

# COUNCIL APPROVED SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

## 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, August 8, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair	Laura Alvarez, excused	Ronnie Galley, Greeter
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle	Servando Arellano	Kakeshia Locks, Greeter
Ryan Rose, Secretary	Johanna Castillo, excused	Rodrigo Arias
Kevin Aloysius	Tony Crawford	Paulina Avila-Martinez, SBCHC
Yvonne Arizpe	Michael Elizabeth	Bobby Cruz
Jay Bhowmick	Kenia Gallardo	Charles Henley
Caleb Brown	Glen Hollis, excused	Shabaura Perryman
Titan Capri	Roxane May, excused	A. Daniel Ramos
Johnny Deal	Norman Mitchell	Moises Solis, Create INterest
Kathryn Fergus	Diane Morgan	James Supak
Kenneth Jones	Oscar Perez	Bruce Turner
Denis Kelly	Megan Rowe, excused	
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Priscilla Willridge	<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>
Cecilia Ligons		<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Rodney Mills		Glenn Urbach
Bill Patterson		Mauricia Chatman
Shital M. Patel		Eric James
Tana Pradia		Jason Black
Beatriz Rivera		
Yolanda Ross		<i>The Resource Group</i>
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		Sha’Terra Johnson
Jose Serpa-Alvarez		Jeff Benavides
Imran Shaikh		
Robert Sliepka		<i>Office of Support</i>
Carol Suazo		Tori Williams
Crystal Renee Starr		Diane Beck
Pete Rodriguez		Rod Avila
Steven Vargas		Beth Allen

**Call to Order:** Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

During the opening remarks, Mica said that he hoped everyone had recovered from Hurricane Beryl and has their electricity back. At the last Council meeting, some members had not been in an air-conditioned space for quite a while. Hopefully, that wasn't the only reason why in-person attendance was so high in July. He thanked the Priority and Allocations Committee for putting in extra time last month. They created the service priorities for FY 2025 and reallocated the FY 2023 carryover funds in July, which will be reviewed and hopefully approved at the meeting today. He also thanked Ronnie Galley and his team of volunteers who have been at Ryan White funded agencies recruiting students for Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA. Their valuable time and efforts were appreciated. Staff will interview candidates until August 13<sup>th</sup> so please see staff if anyone has friends who would benefit from the program or they haven't posted the information on their social media. Also, there are two contests going on. The person who recruits the highest number of applicants who show up for their Project LEAP or Proyecto VIDA interview will win a \$50 gift certificate to a restaurant or store of their choice.

Mica then called for a Moment of Reflection.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** **Motion #1:** *it was moved and seconded (Rivera, Starr) to adopt the agenda with one change: delay the Expungement of Criminal Records presentation until the speaker arrives. Motion carried.*

**Approval of the Minutes:** **Motion #2:** *it was moved and seconded (Boyle, Rivera) to approve the July 11, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.* Abstentions: Bhowmick, Mills, Shaikh, Suazo.

**Training: Expungement of Criminal Records:** The speaker was unavailable due to last minute, unforeseen circumstances and will be rescheduled.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** Moises Solis, Create Interest, introduced himself and said that they provide training and development and were looking to see how they could help the RWPC. Escamilla said that a prevention agency director expressed concern about the way clients are being treated when trying to get into care services.

### **Reports from Committees**

**Affected Community Committee:** Carol Suazo, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

General Check In with Committee Members: At their July meeting, the Committee Chair invited members to talk about their experiences during Hurricane Beryl and share any needs they might have.

EHE/Integrated Planning Body: Members of the Affected Community Committee, in conjunction with the Consumer and Community Engagement Workgroup, continues to work on an inventory of HIV Resources of Houston area colleges and universities.

2024 Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA: Members of the Affected Community Committee have been recruiting students for the 2024 Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA classes, which will start on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to all Council members for posting information on social media, sharing the applications with friends and more. Special thanks were extended to the Ryan White volunteers who staffed tables at agencies and last weekend's VIBE event, and to Ronnie Galley for coordinating with volunteers and staff at the agencies. It was a big job!

**Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee:** Robert Sliepka, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

FY 2025 EIIHA Plan Populations: **Motion #3:** *it was moved and seconded (Rivera, Arizpe) to use the term Latine instead of Latinx in the EIIHA Plan motion and all RWPC documents. Motion Failed.*

**Motion #4:** *it was moved and seconded (Vargas, Escamilla) to convene a workgroup to determine the culturally correct language to use when referring to all racial and ethnicity populations. The Affected Community Committee was asked to speak with clients to get an idea regarding their preferred terminology. **Motion Carried.** Abstention: Starr.*

**Motion #5:** *Approve the following populations for inclusion in the FY 2025 EIIHA Plan:*

- 1. Black/African Americans*
- 2. Hispanics/Latinx Individuals*
- 3. Male-Male Sexual Contact/Men who have Sex with Men*

*Office of Support staff is to include a statement in the EIIHA section of the HRSA application recognizing that currently available epidemiologic data consistently fail to assess the need for testing, referral, and linkage in vulnerable populations such as among those who are transgender, intersex, homeless, and those released from incarceration. Moving forward, the Houston Ryan White Planning Council will look to other sources, in addition to that provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services, to document the needs of these vulnerable populations. **Motion Carried.***

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

FY 2023 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism: **Motion #6:** *Approve the FY 2025 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism and commend the Ryan White Part A/MAI Administrative Agent for rapidly dispersing funds to meet the needs of people living with HIV in the Houston EMA and efficiently managing the process so that fewer dollars were returned to the federal government. No corrective action required. **Motion Carried.***

Other Professional Services: Since John Nechman was tentatively scheduled to present information to the Council about the process of expunging criminal records, members of the Committee were encouraged to attend the presentation.

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

No report due to Hurricane Beryl.

**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:

- FY23-24 Procurement Report – Part B, dated 07/11/24
- FY23-24 Procurement Report – State Services, dated 07/11/24
- FY23-24 HIAP SUR Report, dated 05/29/24

FY 2025 Ryan White Service Priorities: **Motion #7:** *Based upon need, use, and a special concern for making medication easy to access, the Priority and Allocations Committee recommends approval of the attached FY 2025 service priorities for Ryan White Part A, MAI, Part B and State Services funded service categories. **Motion Carried.** Abstention: Aloysius.*

2024 Ryan White Part A & MAI Allocation Increases: **Motion #8:** *Approve the 2024 Ryan White Part A and MAI Allocation Increases. See the attached chart, which includes justification. **Motion Carried.** Abstentions: Aloysius, Arizpe, Kelly, Patel, Rivera, Serpa-Alvarez.*

**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.

**Motion #9:** *it was moved and seconded (Vargas, Starr) to ask the Administrative Agent to include the distribution of bus passes at all Ryan White funded agencies, not just primary care sites. And, for transportation to be provided for Ryan White medical and support services. Motion Carried.*

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

**Medical Updates:** Patel presented the attached information about medical trials for PrEP for cisgender women.

**Task Force Reports:** The Council agreed several years ago that they preferred not to have verbal Task Force Reports while using the hybrid meeting format. The Office of Support is happy to receive and distribute written reports in advance of all Council meetings.

**Announcements:** Boyle said that Bread of Life had contracted with Metrolift to pick up and deliver food and supplies to people in need, but Metrolift has determined that they can no longer do that. Therefore, clients will have to schedule a regular Metrolift ride and come get the supplies themselves. Ross said that she graduated with a Doctorate in Social Work on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pradia said that Positive Women's Network (PWN) gave away 100 backpacks filled with school supplies last weekend.

**Adjournment:** **Motion:** *it was moved and seconded (Boyle, Vargas) to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 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 August 8, 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 Change Latinx to Latine Carried					Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried				Motion #3 Change Latinx to Latine 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	Imran Shaikh		X						X			X	
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle		X				X					X		Robert Sliepka		X				X					X	
Ryan Rose, Secretary		X				X					X		Carol Suazo		X					X				X	
Kevin Aloysius		X				X					X		Crystal Renee Starr		X				X					X	
Yvonne Arizpe		X				X					X		Pete Rodriguez		X				X					X	
Jay Bhowmick		X					X				X		Steven Vargas		X				X					X	
Caleb Brown ja 12:33 pm	X				X				X																
Titan Capri		X				X					X														
Johnny Deal		X				X					X		<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>												
Kathryn Fergus ja 12:45 pm	X				X				X				Laura Alvarez												
Kenneth Jones		X				X					X		Servando Arellano												
Denis Kelly		X				X					X		Johanna Castillo												
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X					X		Tony Crawford												
Cecilia Ligons		X				X					X		Michael Elizabeth												
Rodney Mills		X					X				X		Kenia Gallardo												
Bill Patterson		X				X					X		Glen Hollis												
Shital M. Patel		X				X					X		Roxane May												
Tana Pradia		X				X					X		Norman Mitchell												
Beatriz Rivera		X				X					X		Diane Morgan												
Yolanda Ross		X				X					X		Oscar Perez												
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X					X		Megan Rowe												
Jose Serpa-Alvarez		X				X					X		Priscilla Willridge												

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room	Motion #4 FY 2025 EIIHA pops Carried				Motion #5 Wg to decide race/ethnicity language Carried				Motion #6 2023 Assessment of Admin Mech Carried					Motion #4 FY 2025 EIIHA pops Carried				Motion #5 Wg to decide race/ethnicity language Carried				Motion #6 2023 Assessment of Admin Mech 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																													
Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair				C				C				C	Imran Shaikh		X				X				X						
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle		X				X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X				X						
Ryan Rose, Secretary		X				X				X			Carol Suazo		X				X				X						
Kevin Aloysius		X				X				X			Crystal Renee Starr		X		X			X			X						
Yvonne Arizpe		X				X				X			Pete Rodriguez		X				X				X						
Jay Bhowmick		X				X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X				X						
Caleb Brown ja 12:33 pm	X				X					X																			
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Johnny Deal		X				X				X			<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>																
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	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																									
Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair				C				C				C	Imran Shaikh		X				X				X		
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle		X				X				X			Robert Sliepka		X				X				X		
Ryan Rose, Secretary		X				X				X			Carol Suazo		X				X				X		
Kevin Aloysius				X				X		X			Crystal Renee Starr		X				X				X		
Yvonne Arizpe		X						X		X			Pete Rodriguez		X				X				X		
Jay Bhowmick		X				X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X				X		
Caleb Brown ja 12:33 pm		X				X		X																	
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