haught could not attend to give his presentation on ADAP due to an unexpected need for him to be in Austin. He is very sorry about the cancellation and looks forward to giving his presentation at the December Council meeting.

Change to a Town Hall Format at the end of the meeting: Smith-Ross stated that there is a lot of important information to be presented to the Council today. In order to make sure that the format allows time for good discussion, the Public Comment portion of the meeting will remain the same. But, the meeting will move to a town hall format when the Administrative Agent for Part B gives her report. At the conclusion of Garvin's report, Eric James and Ann Reed from Bering Omega Community Foundation and Tina Megdal and Sandra

Longoria from Legacy Community Health Services will be invited to provide additional information about Oral Health and Health Insurance. Council members and all others in the room will then be invited to ask questions.

Adoption of the Agenda: **Motion #1:** *it was moved and seconded (Givens, Vargas) to adopt the agenda with the following change: add "change to a Town Hall format after the report from the Part B Administrative Agent".* **Motion carried.**

Adoption of the Minutes: **Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Givens, Monk) to adopt the September 8, 2011 minutes.* **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Baldwin, Bass, Johnson, Mgbere, Ray, Rushing, Vargas.

Public Comment: Monk read the guidelines regarding public comment. Smith-Ross announced that each person would have 3 minutes in which to present their comments.

Eric James from Bering Omega Community Foundation summarized the information in his handout entitled, "Medicaid Update".

Tina Megdal from Legacy Community Health Services stated that there had been a problem in meeting all of the requests within the Health Insurance service category. The funding was insufficient in the month of September so some requests for co-pays had to be denied.

Christina Nance from Baylor College of Medicine summarized the attached flyer entitled, "A Study to Evaluate the Safety and Antiviral Activity of a Green Tea Pill with EGGG for 14 days in People with HIV-1 Infection".

Williams read the attached letter from Jereme Scott.

Reports from Committees:

Quality Assurance Committee: No report.

Comprehensive HIV Planning and Ad Hoc EIIHA Strategy Committees: Steven Vargas, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

2011-2012 Houston Area EIIHA Strategy: **Motion #3:** *Approve the attached 2011-2012 Houston Area Early Intervention for Individuals with HIV/AIDS (EIIHA) Strategy.* **Motion carried.**

2012 Comprehensive Plan: Council members and others are encouraged to participate on the Leadership Team or a workgroup (see attached list). Akorede stated that membership has been impressive and thanked Hadayia for all of her hard work.

Affected Community Committee: Melvin Johnson, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Committee Training: 25 Things You Need To Do If You Have HIV: Danielle Houston, MPH, led a discussion based upon *25 Things You Need To Do If You Have HIV*, a publication from The Center for AIDS.

Operations Committee: Eddie Givens reported on the following:

How To Best Meet the Need: Project LEAP: **Motion #4:** *Approve the attached, recommended service definition for Project LEAP.* **Motion carried.**

Council Applicants: The Operations Committee will be having four-hour meetings in October and November in order to interview and make recommendation to the Chief Elected Official (CEO) regarding all who have submitted an application for Council membership in 2012.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): See the attached MOU with proposed changes. Please review and provide input/recommendations to the Office of Support so that this revised document can be voted on at the November 8, 2011 Operations Committee meeting.

Nominations for Officers for the 2012 Planning Council: Nominations for officers may be submitted to the Planning Council Support Staff up until the end of the November Steering Committee meeting. After this time, nominations are added from the floor the day of the election. See the enclosed Election Policy for more details.

Priority and Allocations Committee: Greg Monk, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Revised LPAP Allocation: **Motion #5:** *Move the amount of \$384,496 from the Local Pharmacy Assistance Program to Primary Medical Care priority numbers 1.B through 1.E, per a request from Ryan White Grant Administration. **Motion carried.*** Nay: Turner. Abstentions: Rodriguez, Macias, Rushing, Barnet.

Report from Office of Support: Tori Williams, Manager, summarized the attached report. Williams congratulated Smith-Ross because she received a scholarship to the US Conference on AIDS in Chicago in November 2011.

Williams announced that after much thought and research, the Office of Support has agreed to administer Project LEAP for one year. It is an excellent program because of the hard work of those who have managed it in the past. The goal will be to build upon that success by focusing more on skills building and strengthening the role of the Advisory Committee. The cost for Project LEAP comes out of the administrative budget so there will be some cost savings. The staff is excited about this challenge and Williams will be talking to the Operations Committee with more details at their next meeting.

Williams reminded members that next month's meeting will be off-site since external committee members will be in attendance. November is the month when the Council honors and thanks all external committee members.

Report from Ryan White Grants Administration (RWGA): Charles Henley, Manager, Ryan White Grants Administration, HCPHES, summarized the attached report.

Report from The Resource Group: Yvette Garvin, Executive Director, The Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group (TRG) stated that TRG has been issued a seven month contract for State Services money that started on September 1, 2011. They are waiting for guidance from the State so that they can develop their RFP's for all services since new contracts will begin April 1, 2012.

The following summarizes questions and answers addressed to Eric James, Bering Omega Community Services (BOCS) regarding Oral Health:

Question (Q): Monk for James: How many Medicaid clients do you have?

Answer (A): No record has been kept. At this time, we are collecting this data as quickly as possible. Over 150 clients were transitioned out; 101 were actually seen. Henley stated that, according to CPCDMS, 20% of all dental patients from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011 were covered by Medicaid.

Q: Akorede: Are the remaining clients you cannot serve referred to other providers?

A: Yes, we refer clients to other Medicaid approved health care providers and help the clients set up appointments. Medicaid approved dental providers do the initial exam.

Q: Why are they referred out, is it a capacity issue?

A- No, it is not a capacity issue. Medicaid now offers dental services and since BOCS is not certified by Medicaid, BOCS cannot see those patients who are covered by Medicaid. BOCS is in the process of becoming certified.

Q: Lackins: If a patient started with BOCS and is now covered by Medicaid, what happens to patients who are half way through a treatment started by BOCS, like teeth needing to be adjusted?

A: If a procedure is not covered by Medicaid, then BOCS can do it. And, BOCS will finish a treatment they have already started.

Q: Escalante: If a client moves from one city to another and/or if they get referred out to a Medicaid program and come back to Ryan White Programs do they have to start all over?

A: No, treatment plans can be transferred so one does not need to start over; working with agency's to do this.

Q: Rushing, after declaring a conflict of interest asked: Will there be more money available for Prosthodontics?

A: At this time, we do not know what the impact will be. The data is still out. Possibility does exist.

The next series of questions was addressed to Administrative Agent Garvin or Tina Megdal, Legacy Community Health Services (LCHS) regarding Health Insurance:

Q: Vargas for Megdal: Is the Medicare co-pay included with private insurance?

A: Yes.

Q: Akorede stated that she is hearing a lot of complaints about co-pays.

A: Garvin responded by saying she has only received one complaint and she heard from Williams that some of the consumers have been contacting Council members.

Q: Turner for Garvin: Insurance co-pays, insurance premiums, local pharmaceuticals – what is the interplay among the three different services? Previously, they were funded and administered separately. Where they bundled together when the Council moved all three under Part B?

A: TRG has never distinguished between the three.

Q: Turner: If the cost of premiums has increased, does the contract allow the provider to take funds from medication co-pays?

A-The service category is all inclusive. Henley responded that, in the past, money was always designated for co-pay assistance. The Council may have assumed that this would continue once all components of the service were moved under Part B and State Services.

Q: Turner: Previously the Part A Administrative Agent was asked to report back to the Council if there was a waiting list for the service.

Garvin stated that now, there is no waiting list because State policy says there can be no waiting list. Longoria continued by stating that the policy prohibits clients from being put on a waiting list, postponed or denied due to lack of funding, but when there isn't enough money to cover all the requests, who is going to pay for this? Garvin said that TRG is working with the agency so that there will not be a problem in the future. Longoria stated that they are bringing in 9-12 new clients a month and have to pay attention to the economics of the situation. In the past, stimulus funds were available to underwrite a portion of the premiums but this funding has expired. So, the costs of premiums have gone up, there is no longer a fund to absorb some of the cost and more people are in need of the program.

Q: On March 14th State Medicaid patients will be switched to StarPlus. Has this been taken into consideration for next year?

A: Longoria: We are looking into this.

Q: On March 14th State Medicaid patients will be switched to StarPlus. Has this been taken into consideration for next year?

A: Longoria: We are looking into this.

Q: Vargas: A waiting list does exist if clients are not getting help when they need it. Is there something confusing about the intake procedure? My clients tell me that they are calling the agency and have to call back because the staff is not clear on what they are to do.

A: Longoria: Please have them contact me. We are still using the "Ryan White Part A Health Assistance Interim Program Rules" which are in your Council packets.

Q: Monk: It is frustrating because we were in this same position last year. Suddenly, people are being denied services in this category. We all need to be proactive, not reactive. We need better communication between the agency, the administrative agency and the Council.

Henley summarized by saying that premiums are using money that the Council has traditionally set aside for medication co-pays. There are two reasons for this: the cost of COBRA is increasing and more people are losing their job, hence more people are enrolling in COBRA. This situation was unanticipated. Even if the Council had carved out money for medication co-pays, it would not have solved the issue. The bottom line is that there needs to be more money in the Health Insurance service category.

New Business:

Latino Task Force on HIV/AIDS (LHTF): Vargas gave the following report: The Latino HIV Task Force is gearing up for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day on Saturday, October 15, 2011. The LHTF has planned on having three separate sites where there will be HIV education and free HIV testing. Some of the sites will have a mini-health fair. The sites are: the Baker-Ripley location (6500 Rookin), Ripley House on the east end (4410 Navigation), and Mas Club off of 45 North (8711 North Fwy). Testing will occur between 3:00pm-7:00pm. Another location for free HIV testing in the southwest is being hosted by FLAS at Plaza Americas' Sunroom from 3:00pm-8:00pm.

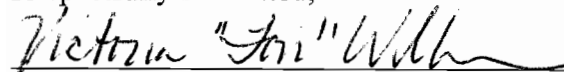
SIRR: Lackins stated that the discussion has been centered on keeping patients in care with easy access to their medications; what the barriers are to accessing care and how the barriers affect capacity issues.

M-PACT: Turner stated that this national event focusing on MSMs was held on September 27, 2011 at the Montrose Counseling Center. While overall attendance was less than anticipated, the vendors indicated that they did a lot of networking with other vendors.

Texas HIV/AIDS Coalition: Turner stated that this group is hosting a retreat tomorrow through Saturday afternoon. There is a Texas HIV Medication Program meeting tomorrow at noon.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Victoria Williams, Manager

11/02/11
Date

Draft Certified by
Council Chair: 

Date 11/03/11

Final Approval by
Council Chair: 

Date 11/10/11

JA = Just arrived at meeting, LR = Left room temporarily, LM = Left the meeting, C = Chair of the meeting

	Motion #4				Motion #5					Motion #4				Motion #5			
	Project LEAP	Carried			LPAP	Carried			Project LEAP	Carried			LPAP	Carried			
MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Sherifat Akorede		X				X			Januari Leo	X							
Claudine Alexandre-McGill	X								Ernesto Macias		X						X
Roland Amboree	X								Osaro Mgbere		X				X		
Jackie Baldwin, lm 1pm		X				X			Greg Monk		X				X		
Ben Barnett, lm 1:26pm		X					X		Lyla Ordonez	X							
Melody Barr	X								Venita Ray, lm 1:06p,		X				X		
Michael Bass		X				X			Terrence Redix		X				X		
David Benson	X								Pete Rodriguez		X						X
Chris Escalante, lm 11:16pm		X				X			Ruben Rosas	X							
David Garner	X								Ryan Rushing		X						X
Jerry Garza	X								Cecilia Smith-Ross				C				C
Eddie Givens		X				X			Dr. Beverlee Solomon	X							
Morénike Giwa	X								Lisa Tallent	X							
Gabriel Gonzalez	X								Bruce Turner		X				X		
Linda Hollins		X				X			Eric Twombly	X							
Melvin Johnson, lm 1pm		X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X		
J. Hoxi Jones, lm 12:52		X				X			Nadine Wallace		X				X		
Billie Lackins		X				X			David Watson	X							