

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, February 11, 2016  
2223 W. Loop South, Room 532; Houston, Texas 77027

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
Steven Vargas, Chair	Peta-gay Ledbetter	Daniel Harris, TSU SHAPE Initiative
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair	Nancy Miertschin	Denis Kelly
Carol Suazo, Secretary	Allen Murray	Alex C. Moses
Ted Artiaga	Robert Noble	Venita Ray
Ruth Atkinson	Tana Pradia	
Connie Barnes	Leslie Raneri	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
Melody Barr	Gloria Sierra	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Curtis Bellard	Steven Stellenwerf	Carin Martin
David Benson	Isis Torrente	Heather Keizman
Skeet Boyle	C. Bruce Turner	
Bianca Burley	David Watson	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Ella Collins-Nelson	Larry Woods	Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley
Amber David		
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<i>Office of Support</i>
Gene Ethridge	Denny Delgado, excused	Tori Williams
Paul Grunenwald	Herman Finley	Amber Alvarez
Steven Harris	Arlene Johnson	Diane Beck
Angela F. Hawkins	Shital Patel, excused	
J. Hoxi Jones	Teresa Pruitt, excused	
John Lazo	Cecilia Ross, excused	

**Call to Order:** Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

During the welcoming remarks, Vargas welcomed everyone to the first 2016 Council meeting and stated that attendance is an important part of being commitment to the Council. All must do everything possible to make meetings worth our valuable time. Vargas extended thanks to the members of the Operations Committee who did a fabulous job organizing and hosting the 2016 all-day Council Orientation and thanked everyone who helped with the three Road 2 Success classes. It was a great success, see the enclosed evaluation report. He also thanked everyone who is participating in the NAG, the Leadership Team for the Comprehensive Plan and their workgroups. There continues to be

a robust turnout at all of the meetings and the Council looks forward to receiving and using these important documents. Kevin Moore has resigned from the Planning Council. He has been a dedicated member for over 5 years and we will miss his valuable input.

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

**Approval of the Minutes:** ***Motion #2:** it was moved and seconded (Harris, Escamilla) to approve the December 3, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Barnes, David, Pradia, Sierra, Stellenwerf, Torrente.

**Training: The Open Meetings Act:** Venita Ray, Legacy Community Health, presented the attached PowerPoint.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** None.

### **Reports from Committees:**

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** John Lazo, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
Chamber of Commerce Workgroup: Six presentations were scheduled in 2015, all well attended. Sites included three rotary clubs, one Chamber of Commerce, one professional African American women's group, and one not-for-profit business. Potential new topics will be determined after the Committee has had an opportunity to meet and discuss. As of today, 3 speaking engagements for 2016 have been confirmed. Miertschin said that the name of the workgroup will be changed to the Speakers Bureau Workgroup.

Nancy Miertschin, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

2012 Comprehensive Plan Year 3 Evaluation Report: The Committee reviewed the 2012 Comprehensive Plan Year 3 Evaluation Report. The report includes progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan through the end of 2014. Since the Committee reviewed the report, an adjustment has been made to the calculation for 2014 retention in care on the HIV Treatment Cascade that appears on page 9.

2012 Comprehensive Plan Year 3 Evaluation Report: ***Motion #3:** Accept the attached 2012 Comprehensive Plan Year 3 Evaluation Report. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Noble, Pradia

2017 Comprehensive Plan Update: The Leadership Team met December 2, 2015 and January 13, 2016 and developed mission and vision statements, guiding principles, and goals for the 2017 plan. The Leadership Team will meet again February 3, 2016 to complete development of plan objectives. The Comprehensive Plan workgroups also met throughout December and January. See the attached foundational documents as well as the list of workgroups and their meeting dates. Please contact the Office of Support if interested in participating on a workgroup.

2016 Needs Assessment Update: The Needs Assessment Group met December 16, 2016 to approve the 2016 Needs Assessment sampling plan and survey tool. Surveying began January 23, 2016. As of January 28th, 15 completed surveys had been collected. See the attached sampling plan and survey tool.

2016 Committee Goals: The Committee updated its goals for 2016. See the attached 2016 Committee Report for 2016 Committee Goals.

2015 Committee Goal Quarterly Report: See the attached 2015 Committee Goal Quarterly Report.

**Affected Community Committee:** No report.

**Quality Improvement Committee:** No report.

**Priority and Allocations Committee:** No report

**Operations Committee:** Curtis Bellard, Co-Chair, reported on the following.  
2016 Council Orientation: The Operations Committee hosted the 2016 Council Orientation on January 21, 2016.

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

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

**Report from The Resource Group:** Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley summarized the attached report.

**Medical Updates:** Miertschin said that several Council members attended the PrEP summit on Friday, February 5, 2016 that was coordinated by Dr. Patel and included 3 additional physicians from Baylor College of Medicine. Topics included PrEP 101, PrEP for women and pre-conception planning for women with HIV. It was good information and would be good for the Council if we could get a shorter version. Vargas said that he spoke to Dr. Patel after the summit about getting a shorter version presented at a Council meeting. Turner said it might be good information for the Comprehensive Plan Leadership Team as well. Burley asked if there were updates on the Zika virus. Grunenwald said the only thing he has heard is that it is recommended to use a condom if you have sex with someone who recently visited the region where the virus comes from. Dr. Harris said that people coming from the region should not donate blood for a month after they return.

#### **New Business:**

**Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D:** Miertschin reported that a new Medical Case Manager was hired at the Northwest Health Center for Part C. The Part D non-compete application is due in March. They will be sending a representative for Part C, Part D and the SPNS project to the Ryan White grantee meeting in Washington, DC this August.

**Community Development Advisory Council:** Gorden said that the most recent meeting was the same day as Council Orientation so he did not attend.

**HOPWA:** Barr said that the HOPWA formula has changed to living cases and they hope this means more funding for the Houston area. They will know in March.

#### **Updates from Task Forces:**

- **African American:** Johnson-Fairley said that they meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. For African American HIV Awareness Day they went to Sunnyside to distribute condoms and information and Change Happens did HIV testing.
- **Latino:** Vargas presented the attached report.
- **MPact:** Artiaga said that they were have scheduled testing events in February for Valentine's Day and the rodeo. They will not do testing during Pride month but will instead focus on PrEP education.
- **Youth:** Lazo reported that they will have a health fair event on April 8, 2016 at Madison High School from 9:15 am until 12:00 pm. The next task force meeting is on March 8, 2016.
- **Hepatitis C:** Vargas presented the attached report.

- **Heterosexual HIV Awareness:** Atkinson presented the attached report.

**HIV and Aging:** Turner presented the attached report. He stated that they are planning a symposium for the Fall of 2016 and the group is looking for a grant writer.

**Texas HIV Medication Advisory Committee:** Turner said that the March 4, 2016 meeting is being rescheduled.

**Legislative Updates:** Leo said that Election Day for the runoff is this Saturday, December 12th. Legacy Community Health received a grant for the end of AIDS from AIDS United and The Ford Foundation. This information will be useful for the Comprehensive Plan.

**SPNS Grant: HIV and the Homeless Program:** Miertschin reported that recruitment ended February 1, 2016 and Houston has had the highest number of enrollees of all the sites – 158 participants. This grant project has only one more year after September 2016.

**Announcements:** Jones distributed two handouts: one of form 1095-B and one about managed care for disabled kids age 21 and under. Gorden thanked everyone who helped with the Road 2 Success classes.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria "Lori" Williams  
Victoria Williams, Manager

03-01-16  
Date

Draft Certified by  
Council Chair: Stanger

Date 03-03-16

Final Approval by  
Council Chair: Stanger

Date 03-10-16

## Council Voting Records for February 11, 2016

MEMBERS	Motion #1 Agenda Carried			Motion #2 Minutes Carried			Motion #3 Comp Plan Year-3 Evaluation Report Carried		
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO
C = Chair of the meeting Im = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone									
MEMBERS									
Steven Vargas, Chair			C						
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair		X			X			X	
Carol Suazo		X			X				X
Ted Artiaga		X			X				X
Ruth Atkinson		X			X				X
Connie Barnes		X			X				X
Melody Barr		X			X				X
Curtis Bellard		X			X				X
David Benson		X			X				X
Skeet Boyle		X			X				X
Bianca Burley arrived 12:20 pm	X				X				X
Ella Collins-Nelson		X			X				
Amber David		X			X				
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X			X				
Gene Ethridge		X			X				
Paul Grunenwald		X			X				
Steven Harris		X			X				
Angela F. Hawkins		X			X				
J. Hoxi Jones		X			X				
John Lazo		X			X				
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X			X				

