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| **Disparities Elimination Committee Members Present** |  |
| Cree Gordon | Nafula Namuninia |
| Teresa Jones (Co-chair) | Sarah Schiele |
| Megan Mueller (Co-chair) |  |
| **Committee Members Absent:** |  |
| Dennis Anderson | Raymel Givens |
| Charlotte Detournay | Tyrie Stanley |
| **Guests:** |  |
| Ashley Hall | Mariah Wilberg |
| Braihim Kargbo |  |
| **Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:** | **DHS (Part B) Representative:** |
| Thuan Tran | Fred Ndip |
| **MDH (Prevention) Representative:** | **MCHACP Staff:** |
| McKinzie Woelfel | Richard Puella (minutes) |
|  | Carissa Weisdorf, Council Coordinator |

Quorum Present? **Yes**

1. **Welcome and introductions**
   * Teresa Jones called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and introductions were made.
2. **Review, approval of minutes from April 15and July 15 minutes and proposed agenda**

* There were no objections to the proposed agenda.
* The April and July 15th minutes were approved.

1. **END HIV MN update:**
   * Mariah Wilberg gave the committee a brief update on END HIV MN.
   * Mariah mentioned that in the fall the state will be working on updating the END HIV MN program and will be working on selecting new prioritized tactics. She asked the committee members what the state should be prioritizing over the next two years.
   * Mariah shared information regarding the use of the term, “stakeholders” and noted this term can be offensive to some folks especially those within the Native American communities.
   * Mariah presented, the “*Minnesota HIV Strategy: Goals and strategies.”*
     + Goal 1: Prevent New HIV Infections.
     + Goal 2: Reduce HIV-related Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity.
     + Goal 3: Increase Retention in Care for People Living with HIV.
     + Goal 4: Ensure Stable Housing for People Living with HIV and Those at High risk for HIV Infection.
     + Cree Gordon mentioned that the goals should remain in place, but the strategies should evolve to meet current situations and recommended that the committee review these strategies.
       - Mariah noted that the goals will remain the same but asked if these strategies are still the right way to meet each goal.
   * Mariah noted a concern that has surfaced over the years is less duplication around testing programs and plans are in the works to address that concern.
   * A question was raised about adaptive programs and if there are ways to allow programs to be more adaptive to address changes as they emerge.
     + - Megan noted concerns around people who inject drugs who continue to experience rejection into health care systems and are not being prioritized.
       - Megan feels that this issue is not around education, but around accesses to health care.
         * Mariah noted that work needs to be done on educating health care providers, identifying safe, client friendly providers, and felt there is a need for mobile medicine to meet clients where they are.
         * Mariah asked if the townhall series are valuable and should they continue.

Cree shared that the townhalls are very helpful and much knowledge is learned through them.

Cree suggested to select a few of the END HIV MN goals for the committee to review each month. For example, the committee will review goals 1 and 2 in September & goals 3-5 in October. The committee agreed with Cree’s suggestion.

Braihim Kargbo thanked the committee for all the work they have been doing and expressed that the HIV task force is ready to work alongside the Dipartites Elimination Committee. He asked Mariah if providers have a forum where the committee and providers can work together to achieve HIV goals.

Mariah noted that there will be forums for different types of providers such as, Health care providers, Ryan White providers, Prevention, and educators.

Mariah asked for Brahim’s email address, so she make sure he is included in future meetings.

* + McKinzie asked if there is space in goal 5 to create/offer technical assistance around hiring and retaining staff who work in the HIV field. She explained that MDH has seen a lot of turnover of staff among their grantees, and MDH is looking at different ideas to address this but the larger efforts may help with the success of goal 5.

Mariah took note of McKinzie’s question and noted that there is space and noted that this is time to identify what is missing from goal 5.

Mariah thanked the committee for taking the time to listen and provide feedback. Mariah can be reached at [mariah.wilberg@state.mn.us](mailto:mariah.wilberg@state.mn.us) for any questions or concerns.

1. **Understanding the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Annual Planning Cycle:** 
   * The webinar that was planned for today is not yet accessible so Carissa asked if the committee wants to add it to the agenda for next month. Cree suggested everyone view the webinar on their own time before the next meeting and the committee will discuss next month, the committee agreed to do this.
   * A recording of the webinar as well as the slides and transcript are available at: <https://targethiv.org/library/overview-ryan-white-hivaids-program-part-planning-council-cycle>

1. **New Business/Unfinished Business/Goal Setting:**
   * No new business, unfinished business, or goals were discussed.
2. **Review work plan and set agenda for next meeting:**

* The committee reviewed the work plan and the results of the workplan survey.
* Carissa asked the committee what they would like to do with the recommendation to add an agenda item on, “the effects of COVID-19 in MN and how that impacts/impacted HIV services.”
  + Cree asked if there is a team either at the county or the State that is tracking the effects of COVID-19 on HIV services.
    - Fred Ndip is not aware of any specific initiatives that are ongoing but he will investigate it and provide any information to Carissa to share with the committee.
    - Thuan Tran mentioned that Aaron Peterson and Andrew Murray are tracking this information.
    - Cree mentioned that YAP is working on a project with youth and COVID to see how the pandemic has affected folks.
    - Megan mentioned that Rainbow Health has a COVID community coordinator who could present to the committee.
    - The committee agreed to ask Andrew Murray to present at a future meeting.
  + Carissa mentioned the integrated plan monitoring table tracks how many people are accessing Ryan White services and data for 2020 will be presented in October.
* END HIV MN goals 1-2.
* Discuss webinar.
* COVID-19 presentation (Andrew Murray)

1. **Announcements and adjourn:**
   * Braihim noted that he will be reaching out to Carissa for updates and is excited to be working with the DEC and the council again.
   * Adjourn at 10:25am

**Meeting Summary:**

* The committee heard an update from Mariah Wilberg on END HIV MN.
* The committee agreed to discuss the “Understanding the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Annual Planning Cycle” webinar next month.

**Documents distributed before the meeting:**

* 2021.08.19 DEC agenda
* 2021.04.15 DEC minutes
* 2021.07.15 DEC minutes
* FY 2021 DEC workplan
* Results of DEC work plan survey

**Documents displayed at the meeting:**

* Ending HIV/AIDS in Minnesota FINAL REPORT ON IDENTIFYING TACTICS FOR THE MINNESOTA HIV STRATEGY.

**RP/cw**