

**MN Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention**  
**September 8, 2020 9am – 11am**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting Summary/Minutes**

<b>Council Members Present:</b>	
Dennis Anderson	Larry McPherson (Council Co-Chair)
Andrew Bauman	Javier Andrews-Mendoza
Lisa Behr	Nafula Namuninia
Thu Danh	Fred Ndip
Charlotte Detournay	Asneth Omare
Alissa Fountain	Austin Phillips
Cree Gordon (Council Co-Chair)	Sarah Schiele
Stephen Jensen	Jeremy Stadelman
Teresa Jones	McKinzie Woelfel (Council Co-Chair)
Tom Kennedy	
<b>Council Members Absent:</b>	
Raymel Givens	James McMurray
Alfredo Rincon-Gonzales	Jo Ann Vertetis
Tom Kelly, Jr.	
<b>Community Members/Guests/Consultants:</b>	
Johan Baumeister	Megan Mueller
Ann Bensen	Jared Shenk
Audra Gaikowski	Tyrie Stanley
Anika Kaleewoun	Thuan Tran
Miranda Kunz	
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b>
Jonathan Hanft	Collen Bjerke
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	<b>MCHACP Parliamentarian:</b>
Peggy Darrett- Brewer	Pat Reymann, PRP
<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>	
Richard Puella (minutes)	
Carissa Weisdorf, Council Coordinator	

- I. **Call to order and Introductions, Read Guiding Principles and Agenda and August minutes approval:**  
 Larry McPherson called the meeting to order at 9am, and the guiding principals were read. The agenda was approved as is. Pat Reymann suggested one edit for the minutes, she asked that the phrase, “with unanimous consent the motion passes,” be changed to, “the motion passed unanimously.” The first phrase implies that a vote was not taken. With that, the minutes were approved.
  
- II. **Committee Reports (also provided in written format)**
  - A. **Executive and Co-Chair Update:** Cree Gordon updated the Council and explained that due to a time sensitive issue the Executive Committee acted on behalf of the Council as allowed in by-law 4.3.d. There was \$4,746 dollars of carryover in Part A Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funds that will be allocated to outpatient ambulatory health services, and \$10,811 in Part A formula funds which will be allocated to Home Delivered Meals. The plan was submitted to Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) on August 28, 2020.

- There will be a Part A housing update at the October Council meeting and a HIV & Aging coalition update at the December Council meeting.
- Alex Palacios is now serving as member services manager at the Aliveness Project and has offered to come and speak to the Council about civic engagement; the Council agreed with Alex presenting at the October Council meeting.

**B. Community Voices:** No additional update was provided

**C. Disparities Elimination:** No additional update was provided

**D. Planning and Allocations:** Andrew Bauman provided an update for Planning and Allocations (PAC).

**Action Item:** Tyrie Stanley meets the eligibility requirements as defined in the bylaws and has been nominated to serve as co-chair by the Planning and Allocations Committee, forwarded to the council by the Executive Committee, and has agreed to serve in that capacity, and as a member of the Executive Committee.

**MOTION:** Andrew Bauman moved that Tyrie Stanley be elected to serve as co-chair of the Planning and Allocations Committee. No debate or discussion followed.

**VOTE:** Yes (16) No (3), (the motions passes)

**E. Membership and Training:** Tyrie Stanley provided an update on behalf of the Membership and Training Committee (M&T).

**Action Item:** According to the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement (IGCA), each governmental unit shall be represented on the council. Ramsey County, a governmental unit included in the IGCA, submitted a nominee to the council via the open nominations process. On July 17, 2020 the Membership and Training Committee approved a motion to hold a special election on September 8, 2020 for Jessie Saavedra to replace Lisa Behr on the council as the representative from Ramsey County.

**MOTION:** Tyrie Stanley moved that the Jessie Saavedra is elected to the Council. No debate or discussion followed.

**VOTE:** Yes (15) No (1) (the motion passes).

Lisa Behr asked Jessie Saavedra to take a moment to introduce himself and talk about his background.

- Jessie currently works for Ramsey County as a health educator.
- He previously worked for the Minnesota Department of Health as a disease investigator for 20 years.
- He does extensive community outreach testing for HIV and hepatitis C.

**Needs Assessment and Evaluation:** No additional update was provided

### III. 2020 HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment update:

Audra Gaikowski provided an update on the status of the 2020 HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Needs Assessment. She reminded everyone that this is a collaborative effort between Hennepin County (HC),

the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention (MCHACP).

- Data collection started a few months ago with the online surveys. Phone surveys started in June 2020, and paper copies of the survey have been sent out a few weeks ago.
- For those who are eligible to take the survey, it can be accessed at [Hennepin.us/NA2020](http://Hennepin.us/NA2020).
- Online promotional materials are available in English, Spanish, Oromo, Amharic, Somali, Nuer and Anuak.
- As of Thursday September 3, 480 surveys have been collected (325 online, 155 phone).
- New demographic targets have been developed as the close of the survey approaches.
  - 150 responses from greater MN
  - 100 responses from African-born clients
  - 100 responses from Hispanic clients
  - 30 responses from American Indian clients
- The timeline for the survey has been extended from August 31 to October 31, 2020.

#### IV. Recipient updates:

**Part A:** Jonathan Hanft provided an update and mentioned that the final federal financial report (FFR) has been submitted to Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) which summarizes the total spending for the Part A FY 2019. Jonathan was happy to announce that this has been the best year on record for spending.

- The plan that the Executive Committee approved was essentially to have the formula funds that were not spent (\$10,811) used for Food bank/home delivered meals. Which will allow service for an additional eight clients.
- The Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) carryover will go to outpatient ambulatory health services, which will help provide health care to an additional three clients who are not insured or under insured.
- Jonathan also reported that the team is working on the 2021 Part A grant application, which is due October 7, 2020.
- Jonathan announced that Brenda Senyana has been hired as the new Positively Hennepin implementation coordinator. She brings with her extensive experience in global HIV work, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia.

**Part B:** Colleen Bjerke wanted to note that Part B received a notice of award from HRSA for the supplemental B award in the amount of \$1.3 million. This is a one-year grant that will start on September 30, 2020 and ends on September 29, 2021.

- Part B supplemental funding is the unspent funds from the previous year, and those funds are pooled together and are competed for.
- The additional funds of \$1.3 million will be used for AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

**Prevention:** Peggy Brewer reported that most MDH staff are still reassigned to COVID-19 work groups, contact tracing or working the provider hotline. The state is also experiencing an HIV outbreak in Hennepin and Ramsey counties. As of August 19, there were 26 total cases of HIV associated with the outbreak.

- The outbreak has primarily been amongst those who inject drugs; many of whom are experiencing homelessness as well. She noted that if anyone would like a more detailed

presentation on the demographics of the outbreak anyone is welcome to submit a data request on the MDH web page.

- The closures of buildings have impacted early intervention and HIV testing programs testing abilities, resulting in a drop in testing numbers. Developing the methods to enable safe testing, while adhering to social distancing guidelines, proved to be a challenge.
- Syringe service programs continue to meet monthly to discuss social distancing, and coordinated efforts in response to the HIV outbreak in Hennepin and Ramsey counties.
- 36,000 syringes have been distributed in the last two months.
- 68 new individuals have started PrEP, while an additional 20 have re-started PrEP. Most PrEP referrals are coming from grantee testing agencies.

#### **V. Council Staff Update:**

Carissa Weisdorf reported membership updates.

- Alex Palacios and Greg Fox were removed from the council due to attendance.
- Michael Brooks and Destiny Holiday have both resigned from the council.

She wanted to bring attention to the Council that the Planning Council Primer is available in Spanish and can be found on the Council website at <http://www.mnhivcouncil.org/current-members.html>.

Richard Puella provided an update on the translated and printed materials survey that was sent out last week.

- Richard noted that as of today he has received 12 responses. 7 of 12 would like to have materials printed and mailed to them.
- There was an additional question regarding issues accessing virtual meetings and based on the response's folks do not appear to any issues (equipment & internet access) attending meetings. However, adapting to a virtual environment seems to be the overall challenge.

Richard updated the Council on the status of the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism and noted that he has received 18 of 24 responses. He asked those who have not taken the survey to please do so.

- Jonathan Hanft reminded the Council of the importance of completing this survey as it a key responsibility of the planning body. The assessment survey needs to be reported in the grant application, which staff are working on right now.

#### **VI. HIV/AIDS Epidemiological Update:**

Jared Shenk gave a presentation on "MDH HIV Epidemiology Update 2020." The PowerPoint was emailed to the council on September 8 by Carissa Weisdorf.

Jared wanted to note that this presentation is about 5 months behind the normal presentation timeline and thanked everyone for being patient over the last 6 months while MDH staff work on COVID-19.

#### **VII. Unfinished Business/New Business:**

- Cree Gordon announced that 14 members voted in favor of wanting Alex Palacios to come in and give a presentation on civic engagement at the October Council meeting.
- Lisa Behr took a moment to thank everyone for the past couple of years. Her time on the Council has been great and she enjoyed working with each member of the Council.

**VIII. Open Forum:** Nothing was discussed.

**IX. Announcements:** No announcements were made.

**X. Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am

**Meeting Summary**

- The council received a 2020 HIV Epidemiological Update from the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Tyrie Stanley was elected to serve as co-chair of the Planning and Allocations Committee.
- The membership recommendation for Jessie Saavedra was approved.

**Documents Distributed for the Meeting:**

- 2020.09.08 MCHACP Agenda
- 2020.08.18 MCHACP Minutes
- September 8 Committee Report Summaries
- 2020.09.08 action\_item PAC\_ co-chair election
- 2020.09.08 action item\_membership election

RP/cw