Information about the Houston Area HIV Resource Guide –
The Blue Book

The Office of Support prints 30,000-50,000 books every other year. The collection of updated information is done by the Office of Support. The Blue Book workgroup, a subcommittee of the Affected Community Committee, is convened during the update process to look at possible changes to the layout, content and to choose cover art for the new edition.

When reprints are needed, The Resource Group (TRG) has used Part B funds to underwrite the cost of printing an additional 5,000-10,000 books. In 2008, they had enough funds available to order 30,000 books. TRG also keeps a supply of Blue Books available at their location for pick up by area agencies.

The Office of Support distributes Blue Books to:

• Any HIV/AIDS agency or person upon request. Some of the larger requests have included Thomas Street Health Center, MHMRA, organizations serving the homeless, school districts and local church groups.

• Approximately 20-40 TDCJ & Harris County inmates every week – Inmates usually request the Blue Book by mail; occasionally the Office of Support gets a call from a family member of an inmate asking for a book to be sent to the inmate as well as a family member.

• Chaplains/medical and teaching staff at jails and prisons throughout the EMA/HSDA.

• Local physicians offices, medical clinics, hospitals, chemical dependency treatment centers, mental health facilities and many others.

The Resource Group, Harris County Sheriff’s Office, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and the Office of Support collaborated to create a personal medical resource guide for HIV+ inmates in Harris County and TDCJ detention facilities. The pocket-sized “mini Blue Book” is a “personal medical resource guide” distributed by the clinic team when planning an inmate’s discharge; it contains listings for Ryan White medical services as well as services offered by social service agencies who are members of the Serving the Incarcerated and Recently Released (SIRR) Partnership of Greater Houston. Is has been very well received by both inmates and staff because of its small size (fits in shirt pocket or sock) and useful content which includes maps, bus routes and space to keep track of prescriptions, lab results and appointments.

The most up-to-date version of the Blue Book and Mini Blue Books are available for download on the Planning Council’s website: www.rwpcHouston.org. This has been especially helpful for people who are new to Houston/moving to Houston so they can make plans to get care. Since 2007, the Office of Support has also made the Blue Book available on CD.

The Blue Book is now mobile. There is a mobile website where users can view information and search the Blue Book and also an Android and iPhone application with the same functionalities as the mobile site.