# **Disparities Elimination Committee Meeting**

# **Thursday, February 16, 2023**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting**

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

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| **Committee Members Present:**  |  |
| Charlotte Detournay | Sarah Schiele (co-chair)  |
| Océane Lune  |  |
| **Committee Members Absent:**  |  |
| Megan Higdon | Jay Orne (co-chair) |
| **Guests:**  |  |
| Alejandro Aguilera | Cody Raasch, Data Analyst Hennepin County |
| Brenda Senyana, Positively Hennepin Implementation Coordinator |  |
| **Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:**  | **DHS (Part B) Representative:**  |
| None | Thomas Blissett  |
| **MDH (Prevention) Representative:** | **MDH (Surveillance) Representative:** |
| McKinzie Woelfel  | Hannah Kass-Aten, MDH  |
| **MCHACP Staff:** |  |
| Audra Gaikowski, coordinator | Emily Murphy, minutes |

Quorum Present? **Yes**

# **Welcome and introductions**

* Sarah Schiele called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

# **Review, approval of minutes from January 19 meeting and proposed agenda.**

# The minutes from the January 19meeting were reviewed and approved.

# The agenda for the meeting was approved as printed.

1. **Part A Capacity Building Grant Update –** **Brenda Senyana and Océane Lune**
* Brenda Senyana displayed the ***Building Capacity for HIV Elimination in the Minneapolis – Saint Paul Part A Transitional Grant Area.***
* The Part A Capacity Building Grant concluded this past summer, running from July 2019-June 2022.
	+ The aim of the grant is to expand the county’s capacity to end the local HIV epidemic through increased community engagement and information dissemination and marketing.
	+ The objective is to partner with communities experiencing significant disparities in health outcomes along the HIV care continuum to develop community-driven, culturally responsive education and marketing campaigns to reduce HIV-related stigma and to increase HIV testing, access to high impact prevention interventions, early diagnosis, and rapid linkage to care and treatment.
	+ Priority communities of the grant included African-born communities and African American Same Gender Loving Men (AASGLM).
* Community partners for African-born communities included:
	+ Sub-Saharan African Youth and Family Services in Minnesota (SAYFSM)
		- Supported the leadership and visibility of community members living with HIV in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Transitional Grant Area (MSP TGA).
		- Lead education sessions with East African-born Immigrants (EAI) faith leaders and followers.
		- Conducted focus group discussions.
		- Engaged faith leaders and followers to sustainably provide HIV-related services to the community.
		- Convened annual HIV forum with faith/community leaders and followers.
	+ West African HIV Taskforce (WAHTF)
		- Held education sessions with West African-born Immigrants (WAI) faith and civil society leaders and followers.
		- Engaged WAI faith and civil society stakeholders to build culturally responsive targeted awareness campaign.
		- Provided options for HIV testing and education in venues which faith and civil society leaders and their followers identify.
		- Trained providers to be culturally responsive by holding community conversations with faith and civil society leaders and followers.
	+ Red Door Clinic
		- Identified and executed contract with focus group discussion facilitator and qualitative data analyst.
		- Created focus group discussion task force including HSPHD staff.
		- Engaged community of AASGLM and their leaders.
		- Conducted focus group discussions.
		- Created a quality improvement plan.
		- Re-engaged AAGSLM.
		- Implemented a quality improvement plan.
* Community partners for African American Same Gender Loving Men (AASGLM) communities included:
	+ Reverend Dr. DeWayne Davis
		- Lead stakeholder meetings with African American pastors to build sustained relationships.
		- Engaged civil-society stakeholder organizations.
	+ Abloom Wellness
		- Lead eight-week virtual training on health equity for providers and collected feedback from attendees.
	+ Youth AIDS Project (YAP)
		- Held five events: YAP Youth Festival, Testing Thursdays Movie Nights, Freedom Community Health Fair, Freedom Ball, Youth Pride.
		- Involved young AASGLM throughout the development and implementation phases of the events.
		- Involved young AASGLM in event coordination and promotion.
		- Provided transportation support to youth facing transportation barriers.
		- Challenges included lengthy contract finalization between Hennepin County and YAP and the University of Minnesota, short implementation timeline, planning activities without knowing when funds would be released, and ensuring sustainability of events when funding is temporary.
1. **Mental health data presentation – Cody Raasch, Planning Analyst Hennepin County**
* Cody Raasch displayed the ***Mental Health – Data from 2020 HIV Needs Assessment and CareWare.***
* Data collected is from the from 2020 HIV Needs Assessment survey and CareWare data sets.
* 2020 HIV Needs Assessment findings showed that:
	+ Mental health problems can cause respondents to miss appointments and medication adherence but are not evenly distributed by race/ethnicity.
	+ Mental health problems can cause respondents to miss appointments and medication adherence, especially in the metro area, northeast and South Central/Southwest.
	+ Mental health problems can cause respondents to miss appointments and medication adherence, especially among Trans or different gender individuals.
	+ Mental Health problems can cause respondents to miss appointments and medication adherence, especially among younger respondents.
* CareWare data findings:
	+ Mental health consumers generally account for 7-8% of all Ryan White consumers.
	+ In 2021, multi-racial, Black African born, and white clients were more likely to be a Mental Health consumer than the average Ryan White client.
	+ Mental Health consumers are more likely to be White, Hispanic, Multi-racial, or American Indian compared to Ryan White consumers in general.
	+ Ryan White mental health consumers have similar viral suppression rates compared to the average Ryan White consumer.
	+ Mental Health clients are less likely to be stably housed compared to the average Ryan White consumer.
1. **Panel discussion: Disparities and mental health services for people living with HIV**
* Continued conversation and planning for the panel discussion on disparities in mental health services for people living with HIV.
	+ The panel will take place in-person on May 18th at Health Services Building. The committee decided to make a call-in option available for attendees from outside the TGA.
	+ The Aliveness Project and Hennepin Healthcare have agreed to attend in person.
	+ Audra is waiting to hear back from Sub-Saharan African Youth and Family Services Minnesota (SAYFSM) if they would like to attend.
	+ Oceane will reach out to a mental health provider through YAP again to see if they would like to participate, as well as reaching out to Rural AIDS Action Network (RAAN) to see if they will participate.
	+ Additional organizations the committee would like to invite if the above organizations decline include La Clinica/Minnesota Community Care, Rainbow Health, Catalyst Mental Health, Somali Community Resettlement Services. Audra will reach out to Minnesota Community Care first if she doesn’t hear back from other organizations they have invited.
	+ Sarah Schiele and Alejandro Aguilera volunteered to work on developing the script. Audra will reach out to volunteers to schedule a time to write the script. A draft script will be ready for DEC to review in the March committee meeting.
1. **New business / Unfinished Business**
* Hannah Kass-Aten asked for feedback on data they wish they could see more of from MDH.
	+ There were no suggestions during the meeting but this topic will add to agenda for future meetings to discuss.

1. **Set agenda for next meeting**
* Hannah Kass-Aten will ask for feedback on MDH data collection
* Co-chair election
* Review the work plan for DEC for the upcoming year
* Review the script for the mental health provider panel
* Review the Council training needs
1. **Announcements**
* Megan Higdon stepped down from DEC and will be moving to a different committee. Per council bylaws, only one council members from an organization may serve on a committee, and DEC previously had two people from the Aliveness Project on DEC. Disparities Elimination Committee is now in adherence to the council bylaws.
1. **Adjourn**
* Sarah Schiele adjourned meeting at 11:23am.

**Meeting Summary:**

* Brenda Senyana and Océane Lune presented accomplishments from the last Part A Capacity Building Grant.
* Cody Raasch presented findings from the mental health data in the 2020 HIV Needs Assessment and Careware.
* The committee continued planning for the mental health provider panel discussion.

**Documents distributed before the meeting:**

* Proposed agenda for February 16, 2023, meeting
* January 19, 2023, DEC minutes

**Documents displayed during the meeting:**

* Building Capacity for HIV Elimination in the Minneapolis – Saint Paul Part A Transitional Grant Area presentation
* Mental Health – Data from 2020 HIV Needs Assessment and CareWare
* Ryan White System of Care list
* FY 2022 DEC Workplan

**EM/ag**