

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

12 noon, Thursday, August 14, 2014

Meeting Location: 2223 W. Loop South, Room 416

Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Steven Vargas, Chair	Cecilia Ross	Modelle Brudner, <i>Liaison for Co. Judge Ed Emmett</i>
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair	C. Bruce Turner	Ramiro Hernandez
Leslie Raneri, Secretary	David Watson	
Ruth Atkinson	Larry Woods	STAFF PRESENT
Melody Barr		<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Michael Bass	MEMBERS ABSENT	Carin Martin
Curtis Bellard	Roland Amboree	Heather Keizman
David Benson	Skeet Boyle, excused	
Amber David	Bianca Burley, excused	
Chris Escalante	Burnest Carter	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	Ella Collins-Nelson	Sha-Terra Johnson-Fairley
Gene Ethridge	Rene de Buenrostro, excused	
Gabriel Gonzalez	Jerry Garza	
Tracy Gorden	J. Hoxi Jones, excused	<i>Office of Support</i>
Paul Grunenwald	Januari Leo, excused	Tori Williams
Connie Harris	Greg Monk, excused	Amber Alvarez
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Kevin Moore, excused	Georgette L. Monaghan
Nancy Miertschin	Eric Twombly, excused	
Shital Patel	Nadine Wallace, excused	
Teresa Pruitt	Tamika White	

See attached chart for individual voting information

Call to Order: Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:23 p.m. He showed the Council the gavel that the Project LEAP students presented to the Office of Support staff at their graduation last night. On a different note, Vargas stated that Terrence Redix has had to resign from the Council due to his teaching schedule.

Report on the Regions IV & VI Bi-Regional NHAS Meeting - Integration of HIV Care & Prevention Planning: A Southern View: Steven Vargas gave the following report: Jen Hadayia and Steven Vargas presented at this conference in Atlanta on August 12, 2014 by sharing how and what went into the development of Houston's first joint HIV prevention and care services plan. Rear Admiral Castro stated his hope that the same information would be presented at the US Conference on AIDS since many attendees had questions and

took all of the materials provided, including the printed Executive Summary and CDs of the entire *Houston Area Comprehensive HIV Prevention and Care Services Plan for 2012 through 2014*. Vargas and Hadayia also took part in small workgroups where attendees were tasked with addressing challenges and opportunities for accomplishing the same.

Vargas asked for a moment of reflection.

Adoption of the Agenda: **Motion #1:** *it was moved and seconded (Turner, Finley) to adopt the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.*

Adoption of the Minutes: **Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Ethridge, Gonzalez) to adopt the July 10, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Bass, David, Escamilla, Pruitt, Watson.

Training: Service Issues Related to the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence: Heather Keizman, Project Coordinator, Ryan White Grant Administration presented the attached Power Point presentation entitled "Intimate Partner Violence".

Public Comments and Announcements: None.

Reports from Committees:

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: Evelio Salinas Escamilla, Co-Chair, gave the following report: FY 2015 EIIHA Strategy: The Committee approved the following target populations for the FY 2015 EIIHA Strategy: African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos/Latinas age 35 and over and Men who have Sex with Men (MSM).

2014 Special Studies: All special studies are on hold until after the HRSA grant application has been submitted on September 19, 2014.

Affected Community Committee: No committee report.

Quality Assurance Committee: No committee report.

Priority and Allocations Committee: Melody Barr, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Reports from the Administrative Agency – Part A: See the attached:

- FY14 Procurement Report: Part A and MAI, dated 07/23/14
- FY14 Service Utilization Report: Part A and MAI, dated 07/17/14

Reports from the Administrative Agency – Part B: See the attached:

- FY13 Procurement Report – Ryan White Part B, dated 07/17/14
- FY13/14 Procurement Report – State Services, dated 07/17/14
- FY13/14 Service Utilization Report: Ryan White Part B, dated 07/17/14
- FY13/14 Service Utilization Report: State Services, dated 07/17/14

July 2014 Requests for Increased Allocations: Part A - **Motion #3:** *Approve the attached recommendations regarding July 2014 requests for increased allocations from FY 2013 Ryan White Part A carryover funds. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Benson, Miertschin, Woods, Finley, Barr, Patel.

July 2014 Requests for Increased Allocations: MAI - **Motion #4:** *Approve the attached recommendations regarding July 2014 requests for increased allocations from Ryan White Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) FY 2013 carryover funds. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Benson, Miertschin, Woods, Finley, Barr, Patel.

Operations Committee: David Watson, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Project LEAP: Graduation for Project LEAP 2014 was held on August 13, 2014. Watson read the attached quotes from two Project LEAP students.

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

Report from Ryan White Grant Administration (RWGA): Carin Martin, Manager, summarized the attached report.

Report from The Resource Group: Sha-Terra Johnson-Fairley, Health Planner, summarized the attached report and HIP Update, see attached flyer.

New Business:

Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D: Nancy Miertschin reported on the following: No report for Part C. Harris Health Systems (HHS) has received their Notice of Award for Part D from HRSA. The current Part D year will run from August 1, 2014 until the end of June 2015. This 11 month time frame will help mitigate the effects of sequestration. HHS has an open position for a Part D funded Medical Case Manager, please apply online.

Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC): Tracy Gorden stated that there have been no meetings.

HOPWA: Steven Vargas reported for Melody Barr stating that there is no more TBRA (Tenant Based Rental Assistance) slots available at this time. TBRA is the housing subsidy program for income-eligible clients and their beneficiaries which helps with rent and utilities until the client is able to secure affordable, stable housing.

Community Prevention Group (CPG): Herman Finley stated that Houston Hits Home is over so the group can now resume their regular monthly meetings. Their next meeting is will be on August 14, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Denver Harbor Multipurpose Center.

Update from Task Forces:

African American: Herman Finley gave the following report: the State of Emergency Task Force (SOE) reunited after the conclusion of Houston Hits Home. SOE participated in a community event with Planned Parenthood at NRG stadium entitled "Trae Day" at which a local rapper gave back to the community. SOE and Planned Parenthood tested over 70 people in the heat. The next meeting will be on September 14, 2014 at 12 noon at Kashmere Multi-Purpose Center. Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley stated that night time outreach/testing will be held at Sunnyside Multi Service Center on Friday, October 10, 2014. In September, members will help Bee Busy with their social media campaign for National Suicide Prevention month via Facebook and website.

Latino HIV Task Force (LHTF): Steven Vargas reported on the following: The LHTF volunteers assisted with the implementation of Houston HITS Home and will soon be meeting to discuss upcoming National Latino AIDS Awareness Day activities. If your agency is planning something in observance of this national awareness campaign, please let Vargas know and LHTF will be happy to promote it through their Facebook page and email distribution list. Please join LHTF and share these activities, or email them at latinohtf@hotmail.com. Next Meeting: Friday, August 22, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the West End Multi-Service Center.

MPACT (MSM): Steven Vargas reported on the following: MPACT Task Force has been on hiatus for the summer with many of the volunteers focusing on the Houston HITS Home initiatives. Those attending the 2014

Texas HIV/STD Conference in Austin were invited to join many of the group's volunteers at a dinner sponsored by Gilead. The next upcoming event is National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on Saturday, September 27, 2014. MPACT would like to have a social event to promote awareness of the group and may organize condom distribution events and other activities which will be aligned with Happy Hours and/or LGBT events. Please join the Task Force as it meets to decide what's next for the rest of the year! Next Meeting: Monday, September 15, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at The Montrose Center.

Transgender: Chris Escalante stated that their main focus has been on the City's Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO). At 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, there will be a HERO Volunteer Appreciation meeting at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, featuring Mayor Annise Parker, who will give an update on what to expect now and in the future.

Youth: Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley reported the following: the Youth Task Force met on Tuesday, August 12, 2014. A Support Group for HIV positive infected and affected youth age of 16- 24 years) but open to all will meet at Leonel Castillo Community Center every other Tuesday from 5:30- 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday August 19, 2014. Several patients at a local agency have been having difficulty regarding the processing of refill prescriptions and the time it takes to wait for the specific prescription. It was recommended that the Ryan White Planning Counsel be informed of this issue. A panel discussion on disclosure will be held at the next Youth Task Force meeting on September 9, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon. The next outreach activity is scheduled for October 10, 2014 in Sunny Side where task force members will be testing and passing out condoms. The November 11, 2014 meeting will be a panel discussion on the Affordable Care Act with a focus on preparing adolescents and young adults for open enrollment which begins on November 15, 2014.

Hepatitis C Task Force: Steven Vargas reported on the following: The HCV Task Force had no meetings in June or July, and instead was focused on assisting with the Houston HITS Home initiative. See above for the next scheduled meeting date. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Third Ward Multiservice Center.

Syphilis: Herman Finley stated that the task force was not refunded, hence it was disbanded.

Urban AIDS Ministry: Amber David stated that St. Johns Church Downtown hosted the single largest testing event for Houston Hits Home.

HIV and Aging: Bruce Turner stated that in July, the City of Houston presented information on prevention for individuals over age 50. The speaker learned a lot from meeting with the group and will soon meet with the CPG to report on the results of his presentation. Dr. Kass from Thomas Street Clinic will present information on HIV Associated Neurocognitive Disorder (HAND) at the August meeting.

Texas HIV/AIDS Coalition: Steven Vargas stated that the Coalition will start up again when the Texas legislators begin their 2015 session.

SPNS Grant: HIV and the Homeless Program: Nancy Miertschin stated that there are 60 individuals enrolled in the SPNS project and the program is now fully staffed.

Medical Updates: Shital Patel, MD gave the following reports: The friendlier Hepatitis C drugs in combination with HIV therapy, make it easier to treat individuals who are co-infected because they don't have to worry about drug interactions. This is an important step forward. The disappointing news is about the Mississippi baby who now has a detectable viral load after two years of no anti-viral therapy. The case has provided insight into new research methods for treatment in the future.

Announcements: Johnson-Fairley was in Port Arthur yesterday doing the Priority and Allocations process and the state workers there made some very positive comments about the Houston process. Benson and his wife have had a project in Mexico at the Monterrey Technical School for several years. Because of this, they have become aware of the rising rate of HIV in the State of Guiro. The students at the technical school chose to implement an HIV/AIDS Awareness project and provided important information to 254 vendors in the area. Vargas stated that a number of HIV education classes, all in Spanish, have taken information back to Mexico.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria "Tori" Williams

Victoria Williams, Manager

08/28/14

Date

Draft Certified by
Council Chair: J. Vargas

Date 09/04/14

Final Approval by
Council Chair: J. Vargas

Date 09/11/14

Council Voting Records for August 14, 2014

	Motion #1			Motion #2				Motion #1			Motion #2			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES		NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	
C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room														
MEMBERS														
Steven Vargas, Chair				C			C	Cecilia Ross	X				X	
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair	X				X			C. Bruce Turner	X				X	
Leslie Raneri, Secretary	X				X			David Watson	X					X
Ruth Atkinson	X				X			Larry Woods, 12:38	X			X		
Melody Barr, lm 1:31	X				X									
Michael Bass	X						X	MEMBERS ABSENT						
Curtis Bellard	X				X			Roland Amboree						
David Benson	X				X			Skeet Boyle						
Amber David	X						X	Bianca Burley						
Chris Escalante	X				X			Burnest Carter						
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	X						X	Ella Collins-Nelson						
Gene Ethridge	X				X			Rene de Buenrostro						
Gabriel Gonzalez	X				X			Jerry Garza						
Tracy Gorden	X				X			J. Hoxi Jones						
Paul Grunenwald, lm 1:45	X				X			Januari Leo						
Connie Harris	X				X			Greg Monk						
Peta-gay Ledbetter, lm 1:32	X				X			Kevin Moore						
Nancy Miertschin	X				X			Eric Twombly						
Shital Patel, 12:19	X				X			Nadine Wallace						
Teresa Pruitt	X						X	Tamika White						

(continued on next page)

Council Voting Records for August 14, 2014 (continued)

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room	Motion #3			Motion #4				Motion #3			Motion #4		
	ABSENT	PA - Part A	Carried	ABSENT	PA - MAI	Carried		ABSENT	PA - Part A	Carried	ABSENT	PA - MAI	Carried
MEMBERS													
Steven Vargas, Chair			C			C	Cecilia Ross	X			X		
Herman Finley, Vice-Chair			X			X	C. Bruce Turner	X			X		
Leslie Raneri, Secretary	X			X			David Watson	X			X		
Ruth Atkinson	X			X			Larry Woods, 12:38			X		X	
Melody Barr, lm 1:31			X			X							
Michael Bass	X			X			MEMBERS ABSENT						
Curtis Bellard	X			X			Roland Amboree						
David Benson			X			X	Skeet Boyle						
Amber David	X			X			Bianca Burley						
Chris Escalante	X			X			Burnest Carter						
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	X			X			Ella Collins-Nelson						
Gene Ethridge	X			X			Rene de Buenrostro						
Gabriel Gonzalez	X			X			Jerry Garza						
Tracy Gorden	X			X			J. Hoxi Jones						
Paul Grunenwald, lm 1:45	X			X			Januari Leo						
Connie Harris	X			X			Greg Monk						
Peta-gay Ledbetter, lm 1:32	X			X			Kevin Moore						
Nancy Miertschin			X			X	Eric Twombly						
Shital Patel, 12:19			X			X	Nadine Wallace						
Teresa Pruitt	X			X			Tamika White						