**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention**

**Community Voices Committee Meeting**

**Monday, January 9, 2023**

**4:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Hybrid In-Person/Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

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| **Committee Members Present:** |  |
| Danielle Brantley (co-chair) | Lesa Nelson |
| Calvin Hillary Hylton | Sherry Outten |
| Stephen Jensen | Tristian Sparks |
| Florence Kulubya-Nabeta | Jo Ann Vertetis (co-chair) |
| Belinda Charleston-Green |  |
| **Community Members/Guests/Consultants:** |  |
| Aubrey Hagen, Ryan White Public Health Associate | Shea Amaro, Program Officer, DHS |
| **Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:** | **DHS (Part B) Representative:** |
| None | Thomas Blissett |
|  |  |
| **MDH (Prevention) Representative:** | **MCHACP Staff:** |
| None | Carissa Weisdorf |
|  | Christine Ashley-Norberg (minutes) |
|  | Audra Gaikowski, Council Coordinator |

1. **Welcome**

* Danielle Brantley called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and introductions were made.
* The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved as printed.
* The November 7 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as printed.

1. **Community questions and concerns:** 
   * Danielle reviewed the topics that were brought up in the November meeting and topics people wanted to discuss further.There were no questions or discussion.
2. **Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program** Shea Amaro provided a presentation on ***MN Part B Services***

* A community member asked if a person has fallen out of their HIV services and case management services, how long will it take to start them up again in Minnesota?
  + Shea responded that if somebody has fallen out of care, there is no amount of time they need to wait. They can access services as soon as they need them.
  + Thomas added that the foundation of the question is about eligibility and that as long as you go through the eligibility process there is no wait. Ryan White provides safety net insurance so the person should go to a Ryan White provider for HIV care.
* A community member asked if a case manager leaves or you get assigned a new case manager and you don’t get along, what steps can be taken to get assigned a new case manager.
  + Shea responded that if a case manager leaves, there should be a transition period to be assigned another case manager. There should be no gap in case management services.
  + Shea added that each organization has a grievance process and that a client must go through various steps to where a conversation is lacking between a client and a case manager. It is important to have a conversation and to advocate for yourself about what is not going well as it will help the case manager better understand your needs.
  + Thomas added, when you file the grievance for Part B subrecipients it gets reported up to the program officer so they can meet the standards required for the contract.

1. **Co-chair succession planning**

* Audra Gaikowski informed the committee the Community Voices Committee will be voting on co-chairs for the next term in March. Danielle Brantley is eligible to serve as co-chair for another term. JoAnn Vertetis will have served the maximum of two one-year terms.
* Audra reviewed the ***CVC co-chair position description*** and the roles and responsibilities of the committee.

1. **FY 2023 Planning**

* The co-chairs asked what topics are of interest for people who attend the CVC meetings.
* Jo Ann Vertetis stated that there was interest in the topic of the aging population with HIV who need different kinds of services because of their age.
* There was a suggestion of having a presentation describing Ryan White services funded though Part A.
* Other topics of interest mentioned were HIV decriminalization and the stigma of HIV.
* A meeting participant asked if there are any places where a HIV test can be anonymous in MN.
  + Shea responded that it is not possible to get an anonymous test in MN. It is a requirement for MDH that tests are confidential but not anonymous. You must provide identification to get tested and there needs to be checks in place that a person is linked into care and services. The law is set up to provide some protections but requires disclosure only in cases of sexual activity or sharing needles.
* A participant asked about privacy protection with texts and social media.
* There was discussion about the difficulty of proving a violation of the disclosure of someone’s HIV status. There is no more affirmative protection beyond the HIPAA laws.
* A participant added that there should be more education for family members about HIV.
* Audra and Danielle added that travel reimbursement and stay at a hotel is available for in-person meeting participation.

1. **Connecting the work**

* Audra provided an update about the activities of the Council, Executive Committee, and Disparities Elimination Committee.
  + The next Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention meeting is on Tuesday, January 10, from 9am-11am. All are welcome to attend.
  + The Disparities Elimination Committee is hosting a mental health focus group/forum to take place in May.
* Calvin Hillary Hylton provided an update on the Membership and Training Committee.
  + Membership & Training is wrapping up interviews for membership election and will be making recommendations to the council at the February meeting. Anyone interested in joining the council is welcome to apply.
* Lesa Nelson provided an update on the Needs Assessment & Evaluation Committee.
  + Needs Assessment & Evaluation Committee did not meet.
* Florence Kulubya-Nabeta provided an update on the Planning & Allocations Committee.
  + Planning & Allocations Committee did not meet.

1. **Wrap-up**

* The CVC will coordinate a breakfast for World AIDS Day on 12/1/23. Planning will begin in March.
* The next agenda will include the new workplan and co-chair election.
* Danielle Brantley adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

**Meeting summary:**

* Shea Amaro provided a presentation on ***MN Part B Services***.
* The committee discussed what they want to work on in FY 2023.

**Documents distributed for the meeting:**

* Proposed agenda
* November 7, 2022 Community Voices Committee meeting minutes
* HIV Council postcard
* 2023.01 CVC meeting flier

**Documents distributed during the meeting:**

* Community Voices Committee co-chair position description

**CAN/ag/cw**