

**Disparities Elimination Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 17, 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
Océane Lune	
<b>Guests:</b>	
Rashmi Acharya, Hennepin County	Thomas Blissett, DHS
Aubrey Hagen, Hennepin County	Carissa Weisdorf, Hennepin County
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	
Eriika Etshokin	<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b> Amy Miller
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	
McKinzie Woelfel	<b>MDH (Surveillance) Representative:</b> Hannah Giles (MDH – Epi)
<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 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

**II. Review, approval of minutes from July 20 meeting and proposed agenda**

- The minutes from the July 20 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- The agenda for the meeting was approved as written.

**III. Ryan White Enrollment Focus Groups Presentation**

*Rashmi Acharya, Hennepin County Public Health*

- Rashmi presented a PowerPoint titled, **Increasing Enrollment Project.**
  - Questions:
    - Regarding the individual who did not receive care while in incarcerated, were they in prison or jail?
      - They were in prison; they noted that there was a strong stigma and other inmates knew their status because they were singled out. Care was available, but the person did not want to access it.
    - In reference to sampling methods, how did you reach individuals who were not accessing Ryan White services? The focus group respondents seemed to overcome barriers.
      - Aubrey noted that they did not have anyone aged 18-24 to participate in the focus groups. There should be different recruitment methods to reach this group. Next steps would be to examine if there are more tailored recruitment options to reach younger people out of care, and others who are difficult to reach.

- Aubrey acknowledged that reaching certain groups was a limitation to this project.
  - Online advertisements were not very effective in bringing in participants.
    - Jay suggested that people may not know about Ryan White, so it might be a good strategy to not lead with it in advertising.
    - It might be interesting to dig deeper on how long participants have been receiving Ryan White care.
  - Tristian wondered if there are mental health crises lines targeting those with HIV?
    - [AIDSLine](#)
    - [COPE with Hennepin County](#)
  - Life insurance policies are difficult to access for those with HIV, so how can the council explore overcoming this barrier?
    - Stigma does exist in healthcare and insurance realms.
      - Policy level action would be needed, and the council may be limited in what it can do about this.
  - For those who make too much to qualify for Ryan White services, there may be gaps in case management which would limit the resources available to access case management activities like filling out paperwork and facilitating access to other services.

#### IV. 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:
    - Appropriate services for target populations
      - Access to mental health care services for older adults
    - Overcoming barriers that reduce access
      - Ryan White standards and systems
        - Funding of services
          - Ryan White as a payor of last resort may be a limitation.
        - FTE vs. unit costs
          - Ryan White funding is available but is often underused. Supply is being underutilized and we can't ask for more money as long as this remains true. How can we increase marketing of these available services?
            - Reimbursement rates don't seem high enough to hire more providers.
      - One-stop shop for services may help increase utilization (i.e. a place where individuals can receive primary care and mental health services in one location).
        - Allina as an example.
        - This format may also reduce stigma.
        - It may be worth exploring adding co-location of services in service standards.

- Provider capacity
  - It would be helpful to know the number of mental health providers that are available to Ryan White clients in Minnesota.
- Administrative burden
- Treatment plans
  - Diagnostic questions can be very invasive.
  - Mental health navigators can improve access and meet client needs.
  - Increase utilization of COPE and other programs that provide short term therapy solutions.
- Cost & billing
  - Example Directive: NYC Planning Council Integrated Model
    - Integrated mental health, substance use, and psychosocial support services in a behavioral health model.
      - Same day linkage, navigation and enhanced peer support are some of the evidence-based strategies shown to mitigate barriers to care, increase client engagement, and help improve behavioral health and other health-related outcomes.
        - Jay suggested that it might be a good idea to have someone from NYC speak with the committee about developing this directive.
          - Audra will reach out to NYC to see what might possible.
  - A potential activity for the committee would be to conduct a literature review of best practices.
  - The committee could have a two-track process by developing an integrated model while examining possible low-hanging fruit.

#### **V. New business / Unfinished Business**

- None

#### **VI. Set agenda for August meeting**

- Continue brainstorming for mental health directives (include NYC planning council if possible)
- ESCALATE training presentation
- Council recruitment needs, if needed
- FY23 MAI reallocations, if needed

#### **VII. Announcements**

- Part A is working on an update on data for Native American/Alaska Native populations.

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

- Sarah Schiele adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

#### **Documents shared before the meeting:**

- 2023.08.17 DEC agenda
- 2023.07.20 DEC minutes
- FY2023 DEC workplan

#### **Documents shared during the meeting:**

- PowerPoint titled, Increasing Enrollment Project
- PowerPoint titled, Forum Notes Breakdown

**JS/ag**