

**MN Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2020
9:00am to 12:00pm
Health Services Building, Room L15
Minutes**

Council Members Present:	
Alejandro Aguilera	Stephen Jensen
Dennis Anderson	James McMurray
Lisa Behr	Larry McPherson
Andrew Bauman	Robert Andrews-Mendoza
Tom Bichanga	Florence Nabeta
Loyal Brooks	Nafula Namuninia (phone)
Thu Danh (phone)	Fred Ndip
Terral Ewing (Council Co-Chair)	Lesla Nelson
Raymel Givens	Tyrie Stanley (Council Co-Chair)
Cree Gordon	Gwen Velez
Destiny Holiday	John Vener, MD (phone)
	Johnnie Williams
Council Members Absent:	
Charlotte Detournay	McKinzie Woelfel (Council Co-Chair)
Sarah Schiele	
Community Members/Guests/Consultants:	
James Flowers, Red Door	Jake Melson, DHS
Keith Henry, M.D.	Aaron Peterson, Hennepin County
Chryssie Jones, MDH	Lucy Slater, Indigenous People's Task Force
Zelda Tobias-Kotyck, MATEC	Jared Shenk, MDH
Jake Maxon, Hennepin County	Bob Wickoren, Merck
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	
Jonathan Hanft	DHS (Part B) Representative:
	Colleen Bjerke
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	
Peggy Darrett-Brewer	MCHACP Parliamentarian:
	Pat Reymann, PRP
MCHACP Staff:	
Carissa Weisdorf, Coordinator (minutes)	

Quorum Present? **Yes**

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

- Tyrie Stanley 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 January 14 Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

II. Recipient Reports

Part A

Jonathan Hanft, Hennepin County Ryan White Program

- A partial Part A grant award for FY 2020 was received for the new fiscal year which starts on March 1. Appropriations were not passed in time to receive the full grant award but we expect

to receive the full award by April 1. Anticipate flat funding as this is what was passed in the appropriations.

- Second-round interviews for the council's vacant administrative specialist position will conclude next week.
- The Positively Hennepin annual report was released. Review the report at <http://www.hennepin.us/positivelyhennepin>.

Part B

Colleen Bjerke, Minnesota Department of Human Services HIV/AIDS Unit (DHS)

- Colleen Bjerke thanked all of the members who have served their terms on the council.

Prevention

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

- The next update will be in March but Chrissy Jones will attend today at 10:00 a.m. to provide an update on the HIV outbreak occurring in Hennepin County and Ramsey County.

III. Council staff update

- Carissa Weisdorf asked for volunteers to serve as mentors to new members. Council members and community members with at least one year of experience on the council can serve as a mentor. We ask mentors to attend the new member orientation on March 6.
 - Cree Gordon, Larry McPherson, Stephen Jensen, and Tyrie Stanley volunteered.
- The change in the fiscal year allows for an opportunity to switch committees if anyone is interested. Please let Carissa or the co-chairs of the Membership and Training Committee know because the committee looks at membership needs when assigning new members to committees.
- Carissa recognized council members who had perfect attendance at either council or committee meetings in the past year.
 - Rob Andrews, Charlotte Detournay, Lesa Nelson, and Johnnie Williams attended all of the council meetings.
 - Dennis Anderson, Andy Bauman, Lisa Behr, Destiny Holiday, Florence Nabeta, Lesa Nelson, Tyrie Stanley, and John Vener attended all of their assigned committee meetings.
- Carissa congratulated the council on the good work done in the past fiscal year and provided some highlights from each committee.
 - The Membership and Training Committee conducted 12 interviews in December and January and filled 11 council openings.
 - The gender caucus of the Disparities Elimination Committee spearheaded a letter to providers explaining the importance of updating gender identity in client files and instructions for uploading changes.
 - The Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee developed questions on nearly 20 topics that affect people with HIV in the TGA and state of Minnesota. Topics range from paying bills to food security to transportation to housing. The committee also educated council member on 17 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program service areas.
 - The Planning and Allocations Committee revised two service standards by completing the standards of care development process. The two standards were mental health services and outreach services.
 - The Community Voices Committee developed a work plan and selected topics they wanted to know more about like housing, PrEP, and nutrition. They worked on some of the tasks identified in the onsite TA we received on increasing our consumer involvement in the work of the council.
 - Additionally, the council fulfilled our legislative mandates, including:
 - Allocating and reallocating resources.
 - Completing an annual review of the integrated plan monitoring plan which assesses progress of the goals and objectives and created a plan to address the gaps.
 - Completing the assessment of the administrative mechanism for Part A.

IV. Committee Reports (also refer to *Committee Report Summaries*)

- Executive
 - **Action Item:** Parliamentarian Election
 - It was moved to elect Pat Reymann to serve as the council's parliamentarian. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Community Voices (CVC)
 - Destiny Holiday said the committee is working on outreach to bring more voices to the table.
 - The next meeting is Monday, March 9, at Marshall Flats in Minneapolis.
 - An electronic flier with all of the meeting dates in 2020 was emailed to the council.
- Disparities Elimination
 - Cree Gordon said the committee received a presentation about interviews conducted with black and Latinx MSM with HIV. Participants were found through an ad placed on Grindr by the Red Door Clinic. Based on information from the presentation, the committee discussed ways to improve consumer knowledge around services.
- Membership & Training
 - **Action Item:** Returning membership election
 - Stephen Jensen moved to elect Raymel Givens, Cree Gordon, and Destiny Holiday to a second two-year term on the council.
 - James McMurray, Terral Ewing, and Aaron Peterson served as tellers and Pat Reymann oversaw the ballot voting process. The results were provided later in the meeting.
 - **Action Item:** New membership election
 - Stephen Jensen moved to elect Michael Brooks, Alissa Fountain, Greg Fox, Alfredo Rincon-Gonzalez, Teresa Jones, Tom Kelly, Jr., Tom Kennedy, Javier Andrews-Mendoza, Asneth Omare, Austin Phillips, and Jo Ann Vertetis to a two-year term on the council.
 - James McMurray, Terral Ewing, and Aaron Peterson served as tellers and Pat Reymann oversaw the ballot voting process. The results were provided later in the meeting.
 - **Action Item:** Council co-chair election
 - Stephen Jensen moved that Andy Bauman, Destiny Holiday, and Larry McPherson be considered in the election of the community co-chair of the council. The co-chair term will run March 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021.
 - Tyrie Stanley called for any additional nominations from the floor.
 - Dennis Anderson and Cree Gordon were nominated.
 - Tyrie Stanley asked that each candidate briefly say why they are interested in the position of council co-chair.
 - Larry McPherson said he wants to be fair, respectable, and considerate. He will work collectively with all members to develop an equal playing field across the board.
 - Destiny Holiday said she is seeking your vote because it's time for inclusion and equality. She will work together to eliminate bias and eliminate unfair favoritism; we are here for the same reasons, helping HIV positive people. She is good at working across the community.
 - Andy Bauman said he has the time to put in to the position and wants to help organize meetings so we can accomplish our goals
 - Cree Gordon said they come from the perspective of both a provider and a consumer and feels this voice is needed in leadership as they can see both sides. They step up when asked, like volunteering to serve as a mentor and helping chair the Disparities Elimination Committee. They are a natural leader, speaker, coalition builder, and cool.
 - Dennis Anderson wants to learn from all of us about what we can do next.
 - James McMurray, Terral Ewing, and Aaron Peterson served as tellers and Pat Reymann oversaw the ballot voting process. The results were provided later in the meeting
- Needs Assessment & Evaluation

- Planning & Allocations (PAC)

V. HIV Outbreak Update

- Chrissy Jones attended to provide an update on the HIV outbreak we are seeing in Minnesota.
- MDH and CDC does time space analysis on the data, if something is greater than 2% above the standard deviation there is an alert. In November they saw in HC there was an increase (10) in IDU risk factor. 8/10 were identified through DIS and were in care, VL was decreasing.
- Started working internally but then in October they saw another case in Ramsey and a partner in Hennepin. Declared an outbreak and came up with a case def: any case of HIV newly diag in person who inject after December 2018 and resided in HC, RC at time of diagnosis + people who were experiencing homelessness. Or persons who were in the social network. All of these folks were tested for HIV. Using this def, there are 18 cases of people who are of have ever injected drugs. This helps with partner services and targeting efforts. 13 in HC, 5 in RC baseline is 0-3 cases in past three years in these two counties combined. Common factor is experiencing homelessness or had been. 4000 in HC 1900 in RC experience homeless. Provided gender identity, ages, race/ethnicity as well.
- Did not include IDU MSM because these cases tend to still be transmitted sexually. These cases were transmitted through injection drug use.
- Also looked if anyone is co-infected with Hep C or other STIs. No co-infection with Hep A, there is a current outbreak in the same area.
- Looked at social determinants of health as well. Others included sex workers and people in the jail/prison system.
- Provided info about where they were diagnosed.
- Looking at molecular sequences to determine if there was any relation (meaning it was the same virus). They are working on getting this genetic sequence now.
- Continue to look at co-infection with Hep C since this is a common co-risk factor in people who inject drugs.
- What are they doing about it?
 - HAN – telling providers to screen clients for HIV (through risk assess)
 - Connecting to partner services
 - Connection to services
 - Training and TA
 - Working with HC, working on Hep A outbreak so including HIV
 - Working with Ramsey Co and looking at ways MDH can support them
 - Running data every 2 weeks so see if there's anything new
 - Asks council and community members to increase testing and spreading the word to providers and clinics
 - MN ability to provide syringe services is a huge positive
 - Also talk about PrEP
 - Increase outreach in the surrounding area to the former Franklin/Hiawatha homeless encampment
- Questions:
 - There was a communication a few months ago but MDH was aware of it for months. How rapidly is MDH working with providers to have a coordinated response?
 - MUD group had this information early
 - Are there free rapid test kits available? CJ said maybe and to contact PDB.
 - Does MDH have resources for people who test positive for Hep C? Where to send people for meds? There is a list of Hep C friendly doctors that CJ will provide.
 - Contact PDB for syringe service products.
 - How are connecting the surv data with Hep C and HIV?
 - This is part of the response and working as a ID division to integrate since HIV and HCV are in different divisions.

- Is it a law that someone can take one bag of syringes a week from a pharmacy? Yes. Can this be prescribed by a doctor? Dr. Henry said yes, there are lots of reasons why a doctor prescribes needles. Let's encourage this in Greater MN.

VI. Results of ballot elections:

- Tyrie Stanley received the teller's reports and announced the results of the election.
- For the returning membership election, there were 21 ballots cast and 11 was needed for a majority.
 - Raymel Givens received 21 votes
 - Cree Gordon received 21 votes
 - Destiny Holiday received 19 votes.
- For the new membership election, there were 21 ballots cast and 11 was needed for a majority.
 - Michael Brooks received 20 votes
 - Alissa Fountain received 19 votes
 - Greg Fox received 19 votes
 - Alfredo Rincon-Gonzalez received 20 votes
 - Teresa Jones received 20 votes
 - Tom Kelly, Jr. received 18 votes
 - Tom Kennedy received 19 votes
 - Javier Andrews-Mendoza received 19 votes
 - Asneth Omare received 19 votes
 - Austin Phillips received 19 votes
 - Jo Ann Vertetis received 19 votes
- For the council co-chair election, there were 21 ballots cast and 11 was needed for a majority.
 - Andy Bauman received 10 votes
 - Destiny Holiday received 5 votes
 - Larry McPherson received 12 votes
 - Dennis Anderson received 4 votes
 - Cree Gordon received 11 votes
- Larry McPherson and Cree Gordon were elected as co-chairs of the council.

VII. Service area presentation

- Alejandro Aguilera presented on two Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program service areas: food bank/home delivered and medical nutrition therapy.

VIII. Service area discussion

- Food bank services helps reduce the burden some clients have about deciding whether to pay for a co-pay to get their medications or pay for food. This issue was evident in the 2015 needs assessment.
- What food services are available in greater Minnesota? Colleen Bjerke said currently food vouchers are available through JustUs Health and RAAN and Mom's Meals provides home delivered meals to those outside of the Highway 494 corridor.
 - How do clients find out about these services? Colleen Bjerke said the [AIDSLine](#) is a referral service and helps clients access all Ryan White services. There is a resource guide that is available online and a paper version.
- The Disparities Elimination Committee is looking at ways to better advertise Ryan White services to clients because some clients do not know about them. A lot of clients hear about services they qualify for through word-of-mouth.
- We also have a goal to increase the number of people enrolled in Ryan White services and we are interested in hearing new ideas.

BREAK

IX. Rapid Access to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART): Data after one year of implementation

- Dr. Keith Henry introduced himself as the program director of Positive Care Center. He distributed a 1986 news article about St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center, a Dear Colleague Letter from January 2018 from New York State, and information about the MAX program in Seattle and King County, Washington.

X. Questions about presentation

- Did you have any patients who weren't ready to take medications upon diagnosis? Dr. Henry said a high percentage of patients will take medications when it's hand delivered to them with a glass of water. The process is not rushed and makes the person feel special and that they matter. It's an opportunity to discuss the advantages of being on medication and what they want to accomplish. Dr. Henry stressed the importance of "getting your HIV to be boring" which means you feel comfortable coming to the clinic, your HIV level is undetectable, and then can look into primary health care needs.
- How do we increase our viral suppression rates for African American women? Dr. Henry said there are many social determinants of health factors for this population. Access to housing is key, and he also sees issues related to domestic violence.
- What are some of the issues people with HIV who are over age 50 face? Dr. Henry said getting older is difficult due to an increasing number of health problems. This is true for any population. There is concern with patients with HIV that there may be increased problems with getting frail, increased rates of dementia, cancer, and heart diseases.

XI. Unfinished Business / New Business

- Tyrie Stanley referred to Part B QM – CB said a presentation will occur in the fall.
- They are actively recruiting consumers and filling spots.
- Next meeting is March 4, will provide info/flier
- Dennis London is the contact person.
- Tyrie Stanley said there was an electronic vote that came in after the polls closed that resulted in a tie of the second co-chair. He broke the tie since he did not vote in the election.

XII. Open Forum

XIII. Announcements

- A flier with all of the dates of the 2020 Community Voices Committee meetings is available.

XIV. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Documents Distributed Before the Meeting:

- Proposed Agenda
- January 14 Meeting Minutes
- Committee Report Summaries
- **Action Item:** Parliamentarian Election
- **Action Item:** Returning Membership Election
- **Action Item:** New Membership Election
- **Action Item:** Council Co-Chair Election
- Council Co-chair Position Description
- Food bank/home delivered meals service area
- Medical nutrition therapy service area

Documents Distributed at the Meeting:

- Part A Update
- New York State Dear Colleague letter dated January 2018

- The Max Clinic abstract
- December 15, 1986 St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center newsletter
- Community Voices Committee 2020 meeting dates flier

cw