

**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, September 8, 2022

Meeting Location: St. Philip Presbyterian Church 4807 San Felipe, Houston, Texas 77056
and Zoom teleconference

| MEMBERS PRESENT | MEMBERS PRESENT | OTHERS PRESENT |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Crystal Starr, Chair | Tana Pradia | 2022 Proyecto VIDA Students |
| Ardry “Skeet” Boyle, Vice Chair | Paul Richards | Isis Torrente, Proyecto VIDA |
| Kevin Aloysius, Secretary | Faye Robinson | Angela Hawkins |
| Melody Barr | Pete Rodriguez | John Huckaby, AFH |
| Rosalind Belcher | Imran Shaikh | Erica Washington, AFH |
| Johanna Castillo | Robert Sliepka | Skyler King, Change Happens! |
| Robert “Bobby” Cruz | Steven Vargas | Connie Whitworth, Merck |
| Johnny Deal | | Luis Medina, Translator |
| Evelio Escamilla | | Pablo Lino, Translator |
| Ronnie Galley | | |
| Dawn Jenkins | MEMBERS ABSENT | STAFF PRESENT |
| Daphne L. Jones | Veronica Ardoin, excused | <i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i> |
| Denis Kelly | Titan Capri | Carin Martin |
| Peta-gay Ledbetter | Tony Crawford | Heather Keizman |
| Cecilia Ligons | Tom Lindstrom, excused | Mauricia Chatman |
| Rodney Mills | Roxane May | |
| Josh Mica | Holly Renee McLean, excused | <i>The Resource Group</i> |
| Diana Morgan | Matilda Padilla | Sha’Terra Johnson |
| Shital Patel | C. Bruce Turner | |
| Oscar Perez | Andrew Wilson | <i>Office of Support</i> |
| | | Tori Williams |
| | | Mackenzie Hudson |
| | | Diane Beck |
| | | Rod Avila |

Call to Order: Crystal Starr, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

During the opening remarks, Starr thanked those who have been attending the Council meetings in person. According to the Open Meetings Act, we must have at least 11 in-person participants or we don't make quorum. Lunch will be provided to those in attendance. She then thanked everyone who has attended the Education meetings for the 2022 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan. Today at 4 pm, there will be the first of 3 meetings to take what we learned from the data and use it to develop strategies and action steps. Please join us for one or all of these meetings as this is where the rubber meets the road. Watch for emails from Diane in order to register for the meetings. Starr said she hopes folks have been attending the Monkeypox Townhall meetings. Dr. Ericka Brown and her team at the Harris County Health Department have been working with AIDS Foundation Houston, AETC and others to provide up-to-date information. Tori can get you added to the list if you wish to attend those informative meetings.

Please join Starr today in recognizing the members of the Steering Committee for their important leadership as officers and committee chairs throughout the year. She presented a special pin and a note personally thanking each Steering Committee member for their dedicated service this year. Rod mailed the pin to members who were not in attendance in person.

Starr said she is excited that the students from Proyecto VIDA are observing the Council meeting today. They will introduce themselves during the public comment portion of the meeting. She asked for a round of applause for our Spanish-speaking colleagues and friends from the inaugural Class of Proyecto VIDA.

Starr then called for a Moment of Reflection.

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

Approval of the Minutes: **Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Mica, Pradia) to approve the August 11, 2022 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Aloysius, Mills, Patel, Perez, Shaikh.

2022 Proyecto VIDA Student Presentations: The Proyecto VIDA students presented their thoughtfully prepared public comments at the Council meeting. Avila called on each student when it was their turn to present and she reminded Council members that they have hard copies of the comments in English and Spanish.

Public Comment and Announcements: Ledbetter addressed the Proyecto VIDA class in Spanish.

Reports from Committees

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

There was no meeting in August so that Committee members could attend one of the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan Community meetings.

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: Josh Mica, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

2022 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Services Plan: All are encouraged to sign up for the three upcoming Community Planning meetings that will be held virtually from 4 – 6 pm Sept. 8th, 12th and 15th. Interested individuals must register to attend so be on the lookout for Diane's emails with flyers and rsvp links. These next three meetings will take what we learned in the Community Education meetings and create strategies for our 2022 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Services Plan.

Over 250 people have been interviewed or participated in focus groups to tell the Planning Council and CPG what they believe will strengthen HIV Prevention and Care services and end the HIV epidemic. Please attend the meetings and hear what these individuals are telling us.

Operations Committee: Ronnie Galley, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Letter of Agreement among RW Part B Stakeholders: The Operations Committee has reviewed the attached Letter of Agreement among RW Part B Stakeholders. Please review the attached draft document so that it can be voted on at the October or November 2022 Steering and Council meeting. Rodriguez said that in the definition of the Houston Part A Planning Council, we need to add something about the majority of Council members being consumers and reflective of the local epidemic. Vargas said the third bullet on page 3 references data entered into ARIES which needs to be updated.

2022 Proyecto VIDA: Steven Vargas, Proyecto VIDA Co-Facilitator said that he made notes from their public comments – some of their concerns have been addressed, others have not been adequately addressed. The class graduation is scheduled for September 22, 2022. Please let Tori know if you would like to volunteer to host the event.

Quality Improvement Committee: Daphne L. Jones, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism – Part A: **Motion #3:** *Approve the attached 2022 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism for Ryan White Part A. No corrective action is required.*
Motion Carried. Abstention: Aloysius, Castillo, Robinson.

Priority and Allocations Committee: No report since the Committee does not meet in August or September.

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

Report from Ryan White Grant Administration: Carin Martin, Manager, summarized the attached report. Aloysius (Conflict of Interest) asked if Emergency Financial Assistance – Pharmacy Assistance could be extended from 30 to 60 days. Sometimes clients are unable to get their paperwork for meds approved within the 30 day limit. Martin said there is a waiver process. Williams said this would be forwarded to the Quality Improvement committee to look at the issue. Martin said that her last day with the grant administration office will be September 27th. Starr and Planning Council members thanked Martin for her years of service and wished her well.

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

Task Force Reports: Starr reminded Council members that, per the groups' agreement, there would be no verbal Task Force Reports while using the virtual or hybrid format. The Office of Support is happy to receive and distribute written reports in advance of all Council meetings.

Announcements: Barr said that the HOPWA NOFA will be released tomorrow, please tell your providers. Beck posted the following links: Monkeypox Townhall tomorrow at noon - register here <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckd-upqTwiHtBG7IWNYifVLRceJMEWksk> and the first HIV Community Planning Meeting is today at 4pm – register here https://bit.ly/commHIVplan_Sept8. Boyle said that Bread of Life will be distributing fresh produce and household items on the 3rd

Saturday of the month (9/17/22) from 8 am-12 pm. Mica said that the food program at Thomas Street Health Center is starting up again.

Adjournment: *it was moved and seconded (Deal, Mica) to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

_____ Date _____
Victoria Williams, Director

Draft Certified by
Council Chair: _____ Date _____

Final Approval by
Council Chair: _____ Date _____

Council Voting Records for September 8, 2022

| C = Chaired 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 #3 Assessment of the Admin Mechanism Carried | | | | | Motion #1 Agenda Carried | | | | Motion #2 Minutes Carried | | | | Motion #3 Assessment of the Admin Mechanism Carried | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----|----|---------|---------------------------------|-----|----|---------|---|-----|----|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----|----|---------------------------------|--------|-----|----|---|--------|-----|----|
| | ABSENT | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | | MEMBERS | ABSENT | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT | YES | NO |
| MEMBERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | MEMBERS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crystal Starr, Chair | | | | C | | | | C | | | | C | Tana Pradia | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | |
| Ardry "Skeet" Boyle, Vice Chair | X | | | | X | | | | | X | | | Paul Richards | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | |
| Kevin Aloysius, Secretary | | X | | | | | | X | | | | X | Faye Robinson | | X | | | | X | | | | | | X |
| Melody Barr | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Pete Rodriguez | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | |
| Rosalind Belcher | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Imran Shaikh | | X | | | | | X | | | X | | |
| Johanna Castillo | | X | | | | X | | | | | | X | Robert Sliepka | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | |
| Robert "Bobby" Cruz | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Steven Vargas | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | |
| Johnny Deal | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Evelio Escamilla | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ronnie Galley | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dawn Jenkins | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | MEMBERS ABSENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Daphne L. Jones | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Veronica Ardoin | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Denis Kelly | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Titan Capri | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peta-gay Ledbetter | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Tony Crawford | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cecilia Ligons | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Tom Lindstrom | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Josh Mica | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Roxane May | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rodney Mills | | X | | | | | | X | | X | | | Holly Renee McLean | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diana Morgan | | X | | | | X | | | | X | | | Matilda Padilla | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shital Patel | | X | | | | | | X | | X | | | C. Bruce Turner | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oscar Perez | | X | | | | | | X | | X | | | Andrew Wilson | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Un Camino a la Adherencia.

Hola, Soy _____, hace 6 años recibí el Asilo Humanitario por vivir con VIH y hace 22 vivo con esta condición, he logrado la Supresión Viral gracias al tratamiento; sin embargo la falta de Integración con la planificación de prestar un servicio humano crea unos baches(obstáculos) como el de Interrumpir el tratamiento por parte de clínicas solo por cumplir con aspectos legales y es Lógico, gracias a Ryan White se Concientizo, pero es tiempo de ser sensible, tolerante, y siempre mantener la Ética personal y profesional, la Empatía, la confidencialidad, flexibilidad, comunicación abierta y efectiva en un Marco conciliador de respeto y colaboración para lograr que por ningún motivo se interrumpa y hacer honor al decreto de Ryan White, puesto que ya hay un registro que deberían tener todas las clínicas que reciben fondos de Ryan White, así como las Organizaciones que trabajan el Tema VIH.

ENGLISH VERSION:

A Path to Adherence.

Hello, I am _____, 6 years ago, I received the Humanitarian Asylum for living with HIV and 22 years ago, I have lived with this condition. I have achieved Viral Suppression thanks to treatment; however, the lack of integration with the planning of providing a human service creates potholes (obstacles) such as the interruption of treatment by clinics just to comply with legal aspects and it is logical, thanks to Ryan White, he became aware. Nevertheless, it is time to be sensitive, tolerant, and always maintain personal and professional ethics, empathy, confidentiality, flexibility, open and effective communication in a conciliatory framework of respect and collaboration to ensure that it is not interrupted for any reason and honor Ryan White's decree. Since there is already a registry that all the clinics that receive funds from Ryan White, as well as the Organizations that work on HIV, should have.

Banco de comida

Soy trabajador de salud de Texas y por los últimos 8 años eh servido como especialista en reducción de riesgos de vi en una fundación llamada _____, hace 4 años atrás , tres de mis clientes diagnosticados con VIH, me pidieron ayuda con referencia a algún banco de comida donde no les pidieran identificación de Texas , un lugar donde pudieran obtener comida fresca porque en el lugar al que ellos iban les habían pedido identificación oficial de Texas , pido esta tarde al consejo que se reanude la apertura de fondos para destinarlo a bancos de comida que se encuentran en organizaciones no lucrativas , tomen en cuenta que los inmigrantes no tienen acceso a un Seguro de salud , no tienen acceso a programas de salud en español , y no tienen acceso a estampillas de comida, la comunidad está siendo abatida por el coronavirus y viruela del mono , no trabajan por más de 4 semanas , no tienen comida , pierden el empleo y no tienen a donde poder solicitar comida Digna, no latas, no papas, comida fresca, carne, lácteos, necesitamos bancos de comida dignos, la comunidad que vive VIH lo merece.

ENGLISH VERSION:**Food Bank**

I am a health worker from Texas and for the last 8 years I have served as a HIV Risk Reduction Specialist at a foundation called _____, 4 years ago three of my clients diagnosed with HIV asked me for help with a referral to a bank food where they are not asked for Texas identification. A place where they could get fresh food because the place where they went they had been asked for official Texas identification. I ask the council this afternoon to resume the opening of funds to allocate it to food banks that are in non-profit organizations. Take into account that immigrants do not have access to health insurance, do not have access to health programs in Spanish, and do not have access to food stamps; the community is being devastated by the coronavirus and Monkeypox. These health situations can mean that they do not work for more than 4 weeks, they don't have food, they lose their jobs and they don't have where they can get decent food, no cans, no potatoes, fresh food, meat, dairy, we need decent food banks, the community living with HIV deserves it.

¿Como reducir el estigma en la comunidad latina para incrementar el acceso a los servicios de atención del VIH en Houston Texas y comunidades colindantes?

Cabe decir que el VIH nos afecta a todos. Múltiples factores de riesgo, injusticias sociales y raciales juegan un papel que impide que los latinos obtenga acceso a los servicios de atención para VIH.

Comenzaríamos por mitigar las barreras del lenguaje generando paginas en el internet, servicios, y empleados que provean a sus clientes los servicios de atención en su lengua de origen. Al realizarlo ayudamos en la reducción del estigma ya que se demostraría que el lenguaje no seria una cuestión de barrera para la comunidad buscando apoyo.

Debemos crear, o buscar, grupos sociales, generar sesiones de dialogo para educar y apoyar a nuestra gente viviendo esta experiencia. Presentar y promover platicas sobre la reducción del estigma que rodea el VIH y sus efectos en nuestra comunidad, ayudara en la identificación y la normalización de la perspectiva del VIH dentro de la comunidad para que el individuo asimile sin sentirse culpable o juzgado.

Soy _____ y planeo abogar, fortalecer y alentar a los miembros de mi comunidad al abordar y navegar los servicios de atención para el VIH.

ENGLISH VERSION:

How do we reduce stigma in the Latino community to increase access to HIV Care Services in Houston, Texas and its surrounding areas?

First off, HIV affects us all. Many risk factors, social and racial injustices come to play that get in the way of Latinos being able to access HIV Care Services.

We can start doing this by alleviating language barriers by having web sites, services, and Employees to offer the consumers care services in their language. By doing so you help reduce stigma by demonstrating that language is not going to be an issue to the community seeking care.

We also have to create (or find other) social groups and discussion sessions to educate and support our people that are living the same life experience. Hosting and promoting stigma reduction conversations around HIV and how it affects our community helps build the need to identify and normalize the way HIV is viewed in the community so that access to care can be internalized by the consumer without feeling judged or embarrassed.

I am _____ and I plan on being an involved advocate by empowering and uplifting the members of my community to access and navigate the HIV Care System.

Una recomendación es que las escuelas implementen un curso sobre el sexo. Un curso en cual que el sexo no es vergonzoso ni desanimado. Un espacio donde los estudiantes se sientan como para hacer cualquier pregunta sobre el sexo. Este curso de Educación Sexual debería ser su propia clase, y no más un tema que se enseña por unos días. Pero no nomas existen sexo ordinario, existe sexo entre diferentes géneros, genetelias, y sexualidades. Somos una nueva generación que es más abierta y dispuesta para probar diferentes cosas. Una generación que está ansiosa por explorar su sexualidad, y descubrirse. Se debe enseñar a los adolescentes a practicar el sexo seguro, y sobre que significa el consentimiento. Al cabo, Lo van a hacer independientemente, cuando se sientan listos. Pero es nuestra responsabilidad como adultos de proporcionarles la información y herramientas adecuadas para que puedan practicar el sexo seguro, cuando se sientan listos. Honestamente, todas las escuelas deberían de tener los recursos para informar, detectar, y proporcionar a los estudiantes si necesitan algunos estudios de embarazo o enfermedad de transmisión sexual.

ENGLISH VERSION:

One recommendation is that schools implement a course on sex. A course in which sex is neither shameful nor discouraged. A space where students feel like asking any question about sex. This Sex Education course should be its own class, and no longer a topic that is taught for a few days. But not just conservative sex, there is sex between different genders, genetics, and sexualities. We are a new generation that is more open and willing to try different things. A generation that is eager to explore their sexuality, and discover themselves. Teenagers should be taught about safe sex, and about what consent means. After all, they will do it independently, when they feel ready. But it is our responsibility as adults to provide them with the right information and tools so they can practice safe sex when they feel ready. Honestly, every school should have the resources to inform, screen, and provide students with some pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases screening if they need it.

Mi Nombre es _____, soy flebotomistas en la fundación y con experiencia propia de mis pacientes y siendo este el primer grupo latino pido más inversión en la accesibilidad y traducción de toda documentación e información en español, inclusive en centros de atención primaria de salud, fundaciones y agencias, tanto como para el personal de salud y los pacientes, queremos saber o leer en nuestro idioma como cuidarnos, que estamos firmando, que estamos aprendiendo y como me están ayudando a vivir.

ENGLISH VERSION:

My name is _____, I am a phlebotomist at a Foundation and from my experiences with my patients, and being this the first Latino group, I ask for more investment in the accessibility and translation of all documentation and information in Spanish which include primary health care centers, foundations and agencies. We want to know or read in our language how to take care of ourselves, what we are signing, what we are learning and how they are helping to live –applies to health personnel and patients.

Soy latino viviendo con VIH.

Cuando me diagnosticaron VIH, lo primero que me vino a la mente fue la MUERTE.
En parte, porque no fui educado.

Logre más información del sitio de AIDS VU, ha habido un aumento de nuevos casos de VIH del 16% desde el año 2008-2018 en la comunidad latina. Como parte de la comunidad latina, conozco de primera mano las dificultades para tener conversaciones sobre salud sexual.

Al vivir con el VIH, sé que debemos abrir las puertas para tener conversaciones entre los pacientes, así como con sus familias, para que podamos reducir el estigma del VIH.

Nuestra familia, Proyecto VIDA, me ha dado un conocimiento valioso que me da la confianza suficiente para tener discusiones abiertas entre mis amigos e incluso mi propia familia.

Yo soy _____ y juntos podemos aumentar las conversaciones sobre salud sexual para reducir el estigma.

ENGLISH VERSION:

I'm a Latino living with HIV.

When I was diagnosed with HIV, the first thing that came across my mind was DEATH.
Due to the fact that I wasn't educated.

According to the source AIDS VU, there has been an increase of new HIV cases 16% from the year 2008-2018 in the Latino community. As a part of the Latino community, I know first-hand the difficulties around having conversations about sexual health.

Living with HIV, I know we need to open the doors to having discussions amongst patients, as well as their families, so we can reduce stigma of HIV.

The Proyecto VIDA familia has given me valuable knowledge that empowers me with enough confidence to have open discussions amongst my friends and even my own family.

I am _____, and together we can increase sexual health conversations to reduce stigma.

Mi nombre es _____. Quería agradecer la oportunidad de estar aquí sobre todo por la bonita labor que realizan.

Sé que ya existen las estrategias para el inmigrante sin identificación que se diagnostica con VIH en EEUU reciba su tratamiento y de la forma más rápida, pero, considero que se debe hacer un seguimiento del cumplimiento de esas estrategias porque aún existen irregularidades, sería apropiado revisar con el trabajador que sigue el caso, Que tan rápido se inició el tratamiento después de ser diagnosticado.

ENGLISH VERSION:

My name is _____. I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to be here, especially for the outstanding work you do.

I know that there are already strategies for unidentified immigrants diagnosed with HIV in the US to receive their treatment and in the fastest way. But I believe that compliance with these strategies should be monitored because there are still irregularities, it would be appropriate to review with the worker who follows the case, how quickly the treatment was started after being diagnosed.

El facil y adecuado acceso a los servicios de salud para las personas que viven con VIH es algo primordial que garantiza la adherencia a sus medicamentos. Es por eso que considero que el implementar un medio de transporte adecuado, seguro, puntual y confidencial es algo prioritario para poder garantizar a las personas viviendo con VIH que no cuentan con transporte propio el facil acceso sus citas medicas. No se puede hablar de un medio de transporte eficiente sin antes garantizar que el transporte sea puntual en llevarlos a sus citas y garantizarles seguridad de regresarlos a sus hogares. Proporcionar un medio de transporte de calidad les ofrece a ellos la oportunidad de tener una vida saludable. Muchas de las inasistencias a las citas medicas son debido a la falta de transporte, el considerar brindar la facil movilidad garantiza el cuidado de la salud.

ENGLISH VERSION:

Easy and adequate access to health services for people living with HIV is something essential that guarantees adherence to their medications. That is why I consider that implementing an adequate, safe, punctual and confidential means of transportation is a priority in order to guarantee easy access to medical appointments for people living with HIV who do not have their own transportation. It is not possible to speak of an efficient means of transportation without first guaranteeing that transportation is punctual in taking them to their appointments and guaranteeing them safety when returning them to their homes. Providing a quality means of transportation offers them the opportunity to have a healthy life. Many of the absences to medical appointments are due to lack of transportation, considering providing easy mobility guarantees health care.

Mi nombre es _____ y trabajo en el programa de Prevención de _____. Reconocemos la importancia de la función de los profesionales de la salud mental al brindar servicios de salud mental de alta calidad a las personas que viven con el VIH para manejar mejor su salud física y mental. Además, es importante reconocer la falta de servicios profesionales de salud mental en español, la falta de servicios profesionales de salud mental asequibles para personas de bajos ingresos que viven con el VIH y los problemas de accesibilidad para quienes necesitan servicios profesionales de salud mental.

¿Cómo nos aseguramos de que las personas que viven con el VIH alcancen niveles óptimos de salud y bienestar?

Propongo aumentar los servicios de salud mental de alta calidad 1) aumentando los servicios profesionales de salud mental en las clínicas comunitarias con psicólogos, terapeutas y consejeros de habla hispana; 2) los servicios profesionales de salud mental deben ser accesibles (es decir, ubicación, servicios de horario flexible y elegibilidad); y 3) asequible (es decir, a un precio razonable en función de los ingresos de las personas, no del costo).

Al facilitar que las personas que viven con el VIH obtengan y usen servicios de salud mental de alta calidad, podemos ayudarlos a permanecer en el tratamiento del VIH y tener una mejor calidad de vida.

ENGLISH VERSION:

My name is _____, and I work in the Prevention program at _____. We recognize the importance of the role of mental health professionals by providing high-quality mental health services to people living with HIV to better manage their physical and mental health. Also, it is important to recognize the lack of professional mental health services in Spanish, the lack of affordable professional mental health services for low-income people living with HIV, and the accessibility issues for those who need professional mental health services.

How do we ensure people living with HIV reach optimal levels of health and wellbeing?

I propose to increase high-quality mental health services by 1) increasing the professional mental health services in the community clinics with Spanish-speaking psychologists, therapists, and counselors; 2) the professional mental health services should be accessible (i.e., location, flexible time services, and eligibility); and 3) affordable (i.e., reasonably priced based on people's income, not cost).

By making it easier for people living with HIV to get and use high-quality mental health services, we can help them stay in HIV treatment and get better quality of life.

Promover y Apoyar las Acciones;

Buen día mi nombre es _____, soy originario de Nicaragua, soy Activista y Defensor de Derechos Humanos LGBT+ y vivo positivo desde 2012.

Recién llegue a Estados Unidos hace 5 meses, y gracias a mi empoderamiento y conocimientos busque en Internet un lugar donde poder vincularme, encontré la clínica de Thomas Street y agradezco la atención y ayuda que he encontrado y recibido, Gracias a Proyecto VIDA por guiarme y darme las herramientas para fortalecer mi liderazgo.

Soy consciente que mi situación es diferente a la de muchos compatriotas, que ingresan al país y por miedo ó desconocimiento no tienen acceso a los servicios ni un resultado igual al mío.

Actualmente soy Indetectable y es gracias a ustedes y a muchos otros que han dado su vida en la lucha para erradicar el estigma asociado al VIH y poder facilitar la atención a todos por igual.

Les exhorto a seguir continuando, brindando espacios donde podamos tener una vida plena é integral.

El trabajo continua y aun debemos derribar muros para lograr que todas las personas VIH positivas tengan acceso a su tratamiento y así lograr el objetivo: Indetectable = Intransmisible.

ENGLISH VERSION:

Promote and Support Actions;

Good morning, my name is _____, I am originally from Nicaragua, I am an LGBT+ Human Rights Activist and Defender and I have been living positive since 2012.

I just arrived in the United States 5 months ago, and thanks to my empowerment and knowledge I searched the Internet for a place where I could connect- I found the Thomas Street clinic and I appreciate the attention and help I have found and received. Thanks to Proyecto VIDA for guiding me and give me the tools to strengthen my leadership.

I am aware that my situation is different from that of many compatriots, who enter the country and due to fear or unawareness do not have access to services or a result equal to mine.

I am currently Undetectable and it is thanks to you and many others who have given their lives in the fight to eradicate the stigma associated with HIV and to be able to provide equal care to all.

I urge you to keep going, providing spaces where we can have a full and comprehensive life.

The work continues and we still have to break down walls to ensure that all HIV positive people have access to their treatment and thus achieve the goal: Undetectable = Untransmittable.

Hola que tal buen dia, mi nombre es _____ una mujer trans inmigrante y es un placer estar aquí con ustedes el dia de hoy.

El proyecto de Ryan white es muy importante para mí ya que aquí estoy aprendiendo a buscar y llevar información para la prevención y tratamiento del VIH en mi comunidad.

Una comunidad trans, de alto riesgo, con muy pocas oportunidades o recursos a nuestro alcance, pero sobre todo limitados a servicios de calidad y en nuestro idioma (español) .

Actualmente las personas trans no contamos con recursos ni programas directos que ayuden a las mujeres y los hombres trans con servicios de salud, no contamos con espacios apropiados; donde podamos recibir los servicios adecuados.

De acuerdo con las necesidades y teniendo en cuenta las comunidades trans salí con esta propuesta; de crear espacios para ofrecer servicios de salud directos, donde la población trans se beneficie de los recursos destinados a la lucha contra el VIH y así tener por fin un lugar especial para personas trans.

Este espacio de información, prevención y tratamiento será de mucha ayuda para mi comunidad y de alto impacto en la lucha para erradicar el VIH.

" la salud trans es importante "
Muchas gracias por su tiempo.

ENGLISH VERSION:

Hello, my name is _____, a trans immigrant woman, and it is a pleasure to be here with you today.

Ryan White's project is very important to me because I am learning to find and bring information for the prevention and treatment of HIV in my community.

A trans community, high risk, with very few opportunities or resources within our reach, but above all limited to quality services and in our language (Spanish).

Currently people of trans experience do not have resources or direct programs that help trans women and men with health services, we do not have appropriate spaces; where we can receive the appropriate services.

In accordance with the needs and taking into account the trans communities, I came up with this proposal; to create spaces to offer direct health services, where the trans population benefits from the resources allocated to the fight against HIV and thus finally have a special place for trans people.

This space for information, prevention and treatment will be very helpful for my community and will have a high impact in the fight to end HIV.

"trans health is important"
Thank you very much for your time.