

# Council Approved April 8, 2021

## HOUSTON AREA HIV SERVICES RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL



*We envision an educated community where the needs of all persons living with HIV 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 living with and/or affected by HIV by taking a leadership role in the planning and assessment of HIV resources.*

### MINUTES

12 noon, Thursday, March 11, 2021

Meeting Location: Zoom teleconference

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Allen Murray, Chair	Faye Robinson	Lt. Cdr. Rodrigo Chavez, PACE
Denis Kelly, Vice Chair	Imran Shaikh	Charles Henley
Crystal Starr, Secretary	Gloria Sierra	Lesley P. Williams
Kevin Aloysius	Robert Sliepka	Amy Leonard, HHD
Veronica Ardoin	C. Bruce Turner	Jon-Michael Gillispie, HHD
Rosalind Belcher	Steven Vargas	Gwendolyn Wilson, Co-Chair of the Greater Hampton Roads HIV Planning Council
Ardry "Skeet" Boyle		
Johanna Castillo		
Mauricia E. Chatman		
Enrique Chavez	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Kimberley Collins	Johnny Deal	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Tony Crawford	Ahmier Gibson	Carin Martin
Robert "Bobby" Cruz	Peta-gay Ledbetter	Heather Keizman
Dawn Jenkins	Tom Lindstrom, excused	Rebecca Edwards
Daphne L. Jones	Deondre Moore	
Roxane May	Shital Patel, excused	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Holly Renee McLean	Oscar Perez, excused	Sha'Terra Johnson
Josh Mica	Pete Rodriguez	Crystal Townsend
Rodney Mills	Andrew Wilson	
Diana Morgan		<i>Office of Support</i>
Nkechi Onyewuenyi		Tori Williams
Matilda Padilla		Ricardo Mora
		Diane Beck

**Call to Order:** Allen Murray, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

During the opening remarks, Murray acknowledged the recent winter storm and said it was difficult and stressful for many to stay warm and access drinking water during the five days of the storm. He also

thanked Shelly Lucas for meeting with the Council in February. The meeting was informative, respectful and productive. Shelley and her team recently announced that they would delay the elimination of the spend down process when determining eligibility for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) at least through June 30, 2021. The Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) will also review any denials based on income from December 1, 2020 forward. If a prior applicant qualifies for the program after applying the spend down, THMP will send an approval letter reinstating the applicant in the program. This is very good news, but the financial deficit has still not been resolved so we must all stay tuned for further developments. Murray was very sorry to announce that Shelly has resigned from the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS), her last day with the program is March 16<sup>th</sup>. Murray stated that the Council appreciates those in attendance, and asked guests to introduce themselves. Murray then called for a moment of reflection.

**Adoption of the Agenda: Motion #1:** *it was moved and seconded (Starr, Vargas) to adopt the agenda with one change: Add a presentation entitled: "Possible Council Responses to the Changes Taking Place at the Texas Department of State Health Services" by speaker Charles Henley, TDSHS consultant.*  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Approval of the Minutes: Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Starr, Turner) to approve the February 11, 2021 minutes.* **Motion carried.** Abstentions: Crawford, Padilla.

**Training: How To Best Meet the Need Training & Process:** Kevin Aloysius and Steven Vargas, Co-Chairs of the Quality Improvement Committee presented information about participating in this important process.

**Presentation: Responding to the Impact of Potential THMP Changes: Changes & Solutions.** Charles Henley, Consultant, presented the attached PowerPoint.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** See attached comments sent by Steven Vargas. **Motion #3:** *it was moved and seconded (Kelly, Belcher) to send the suggestion from Vargas to the Operations Committee for review and to come back to the Council with a recommendation in April before the How to Best Meet the Need process starts.* **Motion Carried.** Abstention: Starr. Williams said to send any comments regarding the motion to her and she will give them to the Operations Committee at their meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

## **Reports from Committees**

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Rodney Mills, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
Updated Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan: As you can see from the attached letter from HRSA, dated February 26, 2021, HRSA and CDC will be releasing the guidance for the next comprehensive plan in June 2021, with submission of the plan targeted for December 2022. In the meantime, communities are expected to utilize the existing Plan. Communities are also asked to see the Comprehensive Plan as the umbrella plan for all HIV-related resources and activities and the End the HIV Epidemic plan as a subset of focused resources and activities.

**Committee Orientation:** The Committee dedicated the first portion of their February meeting to general orientation, which included a review of the purpose of the committee and the definition of conflict of interest, the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, Petty Cash restrictions, work products, meeting dates and more.

**Joint Trainings with CPG:** Although the instructions for the next EHE or Comprehensive Plans described above have not been released, the Committee feels that it would be helpful to start gathering information for the next comprehensive planning and the FY22 How To Best Meet the Need processes by co-hosting

joint trainings with members of the Houston Prevention Community Planning Group (CPG), the Ryan White Planning Council and others. Trainings will be organized around the four pillars of the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative and will 1.) review services that address each pillar, 2.) review data available about the services, 3.) ask a panel of front line workers if there are gaps in services, if the services can be improved and if the services interface effectively. Soon, detailed information about the trainings will be announced. All are welcome and encouraged to attend the trainings.

2021 Joint Epidemiological Profile: The 2021 supplement to the current Joint Epidemiological Profile will be developed in the second half of 2021 when updated data will hopefully be available.

Committee Vice Chair: Steven Vargas was elected as the vice chair for the 2021 Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee.

**Affected Community Committee:** Due to inclement weather, there was no meeting.

**Quality Improvement Committee:** Due to inclement weather, there was no meeting.

**Operations Committee:** Due to inclement weather, there was no meeting.

**Priority and Allocations Committee:** Bobby Cruz, Co-Chair, reported on the following:  
Committee Orientation: The Committee also dedicated the first portion of their February meeting to general orientation.

Training: Preparing for Changes in 2021: Charles Henley, a consultant for the TDSHS HIV/STD Branch Care Services Group, shared the attached information with the Committee, which will help them make informed recommendations to the Council in response to changes currently taking place with statewide, Part B funded services, such as ADAP.

2021 Policy for Addressing Unobligated and Carryover Funds: ***Motion #4:*** *Approve the attached 2021 Policy for Addressing Unobligated and Carryover Funds.* **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Aloysius, Shaikh.

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

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration:** Carin Martin, Manager, presented the attached report and drew the Council's attention to the third bullet regarding the notification from HRSA about unobligated funds penalties being eliminated this year.

**Report from The Resource Group:** Sha'Terra Johnson, Health Planner, presented the attached report. She said that they have been told that there will be a \$1.2 million reduction in funding for State Services Rebate for the HASA, so Houston will not have to absorb the whole reduction. She will provide a report to the Office of Support to give to the Priority and Allocations Committee.

**Task Force Reports:** Murray reminded the Council that they agreed some time ago to skip verbal Task Force Reports while meeting on Zoom. The Office of Support is happy to receive and distribute written reports if turned in on the Tuesday before the Council meets.

**Announcements:** Murray encouraged members to attend the Joint Meeting Ryan White Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 16th and the How to Best Meet the Need workgroups in April. He asked everyone to join him in wishing Happy Birthday to Rod.

**Adjournment: Motion:** *it was moved and seconded (Kelly, Mills) to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m.*  
**Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victoria Williams, Director

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Draft Certified by  
Council Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Final Approval by  
Council Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Council Voting Records for March 11, 2021

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried					Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO
MEMBERS									MEMBERS								
Allen Murray, Chair				C				C	Matilda Padilla		X						X
Denis Kelly, Vice Chair		X				X			Faye Robinson		X				X		
Crystal Starr, Secretary		X				X			Imran Shaikh		X				X		
Kevin Aloysius		X				X			Gloria Sierra lm 1:00pm		X				X		
Veronica Ardoin		X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X		
Rosalind Belcher		X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X				X		
Ardry "Skeet" Boyle ja 12:45pm	X				X				Steven Vargas		X				X		
Johanna Castillo		X				X											
Mauricia E. Chatman		X				X											
Enrique Chavez ja 12:42pm	X				X												
Kimberley Collins lm 12:57pm		X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>								
Tony Crawford		X						X	Johnny Deal								
Robert "Bobby" Cruz ja 12:23pm	X				X				Ahmier Gibson								
Dawn Jenkins		X				X			Peta-gay Ledbetter								
Daphne L. Jones ja 12:23pm	X				X				Tom Lindstrom								
Roxane May		X				X			Deondre Moore								
Holly Renee McLean		X				X			Shital Patel								
Josh Mica		X				X			Oscar Perez								
Diana Morgan		X				X			Pete Rodriguez								
Nkechi Onyewuenyi ja 12:17pm	X				X				Andrew Wilson								

**Council Voting Records for March 11, 2021 - continued**

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	<b>Motion #3</b> Ask the Operations Committee for a recommendation <b>Carried</b>				<b>Motion #4</b> Policy for Addressing Unobligated and Carryover Funds <b>Carried</b>					<b>Motion #3</b> Ask the Operations Committee for a recommendation <b>Carried</b>				<b>Motion #4</b> Policy for Addressing Unobligated and Carryover Funds <b>Carried</b>			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO
MEMBERS									MEMBERS								
Allen Murray, Chair				C				C	Matilda Padilla		X				X		
Denis Kelly, Vice Chair		X				X			Faye Robinson		X				X		
Crystal Starr, Secretary				X		X			Imran Shaikh		X						X
Kevin Aloysius		X						X	Gloria Sierra lm 1:00pm		X				X		
Veronica Ardoin		X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X		
Rosalind Belcher		X				X			C. Bruce Turner		X				X		
Ardry "Skeet" Boyle ja 12:45pm		X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X		
Johanna Castillo		X				X											
Mauricia E. Chatman		X				X											
Enrique Chavez ja 12:42pm		X				X											
Kimberley Collins lm 12:57pm		X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>								
Tony Crawford		X				X			Johnny Deal								
Robert "Bobby" Cruz ja 12:23pm		X				X			Ahmier Gibson								
Dawn Jenkins		X				X			Peta-gay Ledbetter								
Daphne L. Jones ja 12:23pm		X				X			Tom Lindstrom								
Roxane May		X				X			Deondre Moore								
Holly Renee McLean		X				X			Shital Patel								
Josh Mica		X				X			Oscar Perez								
Diana Morgan		X				X			Pete Rodriguez								
Nkechi Onyewuenyi ja 12:17pm		X				X			Andrew Wilson								