

**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 12, 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	Kevin Aloysius, excused	Ronnie Galley, Greeter
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle	Laura Alvarez	Kakeshia Locks, Greeter
Ryan Rose, Secretary	Servando Arellano	Rodrigo Arias
Yvonne Arizpe	Johanna Castillo	Thecia Jenkins, HCDVCC
Jay Bhowmick	Tony Crawford	Derrick Bonner, Goodwill
Caleb Brown	Johnny Deal	Chenita Ross, Goodwill
Titan Capri	Michael Elizabeth	Mike Smith, SBCHC
Kathryn Fergus	Kenia Gallardo	
Kenneth Jones	Glen Hollis, excused	
Denis Kelly	Roxane May	STAFF PRESENT
Peta-gay Ledbetter	Diane Morgan	<i>Ryan White Grant Administration</i>
Cecilia Ligons	Tana Pradia, excused	Glenn Urbach
Rodney Mills	Beatriz Rivera, excused	James Supak
Norman Mitchell	Jose Serpa-Alvarez, excused	
Bill Patterson	Imran Shaikh, excused	<i>The Resource Group</i>
Shital M. Patel	Carol Suazo	Tiffany Shepherd
Oscar Perez	Priscilla Willridge	Sha’Terra Johnson
Yolanda Ross		Tionna Cobb
Megan Rowe		
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		<i>Office of Support</i>
Robert Sliepka		Tori Williams
Crystal Renee Starr		Diane Beck
Pete Rodriguez		Rod Avila
Steven Vargas		

Call to Order: Josh Mica, he/him/él, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

During the opening remarks Mica said that he was sorry to say that John Nechman had an unexpected admission to the hospital the last time he was scheduled to meet with us. Nechman sends his deepest

apologies. In the meantime, Cecilia will be introducing us to a friend who works at Goodwill Houston, Mr. Derrick Bonner. They expunge criminal records in order to break down barriers to employment and he will present information about that program immediately after the presentation on Coercive Violence.

At last month's Planning Council meeting there was much discussion about the use of the terms Hispanic and Latinx and what would be the correct terminology to use going forward. There was not a consensus among members so, with significant help from Pete Rodriguez, staff created a short survey to ask the community what is preferred. Staff is currently surveying all VIDA students, clients from the Catholic Charities quarterly Spanish-speaking housing group meeting, those who work with AAMA and other groups. We should have a response in late November, at which time a workgroup will be called together to review the results and make a recommendation to the Council.

The Quality Improvement Committee received a number of public comments at their August meeting which are included in today's meeting packet. These will be reviewed during Committee Reports. At that time, we will ask the Administrative Agents to let us know if they have a response to the comments since the Ryan White Standards of Care require that funded agencies have translators on staff to accommodate monolingual consumers.

Mica said that Crystal Starr and Diane Beck attended the National Ryan White Conference two weeks and invited them to give a short report on their time at the conference. Beck shared photographs from the conference and she and Starr gave a brief description of their experience. They appreciated the opportunity to attend and Beck especially, felt that she got a lot of information from the workgroup meetings. Starr felt that there were few to no workgroup meetings for Council members.

Mica then called for a Moment of Reflection.

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

Approval of the Minutes: Motion #2: it was moved and seconded (Boyle, Sliepka) to approve the August 8, 2024 minutes. Motion carried. Abstentions: Mitchell, Perez, Rowe.

Training: HIV & Coercive Violence: Thecia Jenkins, Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, presented the attached PowerPoint slides.

Training: The Process for Expunging Criminal Records: Derrick Bonner and Chenita Ross, Goodwill Houston, presented information about Project Good Hope and how they work Easy Expunctions to help clients to have their criminal records expunged.

Public Comment and Announcements: See the Quality Improvement Committee report. Escamilla said he was speaking today as a private citizen. He said there were two Hispanic men in the waiting room when he was there waiting to see the doctor. One was asked to reschedule a dental appointment after missing an entire day of work to be there. This conversation took place in front of everyone in the waiting room. They told him they only have one Spanish speaking employee and his eligibility had been expired for two months. Escamilla said that he stepped in and told them that they need to do this man's appointment and update his eligibility while he was there. Clients should be notified about their expired eligibility in advance of coming to their appointment.

Reports from Committees

Comprehensive HIV Planning Committee: Robert Sliepka, Co-Chair reported on the following: The Committee did not meet so that members could attend their EHE/Integrated Planning meetings.

Affected Community Committee: Ryan Rose, Committee Vice Chair, reported on the following: The Committee did not meet so that members could continue to collect survey information for the inventory of HIV resources at Houston area colleges and universities.

2024 Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA: The winners of the Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA recruitment contests recruited the highest number of individuals who submitted an application and participated in the interview. The \$50 gift certificate for the winner is Cecilia Ligons for Project LEAP and Hector Cortez for Proyecto VIDA.

Quality Improvement Committee: Pete Rodriguez, Co-Chair, reported on the following: Public Comment: Please see the attached transcript of 12 public comments that were made at the August Quality Improvement Committee meeting. Urbach was invited to provide information on steps that Ryan White Grant Administration is taking to address the comments. Urbach said that all agencies are required to have bilingual staff, whether they have enough staff is something they will be looking into. They will be discussing this with case managers and other staff that work directly with clients.

Motion #3: *it was moved and seconded (Escamilla, Starr) to please make sure that public comments and other information regarding the concerns about translation/interpretation services are included on all agendas for the Quality Improvement and Affected Community Committees, and the appropriate EHE/Integrated Planning agendas. Motion Carried.*

See the attached reports from the Part A/Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Administrative Agent:

- FY24 Procurement Report – Part A/MAI, dated 08/05/24
- FY24 Service Utilization Report – Part A/MAI, dated 08/05/24

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

- FY24-25 Procurement Report – Part B, dated 07/31/24
- FY24-25 Service Utilization Report – Part B, dated 07/25/24
- FY23-24 Procurement Report – State Services, dated 07/31/24
- FY23-24 HIAP Service Utilization Report, dated 07/25/24

Priority and Allocations Committee: Rodney Mills, Co-Chair, reported on the following: 2024 State Services Funding Reallocations: ***Motion #4:*** *Move \$150,000 in unspent State Services funds into the Health Insurance Assistance Program per the recommendation of the Ryan White Part B/State Services Administrative Agent. Motion Carried.* Abstention: Arizpe.

Operations Committee: Cecilia Ligons, Co-Chair, reported on the following: Personnel Subcommittee: FYI: Ligons reported that the Director job description was released nationally. The Personnel Subcommittee met last Saturday to develop their process for screening applications for the position of Director of the Ryan White Office of Support. They will provide their top three recommendation to the Judge.

2024 Project LEAP & Proyecto VIDA: ***Motion #5:*** *Approve the attached 2024 Project LEAP and Proyecto VIDA service definition and student selection criteria. Motion Carried.*

Proposed Procedure Related to Meeting Protocol: The Operations Committee will be discussing the attached, proposed meeting procedure at their September 16, 2024 meeting. Please submit input to Tori so that it can be shared with the committee. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

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.

Medical Updates: Patel presented the attached information about the MPox virus and vaccine availability.

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: Escamilla said that the Hispanic Health Regional meeting would be held in Houston on September 26th. Beck forwarded information about it last week. Patel said that the Day of Implementation Science is September 23rd. Beck forwarded information about it last week. Escamilla said that the Texas HIV Conference will be December 2nd and 3rd in Austin. Beck will forward a Save the Date about it later today.

Adjournment: Motion: *it was moved and seconded (Sliepka, Rose) to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 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 September 12, 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				MEMBERS	Motion #1 Agenda Carried				Motion #2 Minutes Carried			
	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN		ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
				C				C	Pete Rodriguez		X				X		
		X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X		
		X				X											
		X				X											
		X				X			MEMBERS ABSENT								
		X				X			Kevin Aloysius								
		X				X			Laura Alvarez								
		X				X			Servando Arellano								
		X				X			Johanna Castillo								
		X				X			Tony Crawford								
		X				X			Johnny Deal								
		X				X			Michael Elizabeth								
		X				X			Kenia Gallardo								
		X					X		Glen Hollis								
		X				X			Roxane May								
		X				X			Diane Morgan								
		X					X		Tana Pradia								
		X				X			Beatriz Rivera								
		X					X		Jose Serpa-Alvarez								
		X				X			Imran Shaikh								
		X				X			Carol Suazo								
		X				X			Priscilla Willridge								

C = Chair of the meeting ja = Just arrived lm = Left the meeting lr = Left the room	Motion #3 Interpretation/ translation Carried				Motion #4 State Svcs Reallocation Carried				Motion #5 2024 LEAP/ VIDA svc defs and criteria Carried					Motion #3 Interpretation/ translation Carried				Motion #4 State Svcs Reallocation Carried				Motion #5 2024 LEAP/ VIDA svc defs and criteria 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	Pete Rodriguez		X				X				X		
Ardry “Skeet” Boyle		X				X				X			Steven Vargas		X				X				X		
Ryan Rose, Secretary		X				X				X															
Yvonne Arizpe		X						X		X															
Jay Bhowmick		X				X				X			MEMBERS ABSENT												
Caleb Brown		X				X				X			Kevin Aloysius												
Titan Capri		X				X				X			Laura Alvarez												
Kathryn Fergus		X				X				X			Servando Arellano												
Kenneth Jones		X				X				X			Johanna Castillo												
Denis Kelly		X				X				X			Tony Crawford												
Peta-gay Ledbetter		X				X				X			Johnny Deal												
Cecilia Ligons		X				X				X			Michael Elizabeth												
Rodney Mills		X				X				X			Kenia Gallardo												
Norman Mitchell		X				X				X			Glen Hollis												
Bill Patterson		X				X				X			Roxane May												
Shital M. Patel		X				X				X			Diane Morgan												
Oscar Perez		X				X				X			Tana Pradia												
Yolanda Ross		X				X				X			Beatriz Rivera												
Megan Rowe		X				X				X			Jose Serpa-Alvarez												
Evelio Salinas Escamilla		X				X				X			Imran Shaikh												
Robert Sliepka		X				X				X			Carol Suazo												
Crystal Renee Starr		X				X				X			Priscilla Willridge												