

**Disparities Elimination Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 20, 2023**  
**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	
Sarah Schiele (co-chair)	James Velek
Nikki LeClaire	Gage Urvina
Alejandro Aguilera	Calvin Hillary Hylton
Jay Orne (co-chair)	Tristan Sparks
<b>Committee Members Absent:</b>	
Océane Lune	
<b>Guests:</b>	
Dennis Anderson	Thomas Blissett, DHS
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	
Eriika Etshokin	Amy Miller
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	
None	Hannah Giles (MDH – Epi)
<b>MDH (Surveillance) Representative:</b>	
<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>	
Audra Gaikowski, coordinator	Jeremy Stadelman, admin specialist (minutes)

Quorum Present? Yes

**I. Welcome and introductions**

- Sarah Schiele called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Introductions were made.

**II. Review, approval of minutes from June 15 meeting and proposed agenda**

- The minutes from the June 15 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- The agenda for the meeting was approved as written.

**III. FY 2022 Part A MAI Carryover proposal**

*Eriika Etshokin, Hennepin County*

- Eriika presented a PowerPoint titled, **Part A Ryan White MAI Allocation Funding**.
  - The principal goals of the MAI funds are to reduce new HIV infections, improve HIV-related health outcomes, and reduce HIV-related health disparities for racial and ethnic minorities.
  - In FY 2022, Part A contracted with three agencies to provide comprehensive medical case management to Black/African American, Black African-born, American Indians/Alaskan Native and Latinx communities.
    - Part A MAI also funded Outpatient ambulatory health services.
  - In FY 2022, 361 Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native people living with HIV were served through the PART A MAI Program.
    - Those served through the PART A MAI Program were more likely to be virally suppressed than those who were not.
      - The American Indian data is not shared because of the community's low incidence rate and issues with protecting anonymity. Members wondered if there is a way to ascertain more information.

- Do any tribal governments receive funding for their own HIV funding programming?
  - Ryan White funds do not go to Tribal governments.
- Ryan White Part A proposes to allocate the FY2022 unspent MAI funds to culturally responsive medical case management (MCM) in FY 2023 to provide culturally responsive core medical services to the growing number of Black/African American and African-born immigrants, Hispanics, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives living with HIV in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Transitional Grant Area (MSP-TGA). HCRWP asks that the council approve this allocation for the FY2022 carryover request.

- FY2022 Part A MAI Carryover (into FY 2023) Proposal:

<b>HRSA Service Category</b>	<b>FY2023 Post-Award</b>	<b>FY2022 Carryover</b>	<b>Total FY 2023 Service</b>
Medical Case Management (MAI)	\$243,546	\$14,400	\$257,946
Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services (MAI)	\$104,400	\$0	\$104,400

#### IV. FY 2024 Part A MAI Allocation proposal

*Eriika Etshokin, Hennepin County*

- Assumes flat funding.
- Hennepin County's Ryan White Program proposes to allocate the FY2024 MAI funds to medical case management (MCM) and outpatient ambulatory health services (OAHS) to provide culturally responsive core medical services to the growing number of Black/African American and African-born immigrants, Hispanics, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives living with HIV in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Transitional Grant Area (MSP-TGA), and asks that the Disparities Elimination Committee forward the following MAI allocations to the council for inclusion in the council's overall FY2024 allocations plan.

- FY2024 Part A MAI Allocations Proposal:

<b>HRSA Service Category</b>	<b>FY 2023 Pre-Award</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>Change</b>
Medical Case Management	\$243,546	\$257,946	\$14,400
Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services	\$104,400	\$90,000	(\$14,400)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$347,946</b>	<b>\$347,946</b>	<b>\$0</b>

- **MOTION:** Tristian Sparks moved that the Part A FY2022 MAI carryover and Part A FY2024 MAI allocations proposals be accepted as presented. Alejandro Aguilera seconded.
- **DISCUSSION:**
  - Undocumented immigrants can receive this funding, so it is a critical piece to the community.
  - Those with a conflict of interest left the meeting.
- **DEBATE:** None.
- **VOTE:**
  - Alejandro: aye
  - Tristian: aye

- James: aye
  - With 3 ayes and 0 noes, the motion passes.

## V. Mental health forum notes presentation

*Jay Orne, PhD, and Sarah Schiele, DEC Co-chairs*

- Jay presented a PowerPoint titled, **Forum Notes Breakdown** (sent to the committee on July 20, 2023).
  - Areas of potential directives:
    - Availability of services
      - Limited capacity of therapists
      - Lack of funding sources
    - Appropriate services for target populations
      - Lack of providers trained in HIV care
        - A potential directive could be that Ryan White providers must be trained on providing care to people living with HIV.
      - Culture & mental health
        - One area to explore might be increasing the ability of expanding peer support models in cultural groups that are experiencing disparities in accessing mental health services.
      - Unhoused as a target population
        - The standards could be more flexible for those who are unhoused (i.e. not kicking someone out of a program after missing an appointment).
      - Reflectiveness of providers for BIPOC clients
        - Potential directive: reflectiveness should match in the providers and clients being served. This could be added to the service standards.
        - Is there is a role for peer support in this?
          - Yes, it's a low barrier way to lift people up in professional roles.
        - Are there opportunities in the allocation process to provide additional funding for mental health to hire more mental health professionals?
      - Services for transgender populations
        - Telehealth services for mental health care
        - Peer support models
      - Harm reductions
        - Flexibility around appointments
      - Systems change and safe spaces
        - Peer services can act as a bridge until someone can enter into one-on-one support.
        - Think about how social support can help with isolation and loneliness, especially in more rural areas.
          - Internet and transportation access are also issues in rural areas.
        - Social support groups with an individual intervention component has been beneficial for POC (HERR Day Out as an example). DHS has funded this in the past, but not currently.

- Patient education
  - How to better help clients understand the complexity of bureaucracy in Ryan White mental health programs.
    - Potential directive: All Ryan White providers must have a mental health navigator or provide training for MCMs on how to navigate the mental health resource system.
  - Overcoming barriers that reduce access
  - Testing of broader models

## VI. Meeting format

- **MOTION:** James Velek moved that future Disparities Elimination Committee meetings be held in a hybrid format. Nikki LeClaire seconded.
- **DEBATE:**
  - Sarah reminded the committee that previously, when DEC has been hybrid, members did not show up in person. Should there be an in-person meeting RSVP?
    - Audra suggested that if there are no RSVPs by noon on the day before meetings, the meeting will only be virtual.
  - Jay noted that there is typically better engagement in person.
  - Where to hold the meetings?
    - James and Sarah would prefer HSB.
- **AMENDMENT:** James Velek moved that future Disparities Elimination Committee meetings be held in a hybrid format, with the in-person option located at the Health Services Building (525 Portland AVE S, Minneapolis, MN 55415). Nikki LeClaire seconded.
- **DEBATE:** none
- **VOTE:**
  - With 5 ayes and 0 noes, the motion carries.

## VII. New business / Unfinished Business

- None

## VIII. Set agenda for August meeting

- Continue discussion around mental health forum

## IX. Announcements

- None

## X. Adjourn

- Sarah Schiele adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

### Documents shared before the meeting:

- 2023.07.20 DEC agenda
- 2023.06.15 DEC minutes
- FY2024 Part A MAI Allocations Proposal
- FY2023 Part A MAI Carryover Proposal

### Documents shared during the meeting:

- PowerPoint titled, Part A Ryan White MAI Allocation Funding
- PowerPoint titled, Forum Notes Breakdown
- FY2023 DEC workplan

**JS/ag**