

# Council Approved September 13, 2012

## 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, August 9, 2012

Meeting Location: 2223 W. Loop South, Room 416

Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Ben Barnett, Vice-Chair	Morénike Giwa, Chair, excused	Gil Flores, Tarrant County
Venita Ray, Secretary	Claudine Alexandre-McGill, excused	Maria Salazar, Lubbock
Ruth Atkinson	Roland Amboree, excused	Kathryn Ellard, Bexar County
Melody Barr	Michael Bass, excused	Susan Rokes, Gulf Coast
David Benson	Amber David, excused	Crystal Flores, Dallas County
Bianca Burley	Jerry Garza, excused	Rosa Valdez, DSHS
Chris Escalante	Linda Hollins	Jamie Shield, Tarrant County
Gabriel Gonzalez	Billie Lackins, excused	Rhonda Guerra
Tracy Gorden	Januari Leo, excused	
Melvin Johnson	Osaro Mgbere, excused	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
J. Hoxi Jones	Greg Monk, excused	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Nancy Miertschin	Dr. Beverlee Solomon, excused	Charles Henley
Kevin Moore	Pat Weatherspoon, excused	Carin Martin
Teresa Presley Pruitt	Larry Woods, excused	Heather Heizman
Terrence Redix		<i>The Resource Group</i>
Carl Tennill	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>	Anna Henry
C. Bruce Turner	Mary James, Greeter	<i>Office of Support</i>
Eric Twombly	Edward Stevenson, Greeter	Tori Williams
Nadine Wallace	Amber Alvarez	Jen Hadayia
David Watson	Allison Elmer	Georgette L. Monaghan
Lena Williams	Jesse Carter, DSHS	

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

**Call to Order:** Ben Barnett, Vice-Chair, Ryan White Planning Council, called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. and asked for a Moment of Reflection. He thanked everyone for coming and stated that their service on the Council is very much appreciated.

**Training:** Updates from the Texas EMAs/Transitional Grant Areas (TGAs): Anna Henry, Health Planner for The Resource Group and Jennifer Hadayia, Health Planner for the Office of Support were hosting the Texas HIV Planners Network in Houston for two days. Each planner introduced themselves and gave a brief update on their planning challenges and perspectives:

- Amber Alvarez, Central Texas, represents 43 counties including the cities of San Angelo, Temple, Waco, and Bryan College Station. Amber noted that rural HIV services planning is currently “a challenge” for the jurisdiction as is coordinating with the Austin Area Planning Council. Alvarez recently completed a service linkage mapping initiative to identify weaknesses in the referral network for newly-diagnosed clients. They are also conducting a Special Study on the need for and use of traditionally underfunded service categories in their jurisdiction such as transportation and childcare.
- Christy Flores, Dallas County. Flores reported that the Dallas County EMA Planning Council by-laws have been recently revised in regards to member term limits. As Flores is new to the Health Planner position, she did not have additional updates.
- Jamie Shield, North Central Texas, represents 38 counties including the cities of Fort Worth, Wichita Falls, Abilene, and Brownwood. Shield noted that their Planning Council meeting structure has been recently redesigned in order to address issues with quorum. Their Council now holds all meetings (full Council and Committee) on the same day back to back, and attendance has been increasing. North Central Texas also recently launched a patient navigator program funded by Ryan White Part A. Shield also announced the opening of a new large-scale private provider in the Fort Worth area, which has raised questions about consistency in standards of care between private and public HIV clinics. Copies of their annual report were provided, see attached.
- Katheryn Ellard, San Antonio. Ellard announced that San Antonio has launched a new HIV testing initiative for young MSM of color as part of their EIIHA Strategy. Recruitment has been taking place in local bars and bathhouses. She concurred with the Central Texas report that coordinating HIV services planning between urban and rural areas remains “challenging.” San Antonio has also initiated efforts to overlay the average viral load of Ryan White clients with zip codes to identify “pockets” of unmet need and potential transmission.
- Rhonda Guerra, South Texas, represents 15 counties including the cities of Corpus Christi and Brownsfield. Recent activities in their jurisdiction include the launch of a return-to-care initiative, updating the jurisdictions Standards of Care, and revising their Comprehensive HIV Plan.
- Maria Salazar, West Texas, represents 58 counties, including the city of Lubbock. Salazar noted that her jurisdiction “has the smallest number of clients, but the largest geographic area.” Salazar is currently updating the jurisdiction’s case management policies. She noted recent challenges in identifying a sufficient number of providers in the jurisdiction.

Adoption of the Agenda: ***Motion #1:*** *it was moved and seconded (Atkinson, Presley Pruitt) to adopt the agenda with the following changes: Move reports from the Priority and Allocations and Ad Hoc EIHHA Strategy Committees to the first two reports. Motion carried.* Abstention: Turner.

Adoption of the Minutes: ***Motion #2:*** *it was moved and seconded (Turner, Presley Pruitt) to adopt the July 12, 2012 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Barr, Gonzalez, Jones, Moore, Twombly, Watson.

**Public Comments and Announcements:** None.

### **Reports from Committees:**

**Priority and Allocations:** Bruce Turner reported on the following:

Reallocation of FY 2011 Unspent Funds: ***Motion #3:*** *Approve the attached plan to reallocate FY 2011 Ryan White Part A and MAI unspent funds. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Barr, Burley, Miertchin, Watson.

**Ad Hoc EIIHA Strategy:** Bruce Turner, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Process for Approving the 2013 EIIHA Strategy: ***Motion #4:*** *Allow the Ad Hoc EIIHA Strategy Committee to have final approval of the 2013 Houston Area EIIHA Strategy if the Committee:*

- *develops the Strategy at their August meeting;*
- *distributes a copy of the proposed Strategy to Council members and others; and*
- *provides final approval of the Strategy approximately one week later, at a second Committee meeting, in order to allow Council members and others one week to provide public comment before the Strategy receives final approval from the Committee.*

*See the attached rationale. **Motion carried unanimously.***

**Quality Assurance Committee:** David Benson, Co-Chair, reported that the committee did not meet in July and will meet on Thursday, August 16, 2012. Benson stated that he would like everyone to welcome Chris Escalante as the Quality Assurance Committee's new Co-Chair.

**Comprehensive HIV Planning:** Ben Barnett reported on the following:

Dissemination of the Comprehensive Plan: See the attached flyer that will assist members in finding an online copy of the Houston Area Comprehensive HIV Prevention and Care Services Plan for 2012 – 2014. Hard copies of the Executive Version of the plan are also available on the information table.

**Affected Community:** Chris Escalante gave the following report:

Several members of the Affected Community Committee have agreed to start a new project called the "Ambassador Program". Members will take information about the Council and its various activities to local consumer advisory boards (CABS) and other community meetings in an effort to get more consumers interested in being trained for and participating in our processes, such as the How to Best Meet the Need and Standards of Care Workgroups.

**Operations Committee:** No report. The committee did not meet in July. Watson stated that HIP HOP T-shirts are being distributed today, as well as the tickets. Watson briefly described the purpose of the annual HIP HOP for HIV Awareness event.

**Report from Office of Support:** Tori Williams, Manager, summarized the attached report. Williams reminded members that the next meeting will be held off-site at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Multi-purpose Center, 3611 Ennis, 77004 for three reasons: our fire code prohibits us from having more than 49 people in the room and two important presentations are scheduled for the meeting: Dwayne Haught will give an update on ADAP and Project LEAP will be presenting the results of their Mini Needs Assessments.

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration:** Charles Henley, Manager, summarized the attached report. The Part A application due date has been pushed back sixty days to 9/24/12 as a new TGA, Columbus, Ohio has been added, thus HRSA has to reissue the application to include Columbus, Ohio and then restart the 60-day clock. Applications will be due 10/09/12. Henley announced the new Part A Project Officer is Ms. Yukiko Tani.

**Report from The Resource Group:** Anna Henry, Health Planner, summarized the attached report.

**New Business:**

Spotlight on the Affected Community Committee: members of the Affected Community Committee gave a brief description of committee responsibilities. Barnett, along with the rest of the Planning Council, expressed their appreciation toward the Affected Community Committee for all their hard work this year.

Ryan White Part C Urban: Nancy Miertschin reported that because Part D was re-competed this year, it gave the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) an opportunity to apply directly to become a grantee. If this happens and The Resource Group (TRG) continues to be funded as the Part D grantee it will bring an additional \$500,000 to this area for women and children. The HCHD and TRG worked together so they would not be competing against each other. The HCHD is changing their name to "Harris Health System"; this change will take place within the next month. This will more clearly communicate who they are and what they do.

HOPWA: Melody Barr stated that there is a HIV AIDS and Minority Populations workshop next week, see attached flyer. On August 20, 2012 a cherat (planning process) conference is coming to Houston. This is where a large amount of planning will be condensed into 45 minutes discussing specific topics around the Homelessness and their issues. This will take place at Harris County Department of Education from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.. The workshop will continue on Tuesday and Thursday. Barr will send information to the Office of Support for distribution, all are welcomed.

HIV Prevention Group (HPG): Bruce Turner stated that all members have been involved in the HIP HOP event.

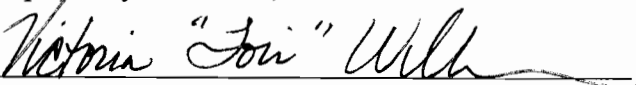
M-PACT: Bruce Turner reported that last year they held a National HIV Men’s Awareness Day Health Fair event. This year’s plans are to put on a T-dance where admission will be a HIV Test, tentatively September 30, 2012.

AIDS Trial Network and Medical Updates: Ben Barnett stated that the latest news has been exciting. From the International AIDS Conference in Washington D.C. in July and looking at the latest research - there is a big push for a cure of HIV. Realistically talking the concept is that HIV infected cells sit and live up to 40 years dormant. The research now is to flush the reservoirs out, give medications or some sort of biological molecule to turn those cells back on to reproduce HIV and allow the retroviral medication to kill these cells. Once the HIV cells reproduce they will die.


**Announcements:** Wallace announced that the Section 8 Houston Housing Authority will be announcing openings beginning on August 19, 2012 at midnight. Consumers can apply online. Hoxi, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, stated that anyone can go online now to apply for benefits at "yourtexasbenefits.com" which includes (?), SNAP and Medicaid. Also, organizations that want to become a community partner can apply on line. Having information online will alleviate coming to the office and waiting in long lines.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Victoria Williams, Manager

09-06-12  
Date

Draft Certified by  
Council Chair: 

Date 09/13/12

Final Approval by  
Council Chair:

Morénike Giwa

Date 10/4/2012

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

	Motion #1				Motion #2				Motion #1				Motion #2				
	ABSENT	YES	NO		ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES		NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT		YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES
MEMBERS									MEMBERS								
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			Nadine Wallace		X				X		
Ben Barnett				C				C	David Watson		X						X
Melody Barr, 11:58	X							X	Lena Williams		X				X		
David Benson		X				X											
Bianca Burley		X				X			Morénike Giwa	X							
Chris Escalante		X				X			Claudine Alexandre-McGill	X							
Gabriel Gonzalez		X					X		Roland Amboree	X							
Tracy Gorden		X				X			Michael Bass	X							
Melvin Johnson		X				X			Amber David	X							
J. Hoxi Jones		X					X		Jerry Garza	X							
Nancy Miertschin		X				X			Linda Hollins	X							
Kevin Moore		X					X		Billie Lackins								
Teresa Presley Pruitt		X				X			Januari Leo	X							
Venita Ray		X				X			Osaro Mgbere	X							
Terrence Redix, 11:56		X				X			Greg Monk	X							
Carl Tennill		X				X			Dr. Beverlee Solomon	X							
Eric Twombly		X					X		Pat Weatherspoon	X							
Bruce Turner				X					Larry Woods	X							

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

	Motion #3				Motion #4					Motion #3				Motion #4			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS									MEMBERS								
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			Nadine Wallace		X				X		
Ben Barnett				C				C	David Watson				X		X		
Melody Barr, 11:58				X		X			Lena Williams		X				X		
David Benson		X				X											
Bianca Burley				X		X			Morénike Giwa	X							
Chris Escalante		X				X			Claudine Alexandre-McGill	X							
Gabriel Gonzalez		X				X			Roland Amboree	X							
Tracy Gorden		X				X			Michael Bass	X							
Melvin Johnson		X				X			Amber David	X							
J. Hoxi Jones		X				X			Jerry Garza	X							
Nancy Miertschin				X		X			Linda Hollins	X							
Kevin Moore		X				X			Billie Lackins								
Teresa Presley Pruitt		X				X			Januari Leo	X							
Venita Ray		X				X			Osaro Mgbere	X							
Terrence Redix, 11:56		X				X			Greg Monk	X							
Carl Tennill		X				X			Dr. Beverlee Solomon	X							
Eric Twombly		X				X			Pat Weatherspoon	X							
Bruce Turner		X				X			Larry Woods	X							