

**MN Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention  
Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2019  
9:00am to 12:00pm  
Health Services Building, Room L15  
Minutes**

<b>Council Members Present:</b>	Florence Nabeta
Dennis Anderson	Nafula Namuninia
Andrew Bauman	Fred Ndip
Tom Bichanga	Lesla Nelson
Loyal Brooks	Alex Palacios
Thu Danh	Raquelle Paulsen
Charlotte Detournay	Chuck Peterson
Terral Ewing (Council Co-Chair)	Sarah Schiele
Raymel Givens	Tyrie Stanley (Council Co-Chair)
Cree Gordon	Gwen Velez
Destiny Holiday	John Vener, MD
Stephen Jensen	Johnnie Williams
Robert Andrews-Mendoza	McKinzie Woelfel (Council Co-Chair)
<b>Council Members Absent:</b>	James McMurray
Alejandro Aguilera	Florence Nabeta
Lisa Behr	Larry McPherson
<b>Community Members/Guests/Consultants:</b>	
Amy Miller, DHS	Jake Melson, DHS
James Flowers, Red Door Clinic	Jared Shenk, MDH
Jo Ann Vertetis, Co-chair, Community Voices Committee	Earlean Granville
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b>
Jonathan Hanft	Darin Rowles
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	<b>MCHACP Parliamentarian:</b>
Peggy Darrett-Brewer	Pat Reymann, PRP
<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>	
Carissa Weisdorf, Coordinator	Jeremy Stadelman, Hennepin County (minutes)

Quorum Present? **Yes**

**I. Call to Order, Introductions, Lighting of the Candle, Reading of Guiding Principles,**

- McKinzie Woelfel called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Introductions were made. The guiding principles were read.

**Consideration and Approval of Proposed Agenda**

- The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**Consideration and Approval of August 13 Meeting Minutes**

- The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**II. Co-Chair Update**

- McKinzie provided an update:
  - Co-chairs are discussing highs and lows of their meeting facilitation experiences at Executive Committee meetings.

**III. Recipient Reports**

**Part A**

*Jonathan Hanft, Hennepin County Ryan White Program*

- FY 2018 into FY 2019 carryover request submitted and approved by Part A Project Officer.
- FY 2020 Part A grant application is due September 30.
- Council and administration staffing changes and transition.
  - Jeremy Stadelman has been promoted to Planning Analyst and has left his role as the council's Administrative Specialist.
  - Jeremy will continue helping the council until his replacement can be hired.
- The FY 2020 core medical services expenditure waiver request public input meeting is today after the council meeting.
  - Loyal Brooks noted that he was worried the waiver request suggests that MN is not spending or has leftover funds. Loyal wondered if this will affect the funds that MN receives.
    - Jonathan explained that this should not be a concern because the request is to prioritize the needs of the community. Healthcare in MN is stronger than other states, which frees more funds for supportive services.

## **Part B**

*Darin Rowles, Minnesota Department of Human Services HIV/AIDS Unit (DHS)*

- The Part B grant administrative meeting has been postponed.
- DHS is closing out financial statements and reconciling expenses.
- DHS is waiting for notice of supplemental funding and the award amount.
  - The funds will be spent on early intervention services, outreach, and psychosocial support services.
- Kelly Abbott is the new Project Officer for Part B.
- Mariah Wilberg has been hired as the statewide HIV strategy coordinator.
  - There are six stakeholder focus meetings coming up to gather input on the strategies.
    - Two are in the TGA and four will be in Greater MN.
- ADAP (AIDS Drugs Assistance Program) shifted renewals based around the client's half-birthdays.
  - There will be a new processing system this year for new applications.
    - Recently, there were 19 applications processed on the same day, but it used to take several days.

## **• Prevention**

*Peggy Darrett-Brewer, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)*

- Personnel updates:
  - Hiring two CARELink positions
  - Kathy Chinn has retired
  - Evalweb trainer has been hired and can be contacted to request a training
- In 2018, there were 10 cases of congenital syphilis cases. MDH is in the process of setting up a committee to review procedures to address new cases.
- MDH is raising awareness of harm reduction activities in overdose prevention; Peggy reference two documents:
  - **Health Advisory Spike in Drug Overdoses**
  - **MDH Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention**
- Peggy reviewed the **MDH Budget FY 2019** document.
- Questions:
  - Chuck Peterson wondered how MDH is addressing the recent vaping concerns.
    - MDH is beginning conversations about this and Peggy agreed to send additional information to the council.

#### **IV. Council Staff Update**

- Carissa Weisdorf thanked Jeremy for his work with the council.
- Carissa reminded members to complete the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism by the end of the day.
- Carissa announced that she is pregnant and will be on maternity leave March-June 2020.
  - Carissa is working on a workplan that will have committees begin work on the allocations and prioritization process earlier than usual.
- There will not be a council meeting in October.

#### **V. Committee Reports (also refer to *Committee Report Summaries*)**

- Executive
  - Tyrie Stanley noted that the committee referred the motion from the August meeting to the Community Voices Committee for consideration.
- Community Voices (CVC)
  - Destiny Holiday noted that the committee discussed housing and Kim Lieberman attended to provide information about housing policy and how to access housing resources.
  - There was good turnout at last night's meeting.
  - The committee would like to know more about the differences between Part A and Part B.
  - Destiny announced that there will be a Narcan training for Greater MN soon; she will provide more information.
  - Destiny and Earlean Granville (Reecy) were elected co-chairs.
  - The next meeting will be in January 2020. The committee's agenda will include:
    - Building on the housing topic
    - Discuss issues around mental health services
    - How to strengthen CVC
  - The committee discussed having more meetings; the committee currently meets quarterly.
- Disparities Elimination
  - Raquelle Paulsen provided an update:
    - The committee is working to finalize the letter to providers; the committee wants to increase the number of transgender individuals identified in surveillance systems so that the state is able to have more accurate numbers that can be analyzed.
    - In regards to the disparities calculator, the committee is brainstorming ideas to quickly make an impact in the community.
- Membership & Training
  - Loyal Brooks provided an update:
    - Need to recruit many new members. Loyal asked members to encourage others to apply to the council.
    - The committee is looking for alternative ways to promote the council. The committee is working with Hennepin County communications staff to introduce a members spotlight feature. Any members interested in being profiled should let council staff or members of the Membership and Training Committee know.
- Needs Assessment & Training
  - Lesa Nelson explained that the committee is working on the 2020 comprehensive needs assessment survey and they hope to review the final list of questions at their September meeting.
- Planning & Allocations
  - No meeting in August

#### **VI. Service area presentation and discussion**

- Sarah Schiele presented on the highlighted service areas that are not currently funded by the council.
  - Home and community health care
  - Hospice services

- Rehabilitation services
- Respite care
  - Funded by DHS, but is also funded outside of Ryan White program
- Child Care services
- Questions:
  - Alex Palacios noted that the need for hospice services increased from FY10 to FY15 and wondered if the council is doing anything to address this.
    - It was explained that the council used this information to make allocations decisions and the council did not highly prioritize hospice services based on need.
  - Chuck wondered what “unable to access” mean.
    - Jake Melson explained that there will be additional options to choose from for this question on the survey. The council will also pilot the survey in December, so tweaks may be made then.

## VII. Minnesota HIV Care Continuum Update

*Jared Shenk, MPH, Epidemiologist Intermediate, Minnesota Department of Health*

- Jared presented a PowerPoint on the HIV Care Continuum Update (the PowerPoint was emailed to the council on September 11, 2019).
- Additional demographic data will be available later and will be shared with the council.
- 8,702 people were living with HIV in 2018.
  - Undiagnosed number has dropped to 940.
- For those not in care, there are a few reasons:
  - The main reason the number for the decrease in prevalence for clients who have been out of care since before 2012 is that people have moved out of state or passed away. MDH continues to clean up its data set.
    - Jared noted that MDH is also discovering more people out of care with the data clean up.
  - About 10% of clients reengaged in care on their own.

## VIII. Questions about presentation

- Jonathan asked if there are theories for why some have CD4 reported but no viral load.
  - Jared explained that there might be pressure to not provide unnecessary lab tests, but he would need to ask providers.
    - Some providers may not prioritize viral loads because of the effectiveness of ART.
- Chuck wondered if there is connection between CD4 counts and viral load.
  - Jared explained that it depends on the progression of infection in the individual, but it is best practice to have CD4 and viral loads.
- Tyrie asked about how many lab tests are required per year.
  - There is no minimum requirement from the health department, but this data could affect retained in care numbers for annual reporting.
  - Jonathan noted these questions would be good to ask at the next HIV clinical update.

## BREAK

Tyrie Stanley took over facilitation after the break.

## IX. Consensus workshop to determine mechanisms for hard topic discussions

- Jim Mara and Sarah Schiele led the council through a consensus workshop.
- Sarah reminded the council about the purpose of the workshop.

- Intent:
  - Create safe spaces to express opinions/concerns without judgement
  - Have authentic conversations to lift up the lived experience of PLWH (people living with HIV) and address differences in perspective (i.e. rural/urban, gender, transgender)
  - Create equity in how we relate to all stakeholders by validating consumer input
  - Reorganizing how bias/prejudice hinders progress
- Goals:
  - Deeper understanding of what's behind the data
  - Inform decision-making and enrich intention around allocations
  - Unity on council (check egos, lose judgment, listen more/talk less). We are all here to eliminate HIV and improve the lives of those living with HIV.
- Sarah asked members to brainstorm "what the elements of an effective hard topics discussion are..."
  - Responses:
    - Small groups
    - Acknowledge privilege
      - This could be a "hard topic" on its own
    - Open-mindedness
    - Be patient
    - Need good facilitation
    - Making good use and creating space for parking lot ideas
    - Need facilitator and an organizer to run things
    - How to turn our discussions into solutions
    - Shared emotional labor
    - Set time limit for discussion
    - Focus on the topic at hand
    - Define goal of discussion
    - Being able to say what needs to be said without judgement
    - Give everyone a chance to be heard
    - Validate people's experience- believe their own truth
      - Should not let our own experiences overrule facts
    - Aligning intent and impact
    - [Good of the order](#) (Robert Rules of Order- RRO)
    - Learning styles (visual, written, etc.)
    - Know when to "step forward" and when to "step back"
    - Consider other styles
    - Speak from your own experiences
    - Make it easy for all to speak freely
    - Give respect to individual style and dialect
    - Clarity of topic
    - Be open for feedback
    - Toss out RRO
      - Pat noted that RRO allows for open discussions
      - Gwen Velez noted that many communities operate with consensus
    - Lean into discomfort
    - Good thoughts bring change
    - "WAIT"
      - "Why am I talking?"
    - Have compassion
    - 20-minute time limits for discussion
    - Talking tool
    - Acknowledge concerns
    - Don't interrupt
  - There was consensus to have Sarah return in November to complete this activity.

**X. Unfinished Business / New Business**

- None.

**XI. Open Forum**

- None.

**XII. Announcements**

- The public input meeting for the core medical waiver request is today at 12:00pm
- Walk to End HIV is coming up on October 12
- Health and Housing forum at Aliveness on September 11

**XIII. Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

**Documents Distributed Before the Meeting:**

- Proposed Agenda
- August 13 Meeting Minutes
- September 10 Committee Report Summaries
- Highlighted service area documents- non-funded service areas
- September 9 Community Voices Committee flier
- September 10 Public Input Meeting flier

**Documents Distributed at the Meeting:**

- Part A Update
- Part B Update
- MDH FY 2019 budget
- Health Advisory Spike in Drug Overdoses
- MDH Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention

**JS/cw**