Austin Transitional Grant Area (TGA)
Administrative Agent (AA) Report to HIV Planning Council
May 2024

PART A & MAI GRANTS ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT UPDATE

1. HRA is now fully staffed.
2. All RWA contracts have been fully executed or are being routed for signature.

OTHER HIV RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION GRANT UPDATES

1. HOPWA: all contracts executed
2. Part C: all contracts executed
3. EHE PS20: 2-month extension being contracted
4. Part A/MAI: All FFY24-25 contracts are routing or executed
5. HRSA EHE: All FFY24-25 contracts are under negotiation

PART A & MAI FISCAL UPDATE

1. Expenditures Through March 2024

CATEGORY	Budgeted Amount	Expended Amount	Percent Expended
Part A Formula	$1,504,902	$20,647	1.37%
MAI	$112,467	$522	0.46%
TOTAL	**$1,617,369**	**$21,169**	**1.31%**

- Budgeted amounts only reflect first Notice of Award.
- As of 5/15/24 we have not received the final Notice of Award for FFY24.

CLINICAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

1. CQM Plan Development and Next Steps: The CQM plan is currently being revised to include EHE and Part C activities, monitoring and evaluation. HRA team will meet with HRSA to review CQM Plan prior to finalization on 5/16/24. CQM plan was presented to the CQM Committee on 5/09/24.
2. CQM Performance Measures: CQM performance measures for Part A/MAI, Part C and EHE have been drafted and shared with the CQM Committee. Performance measures will be finalized after review from the HRSA TA on 5/16/24.

3. Quality Improvement Project: Recipients have begun new round of quality improvement projects that will be focused on data quality and improvement in viral load suppression. This will be a six-month PDSA cycle ending in December 2024Recipients have begun new round of quality improvement projects that will be focused on data quality and improvement in viral load suppression. This will be a six-month PDSA cycle ending in December 2024.
4. CQM Committee Meetings: Last meeting was held on May 9, 2024, where subrecipients presented their findings on their last QIP Cycle. CQM Committee meetings will be moving from a monthly basis to a quarterly basis. CQM staff will begin meeting with the subrecipients on a monthly basis individually to provide individualized technical assistance in June.

DATA MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Data Management:

TCT Enhancements and Issues:

1. The data staff at HRA continue to work through TCT issues with subrecipients and the TCT Help Desk. HRA meets with the TCT Help Desk weekly. There have been additional meetings with data managers across the state to address enhancements identified by the data managers and providers.
2. The Texas Department of State Health Services continues to make enhancements in TCT. Unfortunately, these enhancements often break existing capabilities.
3. All providers have some data in TCT. One provider started importing some service categories this past fall. This was their first successful attempt to get their data into TCT. This provider has since faced challenges moving forward with importing medical imports and new client imports. We are working with the TCT Help Desk to address their challenges.

Provide Enterprise

1. The go live date for Provide Enterprise is tentatively scheduled for mid-June. It was decided to move forward and not wait on the TCT Help Desk or Deloitte regarding the coded or missing data.
2. We have provided three trainings to the test users. It is taking the subrecipients longer than expected to get Provide installed.
3. HRA is validating the mapping of data from TCT to Provide. The subrecipients will be spot checking their agency data after HRA completes the initial review.
4. As a result of the extended time frame for installation with test users, Provide End Users are being identified now. Provide Enterprise developers will start the installation process with end users next week.

5. End user training will tentatively start after Memorial Day.

Data Reports and Projects

1. HRA is in the process of reviewing a draft CQM plan.
2. The Part A Annual Report is due May 29, 2024.
3. The Part A Expenditure Report is due May 29, 2024.
4. The EHE Triannual Report opened in HRSA EHB portal on May 15, 2024. The recipient and subrecipients are working on the report. The report is due June 15, 2024.
5. HRA is working on the Part A and Part C CAPs both of which are due in July 2024. HRA has not received the official report yet, but we have begun addressing issues identified during the HUD site visit. HRA is working on follow up responses to the EHE CAP.
6. The Data Manager provided updated data files for Collaborative Research to use for a HIV Care Continuum Dashboard and a Health Disparities Calculator. Collaborative Research is building out the tools.

CLIENT COMPLAINTS

No client complaints have been received by the AA

AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

May 9, 2024

Recent Opioid Overdose Spike Shows Importance of Community Overdose Response Training

The Austin community was shocked by a spike in opioid overdoses April 28-May 1, with nearly 80 calls to Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS) reporting individuals experiencing a suspected overdose who needed help. Members of the community sprang into action, helping 31 of the 75 individuals who were resuscitated with naloxone (NARCAN) they had on hand and were trained to use while waiting for the overwhelmed EMS personnel to arrive.

Austin Public Health (APH) is receiving $2 million in federal funds — spearheaded by Congressman Lloyd Doggett — through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to combat this crisis.

The funding has allowed APH to partner with ATCEMS to purchase 15,000 doses of naloxone and to provide training on how to use naloxone. Additionally, APH received 20,000 doses of naloxone from the charitable organization Direct Relief, and these were deployed to community-based organizations earlier this year.

The SAMHSA funding is expanding the work of peer recovery specialists and harm reduction teams from our partners at Communities for Recovery and the Texas Harm Reduction Alliance.

To learn more about how you can recognize and prevent opioid overdoses, please visit www.one-dose.org.

Zika and West Nile Precautions Encouraged Due to Recent Rains

APH officials are monitoring and testing mosquito pools in anticipation of a very busy season due to recent rainfall. APH is encouraging everyone to recognize the threat of mosquitoes and follow best practices to keep the buzz down this year.
From spring to fall, when the weather is warmer and wetter, mosquitoes breed throughout Austin and surrounding areas. While their bites are itchy and annoying, mosquitoes pose a much greater threat to people by spreading disease.

Mosquitoes may carry diseases that contribute to outbreaks of Zika, West Nile, dengue fever, encephalitis and canine heartworm.

In Austin-Travis County in 2023, three West Nile virus cases were reported, including one death, and 48 mosquito pools tested positive for the virus.

Don't let mosquitoes ruin your fun this summer. You can learn more about keeping you and your loved ones safe from mosquitoes at austintexas.gov/mosquito.

CDC Announces Important Advances in Protecting Americans from Heat

Austin and Travis County are no strangers to extreme heat. Last summer, we experienced more than three months of temperatures above 100 degrees, and this summer is forecasted to be similar, if not hotter. Extreme heat is a public health threat, causing heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heatstroke and hyperthermia as well as anxiety, depression and general irritability. But heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable.

More than two-thirds of all Americans were under heat alerts in 2023. Heat events are becoming more frequent and intense. A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that daily emergency department visits because of heat-related illness in 2023 peaked in several regions over the warm-season months and, in those regions, remained exceedingly high for an extended duration. Heat can be especially dangerous for people with underlying health conditions.

The CDC's new Heat and Health Initiative was developed in response to increased risks from heat

exposure and aims to improve Americans' ability to stay safe during heat events.

First, the HeatRisk Forecast Tool, developed by both CDC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, provides a seven-day heat forecast nationwide that tells you when temperatures may reach levels that could harm your health. Second, CDC's HeatRisk Dashboard, a consumer-friendly product, integrates the HeatRisk Forecast Tool data with other information, including details on local air quality, to inform the public on how best to protect themselves when outdoor temperatures are high and could impact their health. Third, newly developed CDC clinical guidance helps clinicians keep at-risk individuals safe when temperatures rise.

Learn more about the Heat and Health Initiative from the CDC here.