



# HRS Leadership Council Public Meeting Minutes

**Duration:** 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

**Date:** 05/06/2024

**Meeting Place:** VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Meeting ID: ZOOM INFO

P = Present  
A = Absent

Leadership Council Members							
P	Paola Silvestre	P	Candace McGary	P	Amanda Jasso		
P	Dylan Shubitz	P	Chase Wright				
P	Liz Baker	P	Summer Wright				
P	Ebonie Trice	P	David Gray				
P	Monique Coleman	P	Emily Seales				
Committee Chairs							
P	Sasha Rose	P	Mark Hilbelink				
P	Liz Schoenfeld	P	Dawn Perkins				
Guest Attendees							
Guest attendance is recorded.							
ECHO (CoC Lead)							
P	Dylan Lowery	P	Joseph Montano	P	Danica Fraher	P	Angela de Leon
P	Maya Beit-Arie	P	Kate Moore	P	Kyle Walker	P	Meagan Biscamp
P	Quiana Fisher	P	Whitney Bright	P	Eri Gregory		
P	Kat Hammer	P	Chris Davis	P	Jason Phillips		
P	Dominique Peevy	P	Nina Gutierrez	P	Lashandraia Dwyer		

AGENDA	PRESENTER	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
<p><b>Quick Business &amp; Consent Agenda</b></p>	<p>Summer Wright</p>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Quick Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of the April 2024 Leadership Council minutes with no suggested edits or amendments.</li> <li>• Approval of Performance Monitoring Committee request to remove the roadmap goal to “approve an interim scorecard for Diversion/SSO/Joint Component Scorecards in collaboration with ECHO support staff.”</li> <li>• Review of current <u>3 vacant seats</u> on Leadership Council including HUD-funded provider, provider not receiving HUD funds, and system partner.</li> </ul>	<p>Consent to approve April 2024 minutes and committee request for roadmap change.</p>

<p><b>Harm Reduction Best Practices</b></p>	<p>Kyle Walker and representatives from Systems Improvement Committee</p>	<p><b>Presentation of Harm Reduction Best Practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A presentation from Kyle Walker, Legal Systems Manager at ECHO and Systems Improvement Committee Support Staff.</li> <li>• The best practices guide is a governance deliverable based on the directive from the roadmap to “complete the creation of a best practices for harm reduction guide. “</li> <li>• The best practices guide is designed to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Background information on harm reduction and the use case for the guide.</li> <li>▪ Core concepts of harm reduction including the evidence base, information on Naloxone, and key principles of harm reduction.</li> <li>▪ There are 35 total recommendations which are categorized in 5 domains including training and education, built space and environment, service delivery, and policies and procedures. Each recommendation is noted as applying to either or both housing settings or shelter settings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional representatives from Systems Improvement Committee are brought onto the panel and answer questions from Leadership Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is there any particular area of the best practices guide that should be focused on urgently or as a first priority? <b>The recent event of overdose could have been worse but for the availability of naloxone. Access to over-the-counter naloxone is important, along with robust staff training, and facilities/programs allowing full access for staff to carry naloxone.</b></li> <li>▪ What are your recommendations for monitoring for compliance with best practices, and how can entities that have legal barriers continue to lean into this space? <b>In terms of tracking the implementation of best practices, providers should lean into iterative feedback so that staff and clients can keep you informed – ensuring there are regular opportunities for communication and feedback. Specific results that could be tracked are also included in the guide such as decreased mortality, decreased EMS calls, staff knowledge of trauma-informed care, and lives saved. TOOF has an advisory board system that is a model for organizations. Integral Care will also provide Narcan to as many people as possible, and Bluebonnet Trails. Narcan is also covered by most health insurance policies with or</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Vote to adopt Best Practices for Harm Reduction in Austin/Travis County Homelessness Response System.</b></p>
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		<p><b>without a prescription and should be covered mostly or fully if you want to keep it on your person.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One appeal of this document is the attention to physical space and instructions for housing programs. A request to share this document with housing projects under development if they are at a stage to consider or reconsider their architectural plans. Separately, where can an agency obtain naloxone? <b>It is available over the counter, Walmart, Target, H-E-B, and even Amazon. At this time, Travis County may still have resources for distribution and in addition naloxonetexas.com for organizations in Texas.</b></li> <li>▪ Why is harm reduction not already widely implemented. <b>Stigma, socioeconomic status, and incorporating the voices of lived experience to name three reasons.</b></li> <li>▪ The current recommendations focus largely on residential settings, housing and shelter, but are there recommendations specific to outreach that you might have? It would be interesting to see an expanded guide to include street outreach and day centers. <b>Part of the reason for not addressing that was to instead focus on providers who may not already be incorporating harm reduction practices.</b></li> <li>▪ LGBTQ+ equity training was specifically mentioned, are there demographic trends in that group? <b>Yes, if we are talking about general statistics substance use is higher among LGBTQ+ folks and even more specifically among Black trans women. There does need to be special consideration for this group, and people can reference Trevor Project, SAMSHA, National Institute of Drug Abuse, and American Addiction Centers.</b></li> <li>▪ Given the presence of congregate shelter in our system, are there any recommendations on a system level for how we could implement the needs of people who are in recovery while also ensuring we aren't denying services to folks in active use? <b>We do encourage separation for folks, and that can look many different ways including meeting space. We are aware of other communities that purpose-built separate spaces including shelter and transitional housing. Due to the constraints of our current system, we aren't as prescriptive.</b></li> </ul> <p>The presenters also had questions for Leadership Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does Leadership Council want the workgroup and committee</li> </ul>	
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		<p>to return having addressed the specific questions brought up today? <b>If the folks are present and engaged, you do not have to wait for the go-ahead. There will be clearer guidance in the 2024-25 roadmap.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What suggestions does Leadership Council have for disseminating this information to other community stakeholders (i.e., Williamson County, providing presentations and training)? <b>Summer Wright shares her suggestions that ECHO staff use this as a resource for their work with community partners, and the distribution of this guide be available on the ECHO website for anyone to access in their work.</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The item moves to a vote.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Governance Compensation</b></p>	<p>Dylan Lowery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A presentation from Dylan Lowery, Governance Manager at ECHO on 2024 governance compensation policy changes and the work plan May - July.</li> <li>• A summary of policy changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eligibility which limits payments to people with lived experience (PLE); Equity advocates are no longer eligible for compensation.</li> <li>○ New requirements which include onboarding, completion of forms, and for members to be seated as voting members.</li> <li>○ Limitations set to <u>3 paid members</u> per committee or workgroup, and any individual will be limited to compensation for up to <u>3 groups</u>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dylan Lowery answers questions from Leadership Council and attendees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is training eligible for compensation? <b>Yes, and if you refer to the policy on the website the training rate for members is noted.</b></li> <li>○ What are the next steps for people to attend governance training? <b>People will be reached out to on an individual basis, and training opportunities will be included on the community calendar on ECHO’s website in the coming weeks.</b></li> <li>○ Is the limit per committee and workgroup for 3 paid members and what will groups do if they have exceeded limits? <b>Yes, the 3-person limit was set per bylaws and surveys will be sent to committees in the coming weeks to get a better understanding of composition needs. We will assist members to join or change groups which still have vacant seats for PLE.</b></li> <li>○ Can you provide clarification on workgroup voting requirements? <b>The governance charter outlines that</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

		workgroups are required to maintain 3 voting members for PLE, and workgroups should have a decision-making structure that includes seated voting members.	

Actions taken by Leadership Council during the meeting on Monday May 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024,	
I.	Approve the April 2024 Leadership Council minutes. <b>Approved on consent.</b>
II.	Approve the Performance Monitoring Committee request to remove the roadmap goal to “approve an interim scorecard for Diversion/SSO/Joint Component Scorecards in collaboration with ECHO support staff.” <b>Approved on consent.</b>
III.	Adopt the Best Practices for Harm Reduction in Austin/Travis County Homelessness Response System guide. <b>Approved.</b>