

## 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, April 13, 2023

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

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Crystal Starr, Chair	Evelio Salinas Escamilla	Charles Henley, Consultant
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle, Vice Chair	Imran Shaikh	Shabaura Perryman, Merck
Josh Mica, Secretary	Robert Sliepka	Alfonzo Lopez, HOPWA
Servando Arellano	Steven Vargas	Melody Barr, HOPWA
Rosalind Belcher		Georgina German, Affiliate
Johanna Castillo		
Robert “Bobby” Cruz		<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
Kathryn Fergus	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Kenia Gallardo	Kevin Aloysius, excused	Glenn Urbach
Ronnie Galley	Caleb Brown, excused	Mauricia Chatman
Dawn Jenkins	Titan Capri, excused	Jason Black
Cecilia Ligons	Tony Crawford	
Rodney Mills	Daphne L. Jones	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Diana Morgan	Peta-gay Ledbetter, excused	Sha’Terra Johnson
Allen Murray	Roxanne May, excused	
Oscar Perez	Shital Patel, excused	<i>Office of Support</i>
Tana Pradia	Faye Robinson	Tori Williams
Paul Richards	Pete Rodriguez, excused	Mackenzie Hudson
Ryan Rose	Carol Suazo	Diane Beck
Megan Rowe	C. Bruce Turner, excused	Rod Avila

**Call to Order:** Crystal Starr, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

During the opening remarks, Starr thanked everyone who generously signed up to provide lunch at our Council meetings. Please reach out to Avila to pick a month when you would like to bring food for the group. Today we can thank Sliepka for graciously providing pizza and cookies. Those who wish to, are also welcome to bring a bag lunch. The Office of Support will soon be moving to another location.

Negotiations with several possible locations are still underway. But, in the meantime, heartfelt thanks go to following individuals who have volunteered their time to assist in packing up the office: Allen Murray, Ryan Rose, Anna Moore and Beth Allen. Tori will let us know if and when they need additional help. Starr then called for a Moment of Reflection with a request to think about several members who have been sick or in the hospital lately.

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

**Approval of the Minutes: Motion #2: it was moved and seconded (Mica, Boyle) to approve the March 9, 2023 minutes. Motion carried.** Abstentions: Arellano, Belcher, Sliepka.

**FY 2024 How to Best Meet the Need Process:** Tana Pradia reviewed the schedule of workgroups, see attached. Beck said that the packets are available today and also available for download on the website.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** Alfonzo Lopez, City of Houston Housing and Community Development HOPWA program, addressed the Planning Council in Spanish. Melody Barr, Deputy Director, City of Houston Housing and Community Development which administers the HOPWA program, said that she is not translating Lopez's comments - her comments are similar but independent. In September 2022 she was a member of the Planning Council and listened to a significant amount of public comment in Spanish. Though she identifies as Latina, more specifically Chicana, she does not speak Spanish. It is unfortunate that there was no translator available to translate in real time since the majority of the Council speaks English. The comments were later translated and sent to the Planning Council. Most comments related to mental health services provided in Spanish. The comments were related to various Ryan White services but had a common theme, a lack of representation of the Latino community. One specifically mentioned increasing Spanish speaking psychologists, therapists and counselors. Another said they want to know and read in their language how to take care of ourselves and what documents they are signing. Another comment said that they do not have access to health programs in Spanish. I am here today to say that we hear you.

The HOPWA program is not governed by Ryan White but because of those comments my team went to work to identify gaps – asking that materials, information and communications be provided in Spanish and other languages such as Vietnamese. Not just for the HOPWA program but for all programs administered by public service which is the group that she administers. The changes will take time but they are under way because the comments made in September are so important. We are conducting a secret shopper program and working with individuals with lived experience to better our programs. The HOPWA program released a Notice of Funding Award (NOFA), one of the agencies that applied and is scheduled to go before City Council is Fundación Latino Americana de Accion Social, also known as FLAS. They have provided services to Latino populations affected by HIV for nearly 28 years. The agreement between the City of Houston and Avenue360 will come to an end in June 2023 as they have chosen not to accept an additional HOPWA award. Melody and her team are working with other providers to transfer the clients seamlessly. Five additional agencies will be taking on 215 TBRA client households. It is important for clients to maintain services and to have housing stability. She thanked Avenue360 for their help in the transition of clients and AIDS Foundation Houston, Catholic Charities, the Montrose Center, FLAS and Bread of Life for absorbing the additional clients. HOPWA is the only federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV. Stable housing is closely linked to successful HIV health outcomes. The more stable your living situation is the better you do in care.

Williams said that there was a translator present at the meeting and on Zoom but there are many other meetings where we are not as prepared unless we know ahead of time.

## Reports from Committees

**Affected Community Committee:** Diana Morgan, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Houston Ryan White Client Satisfaction Survey: Mauricia Chatman from Ryan White Grant Administration and John Sapero from Collaborative Research presented questions from the new Houston Ryan White Client Satisfaction Survey in order to get input from Committee members. Overall, Committee members agreed with the questions.

2022-26 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan: Williams walked Committee members through the attached power point presentation that describes the suggested Leadership Team structure for implementing monitoring and evaluating the 2022 Integrated Plan. The Affected Community Committee recommends the suggested Leadership Team structure described in the PowerPoint presentation.

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Steven Vargas, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

2022-26 Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan: **Motion #3:** *Approve the suggested Leadership Team structure for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the 2022-26 Integrated Plan.* **Motion Carried.**

Committee Vice Chair: Kenia Gallardo was elected as the Vice Chair for the Committee.

**Quality Improvement Committee:** Tana Pradia, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Criteria for Justifying the FY 2024 Service Categories: **Motion #4:** *Approve the attached criteria for justifying the FY 2024 Ryan White service categories during the 2023 How To Best Meet the Need process.* **Motion Carried.**

Home and Community-Based Health Services: **Motion #5:** *Due to many years of being underutilized, do not RFP the Home and Community-based Health Services service category. See attached memo from The Resource Group for justification.* **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Escamilla, Shaikh.

FY 2024 How To Best Meet the Need Process: The FY 2024 How to Best Meet the Need process will begin on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> with Special Workgroup meetings on HIV and Aging in the morning and Case Management for individuals with a history of a sexual offense. Please see the enclosed calendar with all meeting dates and services to be discussed. Although all meetings will be in hybrid format, please sign up with Rod or Diane to attend these meetings. The RSVP list will tell us how large a room we will need to rent at the church.

Committee Vice Chair: Caleb Brown was elected as the Vice Chair for the Committee.

**Priority and Allocations Committee:** Bobby Cruz, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Home and Community-Based Health Services: **Motion #6:** *Accept The Resource Group staff recommendations as outlined in the attached memo by de-funding Home and Community-Based Health Services and reallocating the \$113,315 in Ryan White Part B funds to Oral Health-General and Prosthodontics.* **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Escamilla, Shaikh.

Reports from the Ryan White Part B/SS\* Administrative Agency: See three attached reports.

**Operations Committee:** Cecilia Ligons, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

Letter from HRSA re: Consumer Incentives, dated 12/06/22: **Motion #7:** *Adopt Option #2, as outlined in the 12/06/22 HRSA letter regarding consumer incentives. Option #2 provides consumers with a meal (when medically necessary) and reimburses consumers for transportation to and from a Ryan White-related meeting or event, and childcare needed during a Ryan White-related meeting or event. Ask Planning Council, Affiliate Committee members and students if they are taking medication that requires it be taken with food. If "yes", provide these individuals with a meal. Those who do not have a medical*

necessity for food are encouraged to bring a bag lunch or dinner to meetings that take place during a mealtime. **Motion Carried.**

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

**Report from Ryan White Grant Administration:** Glenn Urbach, Manager, summarized the attached report. Vargas asked that they make sure all case management staff is aware of the availability of the Local Pharmacy Assistance Program.

**Report from The Resource Group:** Sha’Terra Johnson, Health Planner, presented the attached report.

**Task Force Reports:** Starr said that the Council agreed some time ago that they preferred not to have verbal Task Force Reports while meeting on Zoom. The Office of Support is happy to receive and distribute written reports in advance of all Council meetings.

**Announcements:** Jenkins said that Community Health Choice is 500% over budget due to the cost of treating HIV with single pill regimens so they are no longer going to cover them on their insurance plans. She believes that other insurance providers will also follow suit. Mica said that Harris Health System is aware of this formulary change and is working to assist patients who are affected so they can continue their single pill regimen. If health insurance won’t allow it, they can still get their medication through the Ryan White Program. Starr said that HIV Advocacy Day in Austin was well attended. Ligons said that the Positive Living Conference in Florida is September 15-17, 2023.

Williams reminded everyone that there will be a training on the data that will be used in the How to Best Meet the Need process at 1:30 pm today. Beck put the Zoom link for the training in the chat box.

**Adjournment: Motion:** *it was moved and seconded (Murray, Sliepka) to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 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 April 13, 2023

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 Structure of the Integ Plan Leadership Team Carried					Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 Structure of the Integ Plan Leadership Team 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	ABSTAIN
MEMBERS													MEMBERS												
Crystal Starr, Chair				C				C				C	Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X				X		
Ardry "Skeet" Boyle, Vice Chair		X				X				X			Imran Shaikh		X				X				X		
Josh Mica, Secretary		X				X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X				X		
Servando Arellano		X				X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X				X		
Rosalind Belcher		X				X				X															
Johanna Castillo	X				X					X															
Robert "Bobby" Cruz		X				X				X															
Kathryn Fergus		X				X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>												
Kenia Gallardo		X				X				X			Kevin Aloysius												
Ronnie Galley		X				X				X			Caleb Brown												
Dawn Jenkins		X				X				X			Titan Capri												
Cecilia Ligons		X				X				X			Tony Crawford												
Rodney Mills		X				X				X			Daphne L. Jones												
Diana Morgan		X				X				X			Peta-gay Ledbetter												
Allen Murray		X				X				X			Roxanne May												
Oscar Perez	X				X					X			Shital Patel												
Tana Pradia		X				X				X			Faye Robinson												
Paul Richards	X				X					X			Pete Rodriguez												
Ryan Rose		X				X				X			Carol Suazo												
Megan Rowe		X				X				X			C. Bruce Turner												

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	<b>Motion #4</b> FY24 Justification Criteria for HTBMN Carried				<b>Motion #5</b> Do not re-RFP Home & Community Based Health Services Carried					<b>Motion #4</b> FY24 Justification Criteria for HTBMN Carried				<b>Motion #5</b> Do not re-RFP Home & Community Based Health Services Carried			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO
MEMBERS																	
Crystal Starr, Chair				C				C	Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X						X
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle, Vice Chair		X				X			Imran Shaikh		X						X
Josh Mica, Secretary		X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X		
Servando Arellano		X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X		
Rosalind Belcher		X				X											
Johanna Castillo		X				X											
Robert “Bobby” Cruz		X				X											
Kathryn Fergus		X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>								
Kenia Gallardo		X				X			Kevin Aloysius								
Ronnie Galley		X				X			Caleb Brown								
Dawn Jenkins		X				X			Titan Capri								
Cecilia Ligons		X				X			Tony Crawford								
Rodney Mills		X				X			Daphne L. Jones								
Diana Morgan		X				X			Peta-gay Ledbetter								
Allen Murray		X				X			Roxanne May								
Oscar Perez		X				X			Shital Patel								
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Ryan Rose		X				X			Carol Suazo								
Megan Rowe		X				X			C. Bruce Turner								

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room VP = Via phone	<b>Motion #6</b> Reallocate funds from Home and Community Based Health Services <b>Carried</b>				<b>Motion #7</b> HRSA letter re Consumer Incentives-adopt Option 2 <b>Carried</b>					<b>Motion #6</b> Reallocate funds from Home and Community Based Health Services <b>Carried</b>				<b>Motion #7</b> HRSA letter re Consumer Incentives-adopt Option 2 <b>Carried</b>			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO
MEMBERS																	
Crystal Starr, Chair				C				C	Evelio Salinas Escamilla				X		X		
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle, Vice Chair		X				X			Imran Shaikh				X		X		
Josh Mica, Secretary		X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X		
Servando Arellano		X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X		
Rosalind Belcher		X				X											
Johanna Castillo		X				X											
Robert “Bobby” Cruz		X				X											
Kathryn Fergus		X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>								
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Diana Morgan		X				X			Peta-gay Ledbetter								
Allen Murray		X				X			Roxanne May								
Oscar Perez		X				X			Shital Patel								
Tana Pradia		X				X			Faye Robinson								
Paul Richards		X				X			Pete Rodriguez								
Ryan Rose		X				X			Carol Suazo								
Megan Rowe		X				X			C. Bruce Turner								