

**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, November 10, 2016
2223 W. Loop South, Room 532; Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Steven Vargas, Chair	Robert Noble	Shelly Lucas, DSHS
Tracy Gorden, Vice Chair	Tana Pradia	James Arango, DSHS
Carol Suazo, Secretary	Teresa Pruitt	Mikel Marshall, ViiV
Ted Artiaga	Leslie Raneri	Greg Town, Enroll Texas
Connie Barnes	Cecilia Ross	Johnetta Evans-Thomas
Melody Barr	Gloria Sierra	Kelvin Harris
Curtis Bellard	Isis Torrente	Denis Kelly
David Benson	C. Bruce Turner	Michael Kennedy
Ardry Skeet Boyle	Larry Woods	Alex Moses
Bianca Burley	David Watson	Samantha Robinson
Ella Collins-Nelson		Viviana Santibanez
Denny Delgado		
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Herman Finley	Amber David	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Paul Grunenwald	Rodney Mills, excused	Carin Martin
Angela F. Hawkins	Shital Patel	Heather Keizman
Arlene Johnson		Tasha Traylor
J. Hoxi Jones		
John Lazo		<i>The Resource Group</i>
Peta-gay Ledbetter		Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley
Nancy Miertschin		
Allen Murray		<i>Office of Support</i>
		Tori Williams
		Amber Harbolt
		Diane Beck

Call to Order: Steven Vargas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

During the welcoming remarks, Vargas invited those who were available after the Council meeting adjourns to see the presentation that was given at the HRSA All Grantees meeting in Washington D.C. in August. Members were urged to take a stack of Road 2 Success flyers and distribute them broadly. Vargas introduced Shelley Lucas, MPH, Manager, HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch, TDSHS and invited her to give an update on activities at DSHS.

Adoption of the Agenda: Motion #1: *it was moved and seconded (Pruitt, Barnes) to adopt the agenda with one change: add under III.B. Motion: Ask the Chair of the Planning Council to send a letter of Support for the END HIV Houston campaign. Motion carried unanimously.*

Approval of the Minutes: Motion #2: *it was moved and seconded (Torrente, Pruitt) to approve the October 13, 2016 minutes. Motion carried. Abstentions: Burley, Escamilla, Jones, Raneri, Ross and Turner.*

Shelly Lucas, MPH, Manager, HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch, Texas DSHS: She spoke briefly about ADAP and additional State Services funding which was recently received. She said that ADAP has added two Hepatitis C regimens to the ADAP formulary – there are 10 rolling slots for this pilot project which has been approved to spend up to one million dollars per year. She hopes to be able to expand the program after the pilot.

Honoring External Committee Members: Vargas welcomed the External Committee members and thanked them for their work this year. Each External Committee member received a certificate of appreciation.

Public Comment and Announcements: #1: Greg Town, President of Enroll Texas, thanked the Council for allowing him to introduce himself. He has been all over the state and met with planning councils as well as Part A and Part B providers. He wanted to take this opportunity at the beginning of Open Enrollment to share his information with the Council. Basically, they are a no cost resource for clients. They specialize in two things: Affordable Care Act Health Insurance and assisting Ryan White clients. They have helped over 6,000 Ryan White clients between Louisiana and Texas and worked with hundreds of case managers. The way they get paid is there is a small fee built into the policy – what that means is that there is no cost to the agency or the client. What they get when they work with us, and we work hand in hand with the agency, we understand the Ryan White program, we talk to administrators all over the state so we understand premium assistance, copay assistance, we understand getting into the right networks and looking at formularies for the right drugs. So, what he wants to share today is that we're stronger together, we support the Ryan White mandate as payer of last resort – the case managers are overwhelmed and overworked, they're not insurance experts and we can help take some of the load off of them. His contact information is on the flyers that he distributed; feel free to call him directly.

#2: Mr. Kelly - Now that everything's been over and there are many ASO people here, next year is going to be very, very, very important. You need to talk to your clients, they need to talk to their friends, it's going to be very, very important to be involved with legislation on the state and national level, whether they phone, email or whatever. The holidays are coming, but immediately after the first of the year everybody - infected and affected – needs to be involved. Just a friendly reminder to please get the message out after the first of the year because we've got to stay on top of what is going on politically on the state and national level otherwise there will be repercussions from the recent elections.

Reports from Committees:

Quality Improvement Committee: Robert Noble, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Joint Committee Meeting: There will be a Joint Committee meeting to review current reports and consider ways to update and/or improve staff reports to the Council in 2017. All are welcome to attend. The meeting is scheduled for 11 am on Thursday, November 17, 2016.

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: John Lazo, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Speakers Bureau: Lazo said that the presentation scheduled for November 10th to the Spring-Klein Chamber of Commerce will be rescheduled due to a schedule conflict on their part. The final presentation of the year will be to the Cy-Fair Rotary Club on November 21st; Vargas will be the speaker for that one. The final workgroup meeting of the year will be November 17th at 10:15 a.m.

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

Reports from RW Administrative Agent – Part A/MAI: See the attached:

- FY16 Procurement Report – Part A/MAI, dated 10/27/16
- Approved List of Diagnostic procedures.

Reports from RW Administrative Agent – Part B/SS: See the attached, revised Health Insurance Assistance Service Utilization Report.

FY 2016 State Services Funding Increase: **Motion #4:** Fund the Health Insurance Assistance Program in the amount of \$796,034 pending a public comment period which ended at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Justification for the allocation is based upon the increased cost of Marketplace and Medicare Health Insurance premiums. **Motion carried.** Abstention: Artiaga.

FY 2016 RW Part A Service Category Funding Increases: Please note that the correct total for the column labeled *Amount of Requests* should be \$579,380. This does not impact the following motion. **Motion #5:** Approve the attached requests for FY 2016 Ryan White Part A Service Category funding increases. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Artiaga, Benson, Escamilla, Finley, Miertschin, Noble, Woods.

Ryan White Part A - FY 2016 Carryover Funds: **Motion #6:** If there are FY 2016 Ryan White Part A carryover funds, it is the intent of the committee to recommend allocating the full amount to Outpatient/Ambulatory Primary Medical Care. **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Artiaga, Benson, Escamilla, Finley, Miertschin, Noble, Woods.

FY 2016 Unspent Funds: **Motion #7:** In the final quarter of the FY 2016 Ryan White Part A, Part B and State Services grant years, after implementing the year end Council-approved reallocation of unspent funds and utilizing the existing 10% reallocation rule to the extent feasible, Ryan White Grant Administration (RWGA) may reallocate any remaining unspent funds as necessary to ensure the Houston EMA has less than 5% unspent Formula funds and no unspent Supplemental funds. The Resource Group (TRG) may reallocate any remaining unspent funds as necessary to ensure no funds are returned to the Texas Department of State Health Services. RWGA and TRG must inform the Council of these shifts no later than the next scheduled Ryan White Planning Council Steering Committee meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Quarterly Committee Report: See the attached 2016 Quarterly Committee Report.

Affected Community Committee: Tana Pradia, Co-Chair, reported on the following:
Training: Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence: Heather Keizman, Project Coordinator for Ryan White Grant Administration, presented information on *The Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence*.

2016 Monthly Meeting Schedule: See the attached list of 2016 meetings and training topics.

2016 Community Events: See the attached list of 2016 events at which there will be a Council presence. If anyone wishes to participate in a World AIDS Day event on Thursday, December 1, 2016, please see Tori. Also, if anyone would like to volunteer to help with Road 2 Success on Saturday morning, November 12, 2016 at the Montrose Center, please see Tori or Rod.

Operations Committee: Teresa Pruitt, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

2017 Council Orientation: Please note that the all-day 2017 Council Orientation will take place on Thursday, January 26th.

2017 Council Election Policy: Nominations for officers for the 2017 Planning Council may be submitted to the Manager of the Office of Support 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 attached list of members who are eligible to run for Chair of the Planning Council.

2017 Slate of Officers: **Motion #8:** Accept the attached Slate of Nominees for the 2017 Ryan White Planning Council Officers. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Ryan White Memorandum of Understanding Among Part A Stakeholders and the Letter of Agreement Among Part A and B Stakeholders: It is recommended that neither the Memorandum of Understanding Among Ryan White Part A stakeholders nor the Letter of Agreement Among Ryan White Part B/SS stakeholders be amended at this time.

Report from Office of Support: Tori Williams, Director, submitted the attached report.

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

Report from The Resource Group: Sha'Terra Johnson-Fairley, Health Planner, submitted the attached report.

New Business

Community Prevention Group (CPG): Finley said that they are talking about changing their meetings to every other month. Meetings have been quarterly this year since members have been participating on the Comprehensive Plan.

Updates from Task Forces:

- **African American:** Johnson-Fairley said that the task force is having a World AIDS Day gala to honor HIV prevention front line staff on December 3rd at the Deluxe Theater. The next meeting is tomorrow at noon at the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center 4014 Market Street. The final meeting of the year will be December 9th to elect new officers.
- **Texas Black Women's Initiative:** Johnson-Fairley said that last month they went to Prairie View A&M and partnered with sororities on the campus and tested 94 students in three hours.
- **Latino:** Vargas submitted the attached report.

- **MPact:** Artiaga submitted the attached report.
- **Transgender:** Finley said that they just started a new group called Save our Sisters; there are no minutes yet but he may be able to provide a report after the first of the year.
- **Youth:** Lazo said they will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. on November 22nd at Leonel Castillo Community Center.
- **Hepatitis C:** Vargas submitted the attached report.
- **Urban AIDS Ministry:** Collins-Nelson said they are commemorating World AIDS Day this year with a candlelight vigil to be held in the Sunnyside area.

Positive Women’s Network: Pradia said that they had a really good presentation on domestic violence last month at Houston Area Women’s Center in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

HIV and Aging: Turner submitted the attached report. He said that there are a few items needed for the Christmas party gift bags (hand sanitizers, note pads) and cash is always needed. Johnson-Fairley said she had note pads and Traylor said she will talk to her contact at Walgreens about donating hand sanitizer.

Texas HIV Medication Advisory Committee: Lucas said that a future meeting date has not been set.

SPNS Grant: HIV and the Homeless Program: Miertschin said that there have been some staffing changes within the program. There is less than a year left on the project.

Announcements: Lazo said that his friend Daniel Bauer is a magician/escape artist who will have a show in December and has offered a special discount for Planning Council members for the Friday night show. A portion of Friday night’s proceeds will go to Omega House. He distributed postcards about the event with the discount code. There is an article about Daniel Bauer on page 45 of this month’s Outsmart magazine. Gorden said that next year’s Poz cruise will be leaving out of San Juan, Puerto Rico, visiting 5 destinations in 8 days, see him for more information. Pradia said that she attended a training for the Southern AIDS Coalition in Atlanta. The epidemic is on the rise in the southern states and we need to get involved.

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

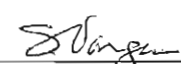
Respectfully submitted,



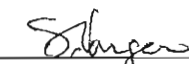
 Victoria Williams, Director

11/23/16

 Date

Draft Certified by
 Council Chair: 

Date 12/01/16

Final Approval by
 Council Chair: 

Date 12/10/16

Council Voting Records for November 10, 2016

MEMBERS	Motion #1 Agenda Carried			Motion #2 Minutes Carried			Motion #3 END HIV Letter of Support Carried			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO	
C = Chair of the meeting ja = just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room										
MEMBERS										
Steven Vargas, Chair			C							
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair	X			X				X		
Carol Suazo, Secretary	X			X				X		
Ted Artiaga	X			X				X		
Connie Barnes	X			X				X		
Melody Barr ja 12:17 pm	X			X				X		
Curtis Bellard	X			X				X		
David Benson	X			X				X		
Skeet Boyle	X			X				X		
Bianca Burley	X			X				X		
Ella Collins-Nelson	X			X				X		
Denny Delgado ja 12:54 pm	X			X				X		
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X			X				X	
Herman Finley		X			X				X	
Angela F. Hawkins		X			X				X	
Paul Grunenwald		X			X				X	
Arlene Johnson		X			X				X	
J. Hoxi Jones		X			X				X	
John Lazo		X			X				X	

Council Voting Records for November 10, 2016

MEMBERS	Motion #7 Part A Unspent Funds Carried			MEMBERS	Motion #8 Slate of Nominees Carried			Motion #7 Part A Unspent Funds Carried			Motion #8 Slate of Nominees Carried		
	ABSENT	YES	NO		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO
C = Chair of the meeting ja = just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room													
MEMBERS													
Steven Vargas, Chair			C				C						
Tracy Gorden, Vice-Chair	X				X				X				
Carol Suazo, Secretary	X				X				X				
Ted Artiaga	X				X				X				
Connie Barnes	X				X				X				
Melody Barr <i>lm 1:20pm</i>	X				X				X				
Curtis Bellard	X				X				X				
David Benson	X				X				X				
Skeet Boyle	X				X				X				
Bianca Burley	X				X				X				
Ella Collins-Nelson	X				X				X				
Denny Delgado	X				X				X				
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	X				X				X				
Herman Finley	X				X				X				
Angela F. Hawkins	X				X				X				
Paul Grunenwald	X				X				X				
Arlene Johnson	X				X				X				
J. Hoxi Jones <i>lm 1:01pm</i>	X				X				X				
John Lazo	X				X				X				