

## 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, October 12, 2017

Meeting Location: Ryan White Offices, 2223 W. Loop South, Rm 532; Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Cecilia Ross, Chair	Venita Ray	James Arango, DSHS
Carol Suazo, Secretary	Viviana Santibanez	Cynthia Deverson, BCM
Ted Artiaga	Isis Torrente	Leslie Ellis, HCPHES
Bianca Burley	Steven Vargas	Sean Greene, CHCP
Ella Collins-Nelson		Marnina Miller
Amber David		Alex Moses
Johnny Deal	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	
Evelio Salinas Escamilla	Connie Barnes, excused	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
Paul Grunenwald	Curtis Bellard, excused	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Angela F. Hawkins	David Benson, excused	Carin Martin
Denis Kelly	Skeet Boyle, excused	Tasha Traylor
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Herman Finley, excused	
Tom Lindstrom	Tracy Gorden, excused	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Osaro Mgbere	Arlene Johnson	Marcus Benoit
Nancy Miertschin	J. Hoxi Jones, excused	Tamika Shaw
Rodney Mills	Robert Noble	
Allen Murray	Shital Patel, excused	<i>Office of Support</i>
Krystal Perez	Teresa Pruitt	Tori Williams
John Poole	Gloria Sierra, excused	Amber Harbolt
Tana Pradia	Larry Woods	Diane Beck

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

During the opening remarks, Ross extended congratulations to the Houston Health Department who recently received CDC funding to utilize molecular data to monitor health outcomes and re-engage people into HIV medical care (Project PODER). HHD plans to move forward with this new intervention in partnership with the community and will be soliciting input on how to thoughtfully and effectively proceed.

Ross continued by extending many thanks to those who helped with *Camino hacia tu Salud* on Monday September 25th. Two case managers from Harris Health System presented on Case Management, followed by ADAP updates from Steven Vargas and Marcus Benoit. Attendance, including speakers and staff, was approximately 36 individuals.

Ross also thanked Curtis Bellard who, along with Tori and herself, oriented a new external committee member referred by Crystal Starr, a recent LEAP graduate.

Please note that because the September Council meeting was cancelled, the agenda for the October Council meeting will include everything that was approved at the September and October Steering Committee meetings.

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

**Approval of the Minutes:** *Motion #2: it was moved and seconded (Mgbere, Pradia) to approve the August 10, 2017 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Burley, David, Perez, Poole, Ray, Suazo.

**Training: Results of the 2015-2017 SPNS Project:** Dr. Tom Giordano, Medical Director at Thomas Street Health Center, presented the attached information.

**Training: EIIHA Update:** Amber Harbolt, Health Planner, presented the attached information.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** See attached written comment. After identifying herself as a person living with HIV, a woman stated that she was having difficulty accessing housing. She ended up getting help from her family, but is concerned because many people living with HIV do not have this option. She felt that she should have received better service.

**Reports from Committees:**

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Isis Torrente, Co-Chair, reported on the following: Social Determinants of Health Special Study: See attached update.

**FY 2018 EIIHA Plan Target Populations:** The following target populations for the FY 2018 EIIHA Plan received final approval from the Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:

- A. African Americans
- B. Hispanics/Latinos age 25 and over
- C. Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

Office of Support staff is to include information on HIV and aging in the EIIHA section of the HRSA application.

**FY 2018 EIIHA Plan Target Populations:** Office of Support staff is to include a statement in the EIIHA section of the HRSA application recognizing that currently available epidemiologic data is not sufficient to assess the need for testing, referral, and linkage in at-risk populations such as among those who are transgender, intersex, homeless, those released from incarceration, adolescents ages 13 to 17, and young adults ages 18 to 24..

**Quality Improvement Committee:** Gloria Sierra, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Reports from the Administrative Agency - Part B/SS: See the attached reports:

- FY16/17 RW Part B Procurement, dated 08-02-17
- FY16/17 State Services Procurement, dated 08-02-17
- 2017 Health Insurance Assistance Service Utilization, dated 07-06-17

Standards of Care Training: See the attached training materials that were presented to the Quality Improvement Committee.

**Affected Community Committee:** Rodney Mills, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Standards of Care Training: On October 23, 2017, there will be a consumer-only workgroup to provide input into standards of care for FY 2018 Ryan White Part A/MAI\*, Part B and State Services funded services. All Ryan White consumers are encouraged to attend.

*Camino hacia tu Salud: Camino hacia tu Salud*, the Spanish version of Road 2 Success, took place on Monday evening, September 25, 2017. The Affected Community Committee partnered with the Positive713 support group to co-host the event. Thirty-six people were in attendance, including six speakers and staff members.

Road 2 Success: Members of the Affected Community Committee used data from former Road 2 Success evaluation forms and the 2016 Houston Area HIV Needs Assessment to recommend topics for the upcoming, four-hour Road 2 Success seminars in English and Spanish. The first seminar will be held at the Montrose Center on Saturday, November 4, 2017.

**Operations Committee:** Nancy Miertschin, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Cross Committee Trainings: Those who participated in at least one of the Cross Committee trainings have been asked to complete an evaluation form. If you have not submitted your form to Amber, or online, please do so soon.

Stigmatizing Language: As a follow up to the Council's decision to remove all stigmatizing language found in the Council bylaws, policies, procedures, website and elsewhere, please see the three documents that list preferred HIV-related terms. There is an additional, lengthy guide on the information table for those who would like a hard copy.

Updated/Revised Council Policies: **Motion #3:** *approve the attached, updated/revised Ryan White Planning Council policies (edited text is bold and underlined):*

- *200.01 Nominations Screening Process*
- *200.03 Meetings*
- *300.01 Letters of Support and more*
- *400.02 Roles & Responsibilities*

**Motion Carried.**

Petty Cash Policy No. 900.01: Miertschin noted that written public comment is included in your packet, see attached. **Motion #4:** *approve the attached Ryan White Petty Cash Policy No. 900.01 (edited text is bold and underlined) and the two related forms.* **Motion Carried.**

2018 Council Applicants: The committee interviewed three 2018 Council applicants in September and will be interviewing an additional five candidates in October.

New External Member Orientation: One new external committee member received orientation to Ryan White policies and procedures and more on Friday, September 29, 2017.

**Priority and Allocations Committee:** No report.

**Positive Connections Ad Hoc Committee:** Vargas said that the meeting was very informative and included visitors from the Texas Department of State Health Services - Shelly Lucas was present and Ann Dills gave a presentation on local data over the phone. Committee members felt that they received more information about the program and discussed how it will work in our area. The project is moving

forward, the next meeting will be on October 18, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. and will include representatives from the University of Virginia (UV). Members are especially interested in hearing from the consumer who participated in the UV program. Martin added that the Houston Health Department is very interested in the app, the continuum of care requires strong linkage and they feel that the app will be helpful for that. They also have funds that may augment the project through next year. They are working to get enough funding for three years. The Houston EMA's HRSA project officer is also very supportive of the app pilot project.

**Response to Hurricane Harvey's Impact on PLWH in the EMA:** See attached public comment. Escamilla said that there were problems getting information in Spanish so some people were unable to get their medications all week.

**Report from Office of Support:** Tori Williams, Director, summarized the attached reports for September and October.

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration:** Carin Martin, Manager, summarized the attached reports for September and October.

**Report from The Resource Group:** Tamika Shaw, intern, summarized the attached report.

**Medical Updates:** Patel submitted the attached report.

**HOPWA:** Perez said that the RFP was cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey. All currently funded providers received level funding. The RFP will be re-released in the next few months.

**Community Prevention Group (CPG):** Kelly said that meeting times have changed: the main group meets at 4:00 pm followed by the committees at 5:00 pm.

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

**African American:** Collins-Nelson said that only the officers are meeting tomorrow.

**Latino:** Vargas said they met on September 15 to stuff bags for Fiestas Patrias which was cancelled and rescheduled for October 28, 2017.

**MSM:** Artiaga submitted the attached report

**Transgender:** Santibanez said they are very happy with the data being collected by her organization on the transgender community and have had good participation.

**Hepatitis C:** Vargas said they had "Ask the Experts" last month which was moderately attended.

**HIV and Aging Coalition:** Vargas stated that they had a presentation about stigmatizing language at the last meeting. He also provided information from the US Conference on AIDS. Donations and volunteers are needed for the annual Christmas party which will take place on December 2, 2017.

**Positive Women's Network (PWN):** See attached flyer. Pradia said the women's CAB meeting will take place on October 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Legacy Community Health on California.

**END HIV Houston:** Ray said that the workgroup meetings have started up again, they are working with DSHS on the state plan to end HIV. She will send meeting dates to the Office of Support.

**Ryan White Part C Urban and Part D:** Miertschin said that evening hours did not work at Northwest Health Center but they are now trying it at Thomas Street one night a month starting

tonight. They have received supplemental funds for the Part D parenting project which is part of the pregnancy program for after clients give birth.

**Texas HIV Medication Advisory Committee:** Miertschin said that they met last week but did not make quorum. The next meeting will be on December 8, 2017.

**Texas HIV Syndicate:** Harbolt said they will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday with a lot of the focus being on the End HIV plan.

**Legislative Updates:** Kelly said that the end of the open enrollment period has been moved back to mid-December so it is a much shorter timeframe this year.

**Texans Living with HIV Network:** Vargas said there will be a conference call tonight regarding the guiding principles of the group.

**Announcements:** Gorden said that today is the day that Matthew Shepard was murdered in 1998. Gorden will be attending a conference next month. Escamilla said that Avenue 360, in conjunction with AIDS Foundation Houston, received a grant, see attached news release. Pradia said that the Positive Women's Network (PWN) also received a grant.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

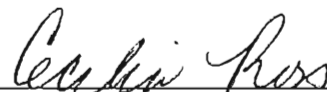
Respectfully submitted,

  
Victoria Williams, Director

10/26/17  
Date

Draft Certified by  
Council Chair: 

Date 11/02/17

Final Approval by  
Council Chair: 

Date 11/09/17



C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #3 Policies 200.01, 200.03, 300.01, 400.02 Carried			Motion #4 Policy 900.01 and related forms Carried			Motion #3 Policies 200.01, 200.03, 300.01, 400.02 Carried			Motion #4 Policy 900.01 and related forms Carried			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS													
Cecilia Ross, Chair			C										
Carol Suazo, Secretary		X			X			X			X		
Ted Artiaga		X			X			X			X		
Bianca Burley		X			X			X			X		
Ella Collins-Nelson		X			X			X			X		
Amber David		X			X			X			X		
Johnny Deal		X			X			X			X		
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X			X			X			X		
Paul Grunenwald		X			X			X			X		
Angela F. Hawkins		X			X			X			X		
Denis Kelly		X			X			X			X		
Peta-gay Ledbetter lm 1:30 pm		X			X			X			X		
Tom Lindstrom		X			X			X			X		
Osaro Mgbere		X			X			X			X		
Nancy Miertschin		X			X			X			X		
Rodney Mills		X			X			X			X		
Allen Murray		X			X			X			X		
Krystal Perez		X			X			X			X		
John Poole lm 1:45 pm		X			X			X			X		

