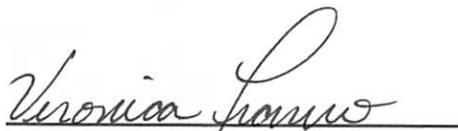


**Program Committee Meeting**

July 16, 2024  
11:30 am

- I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. Approve Minutes of the Board of Trustees Program Committee Held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024  
(EXHIBIT P-1)
- IV. REVIEW AND COMMENT**
  - A. CPEP Presentation, Step Down State Hospital Transition Program  
(EXHIBIT P-2 Kim Kornmayer)
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION –**
  - \* **As authorized by §551.071 of the Texas Government Code, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to seek legal advice from its attorney about any matters listed on the agenda.**
- VI. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**
- VII. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. INFORMTAION ONLY**
  - A. Approved IDD-PAC Minutes from March 5, 2024  
(EXHIBIT P-3)
  - B. Approved IDD-PAC Minutes from April 2, 2024  
(EXHIBIT P-4)
  - C. Approved IDD-PAC Minutes from May 7, 2024  
(EXHIBIT P-5)
- IX. ADJOURN**



**Veronica Franco, Board Liaison**  
**Bonnie Hellums, MED, LMFT, LCDC, AAC, JD Chairperson**  
**Program Committee**  
**The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD**  
**Board of Trustees**



# **EXHIBIT P-1**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
***The HARRIS CENTER for***  
**Mental Health and IDD**  
**PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

Mrs. Hellums, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. in Room 109 of the 9401 Southwest Freeway location, noting a quorum of the Committee was present.

**RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Committee Members in Attendance: Dr. R. Gearing, Dr. L. Moore, B. Hellums

Committee Member in Absence:

Other Board Members in Attendance: Dr. L. Fernandez

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m.

**2. DESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBERS AS VOTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mrs. Hellums designated Dr. L. Fernandez as a voting member.

**3. DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Mrs. Hellums declared a quorum of the committee was present.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no Public Comments.

**5. Approve the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Program Committee Meeting Held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.**

**MOTION BY: MOORE                      SECOND BY: FERNANDEZ**  
**With unanimous affirmative votes**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Program Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 under Exhibit P-1, are approved and recommended to the Full Board for acceptance.

**6. REVIEW AND COMMENT**

A. Recommendation No. 436R-Mercedes Alejandro for IDD-PAC Family Advocate Membership

**MOTION BY: MOORE                      SECOND BY: FERNANDEZ**

**With unanimous affirmative votes**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Recommendation No. 436R-Mercedes Alejandro for IDD-PAC Family Advocate Membership under Exhibit P-2, are approved and recommended to the Full Board for acceptance.

**7. REVIEW AND COMMENT**

**A. 3200 Main St.-**Amber Honsinger and Kim Kornmayer presented to the Program Committee.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was needed.

**8. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION-**

No Executive Session was needed.

**9. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

**MOTION BY: FERNANDEZ**

**SECOND BY: MOORE**

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**Veronica Franco, Board Liaison**

**Bonnie Hellums, Chairman**

**Program Committee**

**THE HARRIS CENTER *for* Mental Health *and* IDD**

**Board of Trustees**

# **EXHIBIT P-2**

# **Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP)**

## **Step Down State Hospital Transition Program**

Presented by: Joy Deaver-Lazard, MA  
Program Director, Step Down Program  
Kim Kornmayer, LCSW  
Vice President, Crisis Services  
July 16, 2024

# Step Down State Hospital Transition Program



## Located:

Respite, Rehabilitation and Re-Entry  
Center  
6160 South Loop East  
Houston, TX 77087



## Texas State Hospitals

Austin	Big Spring
El Paso	HCPC
Kerrville	North TX
Rusk	San Antonio
Terrell	



## Funding: HHSC

One of three Pilot Programs, beginning  
October 2021



## Served since Inception: 19

(FY22=9 FY23= 4 FY24=6)

Average Length of Stay: 264 days

# Step Down State Hospital Transition Program

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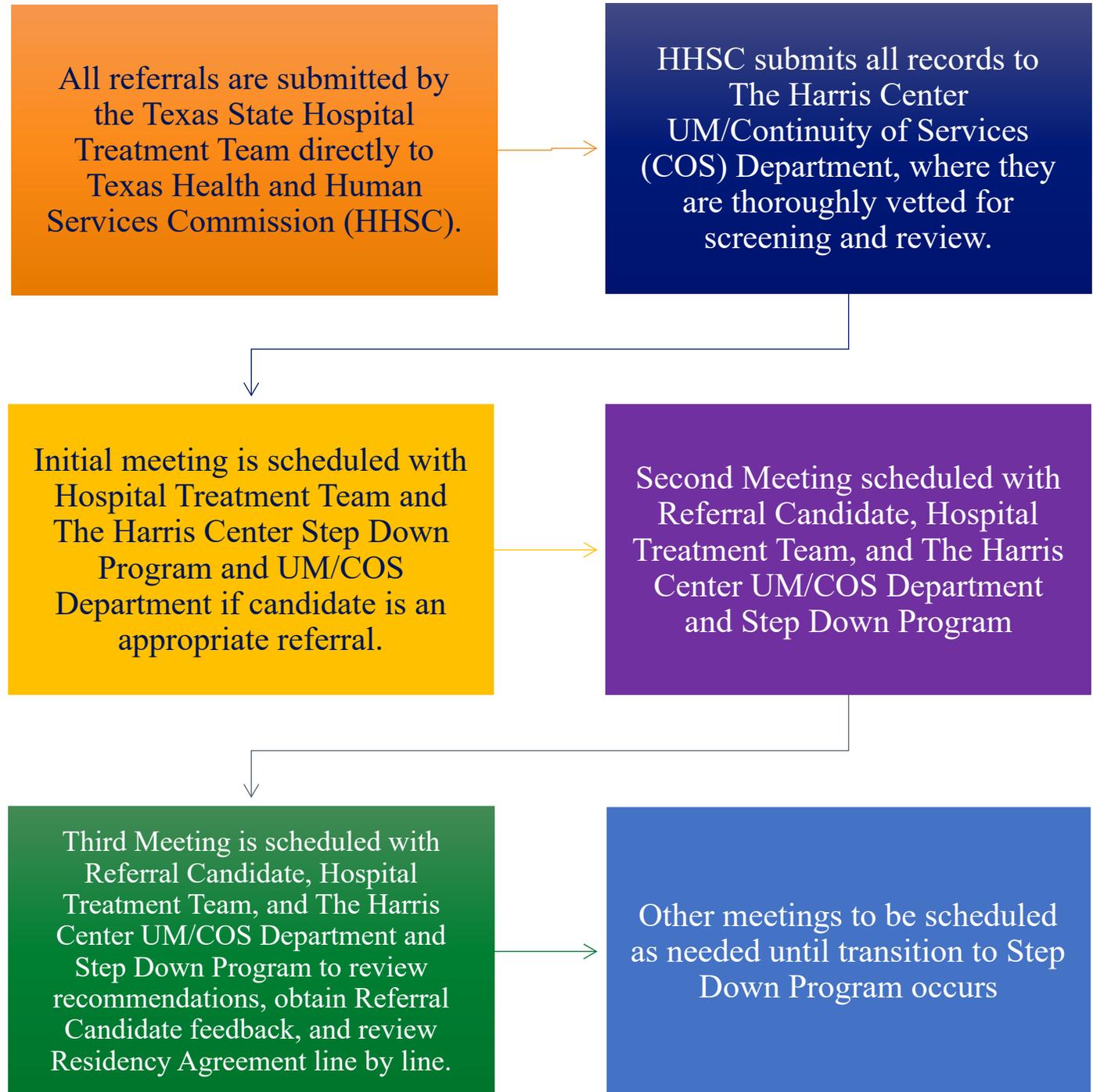
- Step Down State Hospital Transition Program has 8 beds available to provide rehabilitation services to people who are homeless and have a serious mental illness and are being discharged from State Hospital. The goal is to intentionally and effectively step-down psychiatrically and/or medically fragile individuals from state hospital inpatient settings to more appropriate community-based settings.
- In 2024 additional funding has been provided for three (3) Step Down beds. These beds are to prepare individuals for upcoming transition back into the community.
- Barriers to discharge that prevent people from transitioning into the community vary by person but may include:
  - Lack of suitable housing
  - Need for supportive medical, behavioral, or personal care services
  - Limited financial resources
  - Issues with daily living skills
  - Involvement with the criminal justice system
  - Lack of confidence or sense of purpose which prevents the ability to live more independently

# Step Down State Hospital Transition Program

## Services Provided

- Temporary housing in a safe environment
- Healthy Meals
- Evidenced-Based intervention groups available
- Clothing
- Supervised Self Administration of Medication
- Peer Support
- Substance Abuse Services
- Linkage to Individual Counseling
- Linkage to FACT/ACT for assistance with medication management and social services
- Assistance with identifying resources

# Step Down State Hospital Transition Program Referral Process



# Groups and Activities

## Groups

- Trauma Informed Care
- Life Skills, Budgeting
- “Ask the Nurse”
- Health and Wellness
- Creative Expressions
- Coping Skills

## Activities

- Painting (supplies available)
- Piano and Guitar
- Video Games
- Board Games
- Bingo (Types: Coping Skills, Mental Health & Recovery Bingo)
- Therapeutic Karaoke
- Outdoor activities; gardening, basketball, exercising

# Fieldtrips



NAMI Walk



Discovery Green



Main Event



Movie Theaters



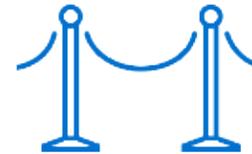
Miller Outdoor Theater



Wings over Houston Airshow



Picnic Lunch and Nature Walk



Museums



Galleria/Waterwall Holiday Events



# Visit from HHSC

# Step Down Video

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<https://vimeo.com/952478195>



Thank you.

# EXHIBIT P-3

**THE HARRIS CENTER**  
**INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Prepared by: The Office of the Vice President for Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities Services**

**March 5, 2024**

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**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Judy Blake (Advocate); Tasheara Jennings Gobert (Texas Workforce Solutions – Vocational Rehabilitation Services); Naila Ibrahim (Dar-us-Sakina); Janice Jackson (Humble Independent School District); Kennitha Jenkins (Consumer Advocate); Kassandra Malveaux (Harris Co. Protective Services); Dr. Bill Schnapp (Community Member); Teaya Smith for Kevin Kern (The Center for Pursuit); Shelley Townsend (University of Houston); Mary Jane Williams (Advocate); Albert Williamson (Spring Independent School District);

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dory Cayten (Advocate); Charles Davis (Harris County Psychiatric Center); Cynthia Fannin (Richmond State Supported Living Center); Ellen Goudeau (Advocate); Eileen Lam (Consumer Advocate); Iris Lewis (Harris County Juvenile Probation Department); Elworth Lusk (Consumer Advocate); Dr. Deborah Pearson (McGovern Medical School, UT Health Science Center – Houston, Dept. Psychiatry); Angel Ponce (Mayor’s Office for People w/ Disabilities); Michael Roberts (Down Syndrome Association of Houston); Paola Jimenez Rodriguez (Advocate); Gene Rowe (Advocate); Jennifer Singletary (Region 4 Education Service Center); Janniece Sleigh (The Arc of Harris County); VACANT (Community Care Services Eligibility – HHSC); VACANT (Houston Independent School District);

**OTHERS ATTENDANCE:**

**The Harris Center Staff:** Naja Clark; Dr. Evanthe Collins; Annie Cuba; Maritza Gutierrez; Cindy Hernandez; Francisco Hernandez; Dana Sobers Ben; Francine Stewart; Katrina Ware; Amanda Willis

**Public Attendees:** Eunice Patron (Family to Family Network); Ana Perez (Pasadena Independent School District)

I. **Call to Order**  
The General (In-Person) Meeting of The Harris Center Planning Advisory Council (IDD-PAC) was called to order at 10:01 AM by Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, there being a quorum present. An Interpreter was not needed due to Spanish-speaking guests not being present.

II. **Approval of Notes**  
Approval of the minutes taken on February 6, 2024 were brought before the Council.

**MOTION BY: Kassandra Malveaux**

**SECOND BY: Shelley Townsend**

**The minutes from February 6, 2024 were approved as submitted.**

II. **Call for Public Comment**  
There was no public comment brought forward.

III. **Council Training**  
*Offenders with "Mental Retardation" (Intellectual Disability) – Thirty Years of Lessons Learned* was presented by Dr. William Schnapp.

Dr. Schnapp addressed the high prevalence of intellectual disabilities (ID) in the justice system, attributing their overrepresentation to factors like tendency to confess falsely. He emphasized the necessity for tailored support and interventions for individuals with ID involved in legal matters. Dr. Schnapp shared insights from his 50-year experience, noting past efforts for individuals with mental health issues but a lack of similar resources for individuals with ID.

Dr. Schnapp provided a Q&A following her presentation.

IV. **Call for Subcommittee Reports**

A. **Adult and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee – Iris Lewis, Chair**  
Per Judy Blake, the AJJC Conference might be postponed to Spring 2024. The subcommittee is currently under reorganization.

B. **Public Outreach**  
**Social Engagement Subcommittee – Dory Cayten, Co-Chair**  
An update was not provided.

## MINUTES FROM INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 5, 2024

PAGE 2

IV. Old BusinessA. Legislative Updates – Amanda Jones, J.D., Director of Government and Public Affairs

Ms. Jones informed members that the ID Town Hall will be held sometime in September. Detail are forthcoming.

B. PAC Recommendations

PAC recommendations were reviewed by the Board; however, PAC Executive members will have a discussion with Wayne Young, CEO of The Harris Center, to discuss the outcomes.

VI. New Business

There was no new business brought forward.

VII. Call for Consideration of Communication, Advice and Recommendations from Public and Private Agencies and Organizations

No consideration of communication, advice and recommendations were shared at this time.

VIII. Consideration of Board Requests for Advice Concerning Service Needs and/or Implementation Priorities – Dr. Robin Gearing, Board Liaison, The Harris Center Board of Trustees

Dr. Gearing was not in attendance to provide a report.

IX. Vice President's Report – Dr. Evanthe Collins, Vice President, IDD Service Division/Grants & State Contracts

Dr. Collins did not provide an update at this time.

X. Call for Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- Family to Family Network:
  - A series of learning session for parents will be provided during the months of February through April.
    - Topic 1: Understanding Your Child's IEP – Let's Discuss What It Means!
      - Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm OR 6:00pm
      - Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:00pm (Spanish)
    - Topic 2: Special Education – What You Need To Know!
      - Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm OR 6:00pm
      - Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm (Spanish)
    - Topic 3: Top Tips for a Successful ARD/IEP Meeting!
      - Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm OR 6:00pm
      - Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:00pm (Spanish)
    - Topic 4: Medicaid, CHIP or the Medicaid Buy-In Program – What Should You Apply For?
      - Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm
      - Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm

Link to register: <https://f2fn.org/iep-training/>

- Autism Academy 101 and Resource Fair will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 1pm at Good Shepherd Church – Gym, 20155 Cypresswood Dr., Cypress, TX 77433.
  - Presenters:
    - Jacquelyn Mulkey, Director of Adult Community, Monarch School
    - Jacqui Arias, MA, CCC-SLP, Habla Cadara SLP
    - Susan M. Catlett, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, Catlett Consulting

Link to register: [www.bit.ly/2024AU101](http://www.bit.ly/2024AU101)

- Families CAN:
  - Attorney Kim Hegwood from Hegwood Law Group will present on Life After 18 on Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 3pm – 4:30pm via Zoom. The session will be in English and Spanish.  
Link to register:  
<https://uh-edu-cougarnet.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqd-6hqTwjE9zs02EDDPKxB8e142jzOuBK>

XI. Call for Public Questions Pertaining to Agenda Items

There were no questions pertaining to agenda items.

The IDD-PAC will be virtual via Zoom on April 2, 2024 at 10am.

MINUTES FROM INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 5, 2024

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There being no further business before the Council, Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION BY:** Janice Jackson

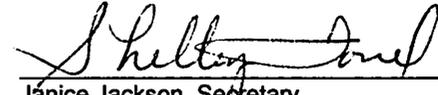
**SECOND BY:** Naila Ibrahim

**Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:15AM**

APPROVED ON THIS THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF May, 2024.

**PREPARED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Hernandez, Recording Secretary  
IDD Planning Advisory Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Jackson, Secretary  
IDD Planning Advisory Council

# **EXHIBIT P-4**

**THE HARRIS CENTER**  
**INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Prepared by: The Office of the Vice President for Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities Services**

**April 2, 2024**

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**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mercedes Alejandro (Advocate); Judy Blake (Advocate); Dory Cayten (Advocate); Charles Davis (Harris County Psychiatric Center); Cynthia Fannin (Richmond State Supported Living Center); Tasheara Jennings Gobert (Texas Workforce Solutions – Vocational Rehabilitation Services); Naila Ibrahim (Dar-us-Sakina); Kennitha Jenkins (Consumer Advocate); Kassandra Malveaux (Harris Co. Protective Services); Angel Ponce (Mayor’s Office for People w/ Disabilities); Dr. Bill Schnapp (Community Member); Janniece Sleigh (The Arc of Harris County); Teaya Smith for Kevin Kern (The Center for Pursuit); Shelley Townsend (University of Houston); Mary Jane Williams (Advocate); Albert Williamson (Spring Independent School District);

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ellen Goudeau (Advocate); Eileen Lam (Consumer Advocate); Iris Lewis (Harris County Juvenile Probation Department); Elworth Lusk (Consumer Advocate); Janice Jackson (Humble Independent School District); Dr. Deborah Pearson (McGovern Medical School, UT Health Science Center – Houston, Dept. Psychiatry); Michael Roberts (Down Syndrome Association of Houston); Paola Jimenez Rodriguez (Advocate); Gene Rowe (Advocate); Jennifer Singletary (Region 4 Education Service Center); VACANT (Community Care Services Eligibility – HHSC); VACANT (Houston Independent School District)

**OTHERS ATTENDANCE:**

**The Harris Center Staff:** Maria Chavarria; Annie Cuba; Francisco Hernandez; Deandra Hines; Dr. Trista Huckleberry; Charles Kerlegon; David Long; Dana Sobers-Ben; Amanda Willis

**Public Attendees:** Camille Boudreaux (The Center for Pursuit); Jeff Furrh (Waller Independent School District); Stephanie Haechten (Mayor’s Office for People w/ Disabilities); Ana Perez (Pasadena Independent School District); David Pomerantz (We Rock the Spectrum)

I. **Call to Order**

The General (In-Person) Meeting of The Harris Center Planning Advisory Council (IDD-PAC) was called to order at 10:01 AM by Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, there being a quorum present. An Interpreter was not needed due to Spanish-speaking guests not being present.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were not sent due to unforeseen circumstances.

II. **Call for Public Comment**

There was no public comment brought forward.

Ms. Williams advised Cindy Hernandez to ensure that Michael Roberts and Jennifer Singletary are included in the email invite list for future meetings.

III. **Council Training**

*FY 2024 IDD Services Division* was presented by Charles Kerlegon, Director of IDD Services Division presented on behalf of Dr. Evanthe Collins, Vice President of IDD Services Division/Grants & State Contracts.

Mr. Kerlegon gave a brief overview of the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, focusing on bills relating to individuals with intellectual disabilities and the proposed increases in the minimum base wage for “personal attendants”.

Mr. Kerlegon went over the Fiscal Year 2024 IDD Strategic Priorities:

- **IDD and Community Supports**
  - Re-establish safety-net services
    - 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session
    - Cost of Waiting Study
    - GR Waitlist Data
- **IDD and Psychiatric Care**
  - Increase availability of local beds
  - IDD Step Down: Adults/Youth (The IDD Division is currently in an assessment phase of potentially expanding the Step-Down Program to youth)
- **IDD and Forensic Diversion**
  - Increase community diversions via safety-net services

## MINUTES FROM INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 2, 2024

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Mr. Kerlegon also highlighted the IDD Division's accomplishments during FY 2023.

Mr. Kerlegon conducted a Q&A session following his presentation.

IV. Call for Subcommittee ReportsA. Adult and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee – Iris Lewis, Chair

Per Judy Blake, the AJJC Conference might be postponed until Fall 2024.

B. Public OutreachSocial Engagement Subcommittee – Dory Cayten, Co-Chair

Dory Cayten announced that the Candy Cane Ball will be held on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

IV. Old BusinessA. Legislative Updates – Amanda Jones, J.D., Director of Government and Public Affairs

Ms. Jones was not available to provide an update, however, updates were given during Mr. Kerlegon's presentation during the Council Training.

B. PAC Recommendations

IDD-PAC Executive Members met with Wayne Young, Chief Executive Officer of The Harris Center to discuss the PAC Recommendations. IDD-PAC Executive Members were informed that The Harris Center are working on a strategic plan.

VI. New Business

Janice Jackson, IDD-PAC Secretary, has stepped down from the IDD-PAC.

Mercedes Alejandro's IDD-PAC Membership application is scheduled to be reviewed by The Harris Center Board of Trustees later this month.

VII. Call for Consideration of Communication, Advice and Recommendations from Public and Private Agencies and Organizations

No consideration of communication, advice and recommendations were shared at this time.

VIII. Consideration of Board Requests for Advice Concerning Service Needs and/or Implementation Priorities – Dr. Robin Gearing, Board Liaison, The Harris Center Board of Trustees

Dr. Gearing was not in attendance to provide an update.

IX. Vice President's Report – Dr. Evanthe Collins, Vice President, IDD Service Division/Grants & State Contracts

Dr. Collins was not in attendance to provide an update.

X. Call for Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- Families CAN:
  - Jacqueline Carter, Student HireAbility Navigator from Texas Workforce Commission will present on *Texas Workforce Commission Services* on Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 3pm – 4:30pm via Zoom. The session will be in English and Spanish.  
Link to register:  
<https://uh-edu-cougarnet.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrd-Gvqz4sE9ap3qypwKANJ2VaewINQI9>
- Spring Independent School District:
  - Parent Connection Night
    - Parents will learn how the Texas Workforce Commission – Vocational Rehabilitation Center can help Spring ISD young adults ages 14 – 22 with services to prepare for life after high school.
    - The event will take place on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 6pm at the Community Engagement Center located at 17125 Ella Blvd., Houston, TX 77090.
- The Arc of Harris County
  - Spanish Conference will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Baker Ripley on Navigation.
  - A group of high school students from South Houston High School are participants of the Chick-fil-a Leader Academy. The students will host a Bingo event for The Arc of Harris County on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 2pm- 4pm.
  - There will be two camps during the summer:
    - The adult camp (18 y/o +) will be from June 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> at Morgan's Camp in San Antonio, TX.
    - The youth camp (12 – 17 y/o) will be from July 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, TX.

MINUTES FROM INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 2, 2024

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- Family to Family Network:
  - A series of learning session for parents will be provided during the months of February through April.
    - Topic 1: Understanding Your Child’s IEP – Let’s Discuss What It Means!
      - Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm OR 6:00pm
      - Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:00pm (Spanish)
    - Topic 2: Special Education – What You Need To Know!
      - Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm OR 6:00pm
      - Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm (Spanish)
    - Topic 3: Top Tips for a Successful ARD/IEP Meeting!
      - Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm OR 6:00pm
      - Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:00pm (Spanish)
    - Topic 4: Medicaid, CHIP or the Medicaid Buy-In Program – What Should You Apply For?
      - Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm
      - Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm

Link to register: <https://f2fn.org/iep-training/>

- Autism Academy 101 and Resource Fair will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 1pm at Good Shepherd Church – Gym, 20155 Cypresswood Dr., Cypress, TX 77433.
  - Presenters:
    - Jacquelyn Mulkey, Director of Adult Community, Monarch School
    - Jacqui Arias, MA, CCC-SLP, Habla Cadara SLP
    - Susan M. Catlett, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, Catlett Consulting

Link to register: [www.bit.ly/2024AU101](http://www.bit.ly/2024AU101)

XI. Call for Public Questions Pertaining to Agenda Items  
There were no questions pertaining to agenda items.

The IDD-PAC will be virtual via Zoom on April 2, 2024 at 10am.

There being no further business before the Council, Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION BY: Janice Jackson**

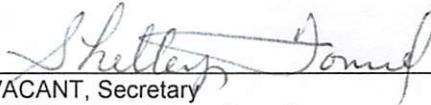
**SECOND BY: Naila Ibrahim**

**Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:15AM**

APPROVED ON THIS THE 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF May, 2024.

PREPARED BY:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cindy Hernandez, Recording Secretary  
 IDD Planning Advisory Council

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 VACANT, Secretary  
 IDD Planning Advisory Council

# **EXHIBIT P-5**

**THE HARRIS CENTER**  
**INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Prepared by: The Office of the Vice President for Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities Services**

**May 7, 2024**

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**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mercedes Alejandro (Advocate); Judy Blake (Advocate); Charles Davis (Harris County Psychiatric Center); Cynthia Fannin (Richmond State Supported Living Center); Naila Ibrahim (Dar-us-Sakina); Kennitha Jenkins (Consumer Advocate); Kassandra Malveaux (Harris Co. Protective Services); Kevin Kern (The Center for Pursuit); Angel Ponce (Mayor's Office for People w/ Disabilities); Eric Prim on behalf of Tasheara Jennings Gobert (Texas Workforce Solutions – Vocational Rehabilitation Services); Michael Roberts (Down Syndrome Association of Houston); Paola Jimenez Rodriguez (Advocate); Dr. Bill Schnapp (Community Member); Janniece Sleigh (The Arc of Harris County); Shelley Townsend (University of Houston); Mary Jane Williams (Advocate); Albert Williamson (Spring Independent School District);

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dory Cayten (Advocate); Ellen Goudeau (Advocate); Eileen Lam (Consumer Advocate); Iris Lewis (Harris County Juvenile Probation Department); Elworth Lusk (Consumer Advocate); Dr. Deborah Pearson (McGovern Medical School, UT Health Science Center – Houston, Dept. Psychiatry); Gene Rowe (Advocate); Jennifer Singletary (Region 4 Education Service Center); VACANT (Community Care Services Eligibility – HHSC); VACANT (Houston Independent School District); VACANT (Humble Independent School District);

**OTHERS ATTENDANCE:**

**The Harris Center Staff:** Patrina Anthony; Maria Chavarria; Annie Cuba; Randi Garza; Cindy Hernandez; Francisco Hernandez; Deandra Hines; Dr. Trista Huckleberry; Kenyonika Johnson; David Long; Consuelo Martinez; Samor Sherrod-Haynes; Dana Sobers-Ben; Raul Ureste; Katrina Ware; Amanda Willis

**Public Attendees:** Kizzie Collins (P.U.S.H. Up Recovery, LLC); (Jeff Furrh (Waller Independent School District); Norine Gill (Imagine Enterprises); Ana Perez (Pasadena Independent School District); Kelley Pillow (Pasadena Independent School District); David Pomerantz (We Rock the Spectrum); Sarah Sanchez-Pequeño (Maximus); Teaya Smith (The Center for Pursuit); Bethany Sullivan (Pasadena Independent School District)

**I. Call to Order**

The General (In-Person) Meeting of The Harris Center Planning Advisory Council (IDD-PAC) was called to order at 10:01 AM by Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, there being a quorum present. An Interpreter was not needed due to Spanish-speaking guests not being present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes taken on March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> were brought before the council for approval.

**MOTION BY: Maria Chavarria**

**SECOND BY: Naila Ibrahim**

**The minutes from March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> were approved as submitted.**

**II. Call for Public Comment**

Norine Gill, Executive Director of Imagine Enterprises, briefed attendees on the services that Imagine Enterprises offers.

Ms. Gill also voiced her concerns about her personal challenging experience with the Medicaid eligibility process pertaining to denials and appeals.

Judy Blake, Family to Family Network will share a contact at HHSC with Ms. Gill.

Dr. Huckleberry, Practice Manager of IDD Eligibility Determination Unit from The Harris Center, also shared her email address for assistance in the *Chat* feature.

Kassandra Malveaux, Harris County Protective Services, also shared an email address for the HHSC Escalation Unit in the *Chat* feature.

Mary Jane Williams officially welcomed the approved PAC members: Michael "Mike" Roberts (Down Syndrome Association of Houston), Jennifer Singletary (Region 4 Education Service Center), and Mercedes Alejandro (Advocate).

MINUTES FROM INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 7, 2024

PAGE 2

III. Council Training

Raul Ureste, Practice Manager at Southwest Clinic (which includes the Eligibility Center), presented on behalf of Tiffanie Williams-Brooks, Director of Children and Adolescent Services (CAS). Mr. Ureste presented on *Child and Adolescent Services, The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD*.

Mr. Ureste went over the programs and services provided by the CAS Southwest Clinic at The Harris Center. The SNAP Program

Mr. Ureste conducted a Q&A session following his presentation.

Mr. Ureste clarified that CAS assists children with dual diagnoses of mental health and intellectual disabilities (IDD), comprising approximately 5% of their clients. Dr. Schnapp expressed concerns about the lack of specific services for children with IDD. Judy Blake echoed Dr. Schnapp's concerns, highlighting the need for more referrals to the IDD Division and better training for service coordinators to identify and refer such cases. Mr. Ureste agreed with Judy's points, noting that they frequently refer cases to IDD services with the help of psychiatrists and other experts. Maria Chavarria clarified that not all cases with IDD meet the criteria for the dual diagnosis program, which is why referrals to IDD services are necessary.

Ms. Blake expressed appreciation for the programs and wished there was more funding for them. Mercedes proposed translating and presenting information about the programs to their parent support group, which Mr. Ureste agreed to and mentioned would also be helpful for Ms. Williams-Brooks. Mr. Ureste also explained the ongoing work to connect families with prescheduled appointments and the need for more staff. Ana Perez asked about the pilot program, the community-based anxiety program for autism, and how to refer for services. Amanda Willis clarified the process for the autism program and Mr. Ureste confirmed that minor repairs go into the home if deemed necessary. Mr. Ureste also mentioned the multi-systemic therapy is in the process of being expanded to the northeast clinic.

Members discussed the challenges and solutions related to the YES Waiver Program at a community clinic. Ms. Blake emphasized that the clinic operates on a first-come, first-served basis, which can lead to long wait times and potential issues with paperwork. Ana shared concerns about the referral process, suggesting the use of the Harris Center for urgent cases. Dr. Huckleberry proposed a workaround for paperwork issues, recommending families take pictures of their documents to ensure access. Mr. Ureste acknowledged the feedback and shared that the clinic is working towards expanding its services to better meet the community's needs.

IV. Call for Subcommittee Reports

A. Adult and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee – Iris Lewis, Chair  
Per Judy Blake, the AJJC Conference might be postponed until September 2024.

B. Public Outreach  
Social Engagement Subcommittee – Dory Cayten, Co-Chair  
Dory Cayten did not have any updates.

IV. Old Business

A. Legislative Updates – Amanda Jones, J.D., Director of Government and Public Affairs  
Ms. Jones was not available to provide an update.

B. Meeting Dates and Locations:

June 4 Harris Center	July Cancelled	Aug 6 Zoom
Sept 3 or 10 Harris Center	Oct 1 Cancelled	Nov 5 Zoom
Dec Harris Center	January Cancelled	Feb Zoom

VI. New Business

The IDD-PAC Secretary position is vacant.

VII. Call for Consideration of Communication, Advice and Recommendations from Public and Private Agencies and Organizations

Ana Perez is seeking contact information for Spindletop for IDD services. Amanda Willis offered to assist in providing contact information. Ms. Blake reassured Ms. Perez about information transfer between counties.

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VIII. Consideration of Board Requests for Advice Concerning Service Needs and/or Implementation Priorities – Dr. Robin Gearing, Board Liaison, The Harris Center Board of Trustees  
Dr. Gearing was not in attendance to provide an update.

IX. Vice President's Report – Dr. Evanthe Collins, Vice President, IDD Service Division/Grants & State Contracts  
Annie Cuba, Director of Authority Services provided an update on Dr. Evanthe Collins' behalf.

Ms. Cuba announced personnel changes including Kenyonika Johnson as the new budget manager for the IDD Services Division and Alejandra McKinney as the new program director for General Revenue services.

Ms. Cuba provided an update on the interest list slots. As of currently, 126 of 122 HCS slots have been received. Names are being pulled from August 2007. Also, 454 of 833 TxHmL slots have been received for this biennial. Names are being pulled from August 2009.

Ms. Cuba also gave a brief update on the \$3.8 million grant that was awarded towards RISE (Responsive Intervention Services and Engagement) program. The RISE program is slated to start serving families in June 2024.

X. Call for Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- Families CAN:
    - Anna Lambert, Public Affairs Specialist will present on *Social Security* on Thursday, May 9, 2024 from 3pm – 4:30pm via Zoom. The session will be in English and Spanish.  
Link to register:  
<https://uh-edu-cougarnet.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctd-CopzopHdLo8s12JzNmOuKDewzaXZMP>
  - Spring Independent School District:
    - Parent Connection Night
      - Parents will learn how the Texas Workforce Commission – Vocational Rehabilitation Center can help Spring ISD young adults ages 14 – 22 with services to prepare for life after high school.
      - The event will take place on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 6pm at the Community Engagement Center located at 17125 Ella Blvd., Houston, TX 77090.
  - The Arc of Harris County
    - Spanish Conference will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Baker Ripley on Navigation.
    - A group of high school students from South Houston High School are participants of the Chick-fil-a Leader Academy. The students will host a Bingo event for The Arc of Harris County on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 2pm- 4pm.
    - There will be two camps during the summer:
      - The adult camp (18 y/o +) will be from June 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> at Morgan's Camp in San Antonio, TX.
      - The youth camp (12 – 17 y/o) will be from July 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, TX.
  - Family to Family Network:
    - Monthly Training Sessions.
      - Medicaid, CHIP or the Medicaid Buy-In Program – What should you apply for?
        - Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 1pm
      - Learn about the Autism Supplement!
        - Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 1pm OR 6pm – 7pm
      - Guardianship and Alternatives to Guardianship
        - Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 1pm
- Link to register: <https://f2fn.org/iep-training/>
- LoneStar LEND (Leadership Education in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities):
    - Recruitment of 2024 – 2024 LoneStar LEND cohort.
    - Information and application can be found at [www.LoneStarLEND.org](http://www.LoneStarLEND.org)
  - We Rock the Spectrum – Gym in Bellaire
    - We Rock the Spectrum is an international franchise opportunity that provides sensory-safe play for children of all abilities.

XI. Call for Public Questions Pertaining to Agenda Items

There were no questions pertaining to agenda items.

The IDD-PAC will be in-person at 9401 Southwest Freeway, conference room 104 at 10am.

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There being no further business before the Council, Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION BY: Mercedes Alejandro**

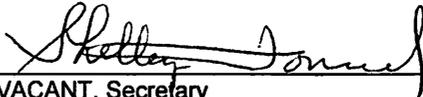
**SECOND BY: Mike Roberts**

**Mary Jane Williams, Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:56 AM**

APPROVED ON THIS THE 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June, 2024.

PREPARED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Hernandez, Recording Secretary  
IDD Planning Advisory Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
VACANT, Secretary  
IDD Planning Advisory Council