

**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, July 11, 2024

Meeting Location: Bering Church 1440 Harold Street; Houston, TX and Zoom teleconference

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair	Evelio Salinas Escamilla	Rodrigo Arias
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle	Jose Serpa-Alvarez	Neema Davies
Ryan Rose, Secretary	Robert Sliepka	Shabaura Perryman
Kevin Aloysius	Crystal Renee Starr	
Yvonne Arizpe	Pete Rodriguez	
Caleb Brown	Steven Vargas	STAFF PRESENT
Titan Capri		<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Johnny Deal		Glenn Urbach
Kathryn Fergus	MEMBERS ABSENT	Mauricia Chatman
Kenia Gallardo	Laura Alvarez, excused	Eric James
Glen Hollis	Servando Arellano	Frank Ruiz
Kenneth Jones	Jay Bhowmick, excused	
Denis Kelly	Johanna Castillo, excused	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Tony Crawford, excused	Sha’Terra Johnson
Cecilia Ligons	Michael Elizabeth	
Bill Patterson	Roxane May, excused	<i>Office of Support</i>
Shital M. Patel	Rodney Mills, excused	Tori Williams
Oscar Perez	Norman Mitchell, excused	Diane Beck
Tana Pradia	Diane Morgan, excused	
Beatriz Rivera	Imran Shaikh, excused	
Megan Rowe	Carol Suazo	
Yolanda Ross	Priscilla Willridge, excused	

Call to Order: Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

During the opening remarks, Mica thanked the Council members who are out recruiting for Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA. The Council and staff appreciate your valuable time and effort. All Ryan White volunteers are eligible to win the \$50 gift certificate if they send the highest number of applicants

who are interviewed. See Tori or Diane if you need application forms and please post the information on your Facebook pages.

HRSA has made recent announcements about allowing Ryan White Programs to pay for security deposits and the cost of expunging criminal records for people who are eligible for Ryan White services but their criminal record is a barrier to care. John Nechman was scheduled to present information today about how a program like this would have to be set up but, due to damage to his office and home from hurricane Beryl, he had to cancel. In the meantime, the Priority and Allocations Committee has added this service to the FY25 allocations and put a small amount of money into the service so that they can prioritize it and add more money later if needed. The Priority and Allocations Committee had to manage a number of last minute surprises during their process. Mica thanked the committee for their thoughtful deliberations and flexibility in accommodating the surprises. Later in July, they will set service priorities and reallocate carryover funds from FY23.

Mica then called for a Moment of Reflection.

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

Approval of the Minutes: Motion #2: it was moved and seconded (Rivera, Rose) to approve the June 13, 2024 minutes. Motion carried. Abstentions: Aloysius, Brown, Rodriguez.

Training: Priority Setting and Allocations Processes: Williams presented the attached PowerPoint.

Public Comment and Announcements: See attached public comments included in the meeting packet. Mica said that the comments about single pill regiments have been brought up before because it is an ongoing issue. Apparently, there is a waiver that would allow clients to get the single pill regimen but pharmacy staff tell patients that they are not eligible so no one seems to know about the waiver. Why is Ryan White funding health insurance companies that don't cover the needs of all patients?

Reports from Committees

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: Robert Sliepka, Co-Chair, reported on the following: 2024 Houston Area HIV Epidemiological Profile: Beth Allen, the Interim Health Planner continues to work with City Health Department staff and Nithya Lakshmi Mohem Dass from Ryan White Grant Administration to produce the 2024 Epidemiological Supplement.

EHE/Integrated Planning Body: The Leadership Team of the Joint Planning body met on June 27, 2024. Eliot Davis gave an update on all activities in the Houston Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan.

Affected Community Committee: Johnny Deal, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

EHE/Integrated Planning Body: Members of the Affected Community Committee, in conjunction with the Consumer and Community Engagement Workgroup, are creating an inventory of HIV resources on Houston area colleges and universities. See attached form.

2024 Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA: Members of the Affected Community Committee have begun to recruit students for the 2024 Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA classes, which will start in early August. Once again, Ronnie will coordinate recruitment tables at local Ryan White funded agencies. Please see Ronnie or Tori if you want to help at a table. And, please be sure to post materials on your social media pages to help spread the word about the program.

Quality Improvement Committee: Pete Rodriguez, Co-Chair, reported on the following:
Other Professional Services: Williams said that we received the attached letter from HRSA dated June 6, 2024 after the critical Priority and Allocations meeting on June 10th. Since the Council will need time to vet this service, the committee allocated a small amount of funding and will prioritize the appropriate service category, which will be re-opened for expungement services only. **Motion #3:** *it was moved and seconded (Starr, Rodriguez) to bring back and fund the appropriate service definition that will allow the Houston Ryan White Program to support HRSA’s efforts to remove barriers to HIV care services through the expungement of criminal records.* **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Brown, Hollis, Rivera.

Priority and Allocations Committee: Peta-gay Ledbetter, Co-Chair, reported on the following:
See the attached reports from the Part A/Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Administrative Agent:

- FY23 Procurement Report – Part A/MAI, dated 06/17/24
- FY23 Service Utilization – Part A/MAI, dated 04/15/24

See the attached reports from the Part B/State Services Administrative Agent:

- FY 23/24 Procurement Report – Part B, dated 06/12/24
- FY 23/24 Service Utilization Report – Part B, dated 05/01/24
- FY 23/24 Procurement Report – State Services, dated 06/12/24
- FY 23/24 Health Insurance Assistance Program, dated 06/12/24

Proposed New Services: Please see the attached information on the 3 proposed new services:

- New Idea Form regarding Medically Tailored Meals, dated 04/26/24;
- New Orleans Service Definition for “Assisted Living Residential Services” (line 12); and
- Durable Medical Equipment – not eligible with RW funding

FY 2025 Level Funding Scenario – All Funding Streams: **Motion 4:** *Approve the attached FY 2025 Level Funding Scenario for Ryan White Part A/Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI), Part B and State Services funding. See attached chart for details.* **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Aloysius, Arizpe, Patel, Rivera.

FY 2025 Minority AIDS Initiative Increase/Decrease Funding Scenarios: **Motion 5:** *Approve the attached FY 2025 Increase and Decrease Funding Scenarios for Ryan White MAI funds.* **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Aloysius, Arizpe, Patel, Rivera.

FY 2025 Part A Increase/Decrease Funding Scenarios: **Motion 6:** *Approve the attached FY 2025 Increase and Decrease Funding Scenarios for Ryan White Part A funds.* **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Aloysius, Arizpe, Patel, Rivera.

FY 2025 Part B & State Services Increase/Decrease Funding Scenarios: **Motion 7:** *Approve the attached FY 2025 Increase and Decrease Funding Scenarios for Ryan White Part B and State Services funding.* **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Aloysius, Arizpe, Patel, Rivera.

Operations Committee: Cecilia Ligons, Co-Chair, reported on the following:
No report since the Committee did not meet in June.

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.

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

Task Force Reports: The Council agreed several years 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: Vargas said that the Texas HIV Medication Advisory Committee will be meeting in Austin tomorrow; we will find out if they will be adding Cabenuva to the ADAP formulary. Aloysius said that ADAP distributed hurricane kits to pharmacies which includes a waterproof bag to put medications in. Rivera said she would like to have more time to discuss unusual items on the agenda, such as the expungement service which was presented in an irregular order.

Adjournment: Motion: *it was moved and seconded (Starr, Deal) to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 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 July 11, 2024

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room	Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 Expungement service Carried					Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 Expungement service 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												
Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair				C				C				C	Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X					X	
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle		X				X				X			Jose Serpa-Alvarez		X				X				X		
Ryan Rose, Secretary		X				X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X				X		
Kevin Aloysius		X					X			X			Crystal Renee Starr		X				X				X		
Yvonne Arizpe		X				X				X			Pete Rodriguez		X					X			X		
Caleb Brown		X					X				X		Steven Vargas		X				X				X		
Titan Capri		X				X				X															
Johnny Deal		X				X				X															
Kathryn Fergus		X				X				X			MEMBERS ABSENT												
Kenia Gallardo		X				X				X			Laura Alvarez												
Glen Hollis		X				X					X		Servando Arellano												
Kenneth Jones		X				X				X			Jay Bhowmick												
Denis Kelly		X				X				X			Johanna Castillo												
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X				X			Tony Crawford												
Cecilia Ligons		X				X				X			Michael Elizabeth												
Bill Patterson		X				X				X			Roxane May												
Shital M. Patel ja 12:12 pm	X				X				X				Rodney Mills												
Oscar Perez		X				X				X			Norman Mitchell												
Tana Pradia		X				X				X			Diane Morgan												
Beatriz Rivera		X				X					X		Imran Shaikh												
Megan Rowe		X				X				X			Carol Suazo												
Yolanda Ross		X				X				X			Priscilla Willridge												

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room	Motion #4 FY25 Level funding scenario Carried				Motion #5 FY25 MAI incr/decr scenario Carried					Motion #4 FY25 Level funding scenario Carried				Motion #5 FY25 MAI incr/decr scenario Carried			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO
MEMBERS									MEMBERS								
Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair				C				C	Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X		
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle		X				X			Jose Serpa-Alvarez		X				X		
Ryan Rose, Secretary		X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X		
Kevin Aloysius				X				X	Crystal Renee Starr		X				X		
Yvonne Arizpe				X				X	Pete Rodriguez		X				X		
Caleb Brown		X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X		
Titan Capri		X				X											
Johnny Deal		X				X											
Kathryn Fergus		X				X			MEMBERS ABSENT								
Kenia Gallardo		X				X			Laura Alvarez								
Glen Hollis		X				X			Servando Arellano								
Kenneth Jones		X				X			Jay Bhowmick								
Denis Kelly		X				X			Johanna Castillo								
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X			Tony Crawford								
Cecilia Ligons		X				X			Michael Elizabeth								
Bill Patterson		X				X			Roxane May								
Shital M. Patel				X				X	Rodney Mills								
Oscar Perez		X				X			Norman Mitchell								
Tana Pradia		X				X			Diane Morgan								
Beatriz Rivera				X				X	Imran Shaikh								
Megan Rowe		X				X			Carol Suazo								
Yolanda Ross		X				X			Priscilla Willridge								

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	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		MEMBERS	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO
MEMBERS									MEMBERS								
Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair				C				C	Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X		
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle		X				X			Jose Serpa-Alvarez		X				X		
Ryan Rose, Secretary		X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X		
Kevin Aloysius				X				X	Crystal Renee Starr		X				X		
Yvonne Arizpe				X				X	Pete Rodriguez		X				X		
Caleb Brown		X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X		
Titan Capri		X				X											
Johnny Deal		X				X											
Kathryn Fergus		X				X			MEMBERS ABSENT								
Kenia Gallardo		X				X			Laura Alvarez								
Glen Hollis		X				X			Servando Arellano								
Kenneth Jones		X				X			Jay Bhowmick								
Denis Kelly		X				X			Johanna Castillo								
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X			Tony Crawford								
Cecilia Ligons		X				X			Michael Elizabeth								
Bill Patterson		X				X			Roxane May								
Shital M. Patel				X				X	Rodney Mills								
Oscar Perez		X				X			Norman Mitchell								
Tana Pradia		X				X			Diane Morgan								
Beatriz Rivera				X				X	Imran Shaikh								
Megan Rowe		X				X			Carol Suazo								
Yolanda Ross		X				X			Priscilla Willridge								