

# Council Approved October 8, 2015

## 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, September 10, 2015

Meeting Location: 2223 W. Loop South, Room 532  
Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Steven Vargas, Chair	John Lazo	Modelle Brudner, Liaison, Judge Emmett
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair	Peta-gay Ledbetter	Denis Kelly
Connie Barnes, Secretary	Januari Leo	
Roland Amboree	Nancy Miertschin	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
Ted Artiaga	Robert Noble	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Ruth Atkinson	Teresa Pruitt	Heather Keizman
Melody Barr	Leslie Raneri	
Curtis Bellard	Cecilia Ross	<i>The Resource Group</i>
David Benson	Carol Suazo	Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley
Skeet Boyle	C. Bruce Turner	Ka'Cha Tousant, Intern
Chad Brandt	David Watson	
Tana Brown		<i>Office of Support</i>
Bianca Burley	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Amber Alvarez
Ella Collins-Nelson	Amber David	Diane Beck
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	Gene Ethridge, excused	
Herman Finley	J. Hoxi Jones, excused	
Paul Grunenwald	Kevin Moore	
Steven Harris	Shital Patel, excused	
Angela F. Hawkins	Larry Woods, excused	
Arlene Johnson		

See attached chart for individual voting information

**Call to Order:** Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.; he welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of reflection.

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

**Approval of the Minutes:** **Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Turner, Benson) to approve the August 13, 2015 minutes.* **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Atkinson, Barr, Boyle, Finley, Leo, Pruitt, Watson.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** See attached written public comment. Denis Kelly stated that last week members received a yellow flyer about dental services that was given to the Operations Committee. He has heard four complaints regarding two agencies. Their appointments are being cancelled and not rescheduled. One person has the Affordable Care Act and cannot get dental assistance and one finally had to go to a third agency that he did not know about. His concern is that there are two agencies that he knows of (and can't share their names) that are not appropriately assisting those who are HIV+ with dental care. As those on the Council know, with HIV, if you have gum disease or dental problems it's going to affect your t-cells. He would like for this body to clearly look at two agencies that are not responding to clients. Thank you.

**Reports from Committees:**

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** David Benson, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
Chamber of Commerce Workgroup Update: John Lazo has made outreach efforts to local rotary and Kiwanis clubs. As a result of this effort, Leo is scheduled to speak at the Heights Rotary Club on October 14, Vargas is scheduled to speak at the Brenham Rotary Club meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> and John Nechman is scheduled to speak at the Cinco Ranch Rotary Club on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The date for the presentation to the Alvin club is still pending, and John is also reaching out to the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce thanks to a lead from Johnson-Fairley. John contacted the Brazos Valley Council of Governments about the Brenham presentation and they were very excited and are looking forward to attending. Benson added that presentations outside of our area will not be reimbursed for travel, many thanks to Lazo and Vargas for agreeing to present at those meetings.

Needs Assessment Timelines: See attached timelines. The committee was presented with alternate timelines for implementation of the next Needs Assessment to ensure it will be completed in time for incorporation into the 2017-2021 Comprehensive Plan. The alternate options were a shortened survey conducted with the same sample size, or the full survey conducted with a smaller sample size.

**Motion #3:** *Select Alternate Timeline Option 1 (Abridged Needs Assessment) for the next Community Needs Assessment.* **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion #4:** *Give priority consideration to special studies addressing the out-of-care, determinants of HIV care, engagement in care and long term survivors.* **Motion carried.**

National HIV/AIDS Strategy – Updated to 2020: Staff gave an overview of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy – Updated to 2020. A national NHAS action plan is expected to be released in December 2015. See copies of the document on the info table.

**Quality Improvement Committee:** Cecilia Ross, Co-Chair, said that the committee did not meet in August. There will be a Standards of Care workgroup for consumers on September 22, 2015. Please encourage consumers to attend.

**Operations Committee:** Curtis Bellard, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
Conflict of Interest: The Committee met on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. Modelle Brudner and David Benson attended to provide historical background information. The committee will dedicate several meetings to reviewing the Council's Conflict of Interest policy and parameters for

determining conflict of interest. All are welcome to observe the meetings and/or provide public comment.

**Council Applicants:** At the September meeting, the Committee will be interviewing six Council applicants who are applying for 2016 Council membership.

**Affected Community Committee:** Herman Finley, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

**Training: Consumer Training on Standards of Care:** Tori Williams, Manager, Office of Support, presented the attached training on Ryan White Standards of Care and Performance Measures.

**Consumer Workgroup on Standards of Care:** At 12 noon on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, there will be a consumer only workgroup meeting to review Ryan White Standards of Care and Performance Measures. All consumers are encouraged to attend and bring friends.

Vargas said that Ethridge had surgery so please think good thoughts for his recovery.

**Priority and Allocations Committee:** Bruce Turner, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

**FY 2014 Carryover Funds:** ***Motion #5:*** *Approve the attached allocation of FY 2014 Part A carryover funds. Please note that \$440 of the \$478,475 allocation is MAI money.* **Motion carried.**

**Abstentions:** Artiaga, Barr, Finley, Leo, Miertschin, Noble.

**Report from Office of Support:** Amber Alvarez summarized the attached report.

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration :** Heather Keizman summarized the attached report.

**Report from The Resource Group:** Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley summarized the attached report. She also introduced their new intern, Ka'cha Tousant.

**New Business:**

**Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D:** Miertschin reported that they received the Notice of Grant award for Part D on August 1, 2015.

**Community Development Advisory Council:** Gorden said that they have not met this year.

**HOPWA:** Barr reported that the Request For Proposals will be released at the end of the month.

**Community Prevention Group (CPG):** Artiaga reported that Michael Webb has been elected as the new community co-chair.

**Update from Task Forces:**

- **African American:** See attached. Johnson-Fairley added that the Texas Black Women's Initiative has an event at TSU on Thursday, September 17, 2015.
- **Latino:** Vargas reported that they are working on events for national Latino HIV Awareness Day, including the Fiestas Patrias parade on October 19<sup>th</sup>. They meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at the Lionel Castillo Community Center.
- **MSM:** Artiaga reported that they are working on events for fall and winter.
- **Transgender:** Finley reported that the Unity banquet is back on this year but he did not have any details yet.
- **Youth:** Lazo reported that they are still planning prevention health events for Yates and Waltrip High Schools. Volunteer opportunities will be available once as dates are confirmed.

- **Hepatitis C:** Vargas reported that the phone bank on the African American Hepatitis C Action Day was a huge success. It has been sent to CDC and they have sent it to others nationally.
- **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI):** Finley reported that they have been doing involvement with local rap groups, including distributing information and creating locally targeted commercials that air on Comcast.

**HIV and Aging:** Turner reported that the Area Agency on Aging presented information on Medicare and Medicare Plus at the August meeting. This month, Dr. Vanek from Legacy will talk about women aging with HIV. There are flyers on the table; note that you do not have to be over 50 to attend.

**Legislative Updates:** See the attached flyer about the Mayoral Forum on Community Health. There will be four questions specifically about HIV. Please RSVP if you will be attending.

**SPNS Grant: HIV and the Homeless Program:** Miertschin reported that they are still recruiting and have added two new clients making the total enrolled in the program 130. They are well ahead of where they need to be. They will be hiring a service linkage worker for this project.

**Announcements:**

- Benson said to please be sure to read the attached article about the cost of Hepatitis C drugs.
- Turner said that the Affected Community Committee would be hosting a booth next week at Thomas Street Health Center to distribute information for HIV and Aging Awareness Day. He said that the media is still looking for long term survivors to interview, if interested please contact Sally Huffer at Montrose Center at: [shuffer@montrosecenter.org](mailto:shuffer@montrosecenter.org).
- Alvarez said that the Part A grant guidance has been received and an email was sent to the Planning Council, the Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee and the EIIHA Workgroup regarding the meeting schedule for the EIIHA Workgroup. If you did not receive it and are interested in participating in this process, please let us know.

**Adjournment: Motion #6:** *it was moved and seconded (Amboree, Barnes) to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.*

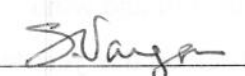
Respectfully submitted,

  
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 Victoria Williams, Manager

09/25/15  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

Draft Certified by  
 Council Chair:   
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Date 10/01/15  
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Final Approval by  
 Council Chair:   
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Date 10/08/15  
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**Council Voting Records for September 10, 2015**

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 Alternate Needs Assessment Opt 1 Carried				MEMBERS	Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 Alternate Needs Assessment Opt 1 Carried							
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN				
MEMBERS													MEMBERS																
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C				C	John Lazo		X				X				X						
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X				X				X			Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X				X						
Connie Barnes, Secretary		X				X				X			Januari Leo		X					X			X						
Roland Amboree		X				X				X			Nancy Miertschin		X				X				X						
Ted Artiaga		X				X				X			Robert Noble		X				X				X						
Ruth Atkinson		X						X		X			Teresa Pruitt		X					X			X						
Melody Barr		X						X		X			Leslie Raneri		X				X				X						
Curtis Bellard		X				X				X			Cecilia Ross		X				X				X						
David Benson		X				X				X			Carol Suazo		X				X				X						
Skeet Boyle		X				X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X				X				X						
Chad Brandt		X						X		X			David Watson		X					X			X						
Tana Brown		X				X				X																			
Bianca Burley		X				X				X																			
Ella Collins-Nelson		X				X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>																
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X				X			Amber David																
Herman Finley		X				X				X			Gene Ethridge																
Paul Grunenwald		X						X		X			J. Hoxi Jones																
Steven Harris		X				X				X			Kevin Moore																
Angela F. Hawkins		X				X				X			Shital Patel																
Arlene Johnson		X				X				X			Larry Woods																

**Council Voting Records for September 10, 2015 (continued)**

C = Chair of the meeting lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #4 Special Studies Carried				Motion #5 Part A Carryover Carried				MEMBERS	Motion #4 Special Studies Carried				Motion #5 Part A Carryover Carried			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS									MEMBERS								
Steven Vargas, Chair				C				C	John Lazo		X				X		
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X				X			Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X		
Connie Barnes, Secretary		X				X			Januari Leo		X						X
Roland Amboree		X				X			Nancy Miertschin		X						X
Ted Artiaga		X						X	Robert Noble		X						X
Ruth Atkinson		X				X			Leslie Raneri		X				X		
Melody Barr		X						X	Cecilia Ross		X				X		
Curtis Bellard		X				X			Carol Suazo		X				X		
David Benson		X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X				X		
Skeet Boyle		X				X			Teresa Pruitt		X				X		
Chad Brandt		X				X			David Watson		X				X		
Tana Brown		X				X											
Bianca Burley		X				X											
Ella Collins-Nelson		X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>								
Evelio Salinas Escamilla			X			X			Amber David								
Herman Finley		X						X	Gene Ethridge								
Paul Grunenwald		X				X			J. Hoxi Jones								
Steven Harris		X				X			Kevin Moore								
Angela F. Hawkins		X				X			Shital Patel								
Arlene Johnson		X				X			Larry Woods								