

Disparities Elimination Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Members Present:	
Nikki LeClaire	James Velek
Alejandro Aguilera	Sarah Schiele (co-chair)
Jay Orne (co-chair)	Gage Urvina
Tristian Sparks	Calvin Hillary Hylton
Committee Members Absent:	
Oceane Lune	
Guests:	
Stephen Jensen (Membership & Training)	Cody Raasch, Hennepin County
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Eriika Etshokin (minutes)	None
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	MDH (Surveillance) Representative:
McKinzie Woelfel	Hannah Giles (MDH – Epi)
MCHACP Staff:	
Jeremy Stadelman, Admin Specialist	

Quorum Present? Yes

I. Welcome and introductions

- Jay Orne called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

II. Review, approval of minutes from September 21 and October 25 meeting and proposed agenda

- The meeting minutes from the September 21st DEC meeting were reviewed and approved.
- The meeting minutes from the October 25th DEC, PAC, NA&E combined meeting were reviewed and approved with one change noted below.
 - Clarification was requested for underspending. Eriika clarified that subrecipient providers in several categories noted underspending based upon staffing turnover and/or delays in hiring.
- The agenda for today’s DEC meeting were reviewed and approved.

III. Data on Native American/Alaska Native population

- Cody Raasch presented a PowerPoint on **American Indian – Alaska Native Data** to provide more clarity on how data for this subpopulation is collected and reported.
 - Jay asked for clarification of this data compared to other presentations. Cody clarified that these are rounded percentages and that MDH may use different census data when presenting on the same subpopulation.
 - Tristian asked how this data was collected and Cody responded that prevalence data is pulled from MDH census data.
 - Cody clarified that “suppression” in this context refers to data that is withheld/not presented due to sample size and privacy concerns. This is unrelated to the often-discussed viral suppression.
 - James asked how Minnesota’s Native American population from reservations is reported; Hannah reported that this data found from case reports and labs and would include those

done at providers and labs on reservations. Hannah noted that there is sometimes missing data on race.

- Calvin noted the need to better understand data regarding the Native American community with the first obstacle to address being the prevention of inadvertent disclosure. Hannah noted the challenge of managing suppressed data using CDC guidance and statistical analysis with a sample of this size. One solution is to couple this subpopulation with another similar sized subpopulation for analysis. DEC is a great place to continue having this conversation and identifying ways to push back against some of the suppression rules that may limit what we know about the Native American/Alaska Native population.

IV. Council Reflectiveness Grid for Membership & Training

- Stephen presented the **Council Reflectiveness Grid** to gather DEC input for the devise used in Membership & Training to identify council vacancies based on race/ethnicity of members. Jeremy outlined that this is used within the M&T Committee to confirm that council membership makeup matches the demographics of the HIV epidemic in Minnesota.
 - DEC feedback to M&T is to move towards a two-part racial/ethnic identity question for new members to allow individuals to note their race and ethnicity both within the HRSA-defined categories and in their own identity/expression.
 - Stephen asked for feedback on language used to describe Latinx/Hispanic individuals. Alejandro noted that Hispanic is not as inclusive because it excludes non-Spanish speaking South/Central American individuals.

V. Housing Directive Update

Eriika Etshokin

- Eriika presented **Part A Housing Directive Update** to update DEC on the progress on the housing directive.
 - Jay asked what percentage of funding has been spent and Eriika clarified that they were at about 30% spent at the halfway period of the grant. They agreed to some of their funding to be reallocated at the midyear point of the grant. Jay requested that going forward, any funds allocated as a part of a directive should be spent on that directive without being available for reallocation through rapid reallocation. He notes that the funds should be going to housing people rather than to organizational staffing and that housing navigation was not in the spirit of how these funds were directed to be used.
 - Tristian asked what could be done to disallow funds to be used for administrative purposes and to be used only for client support.
 - Nikki asked if the organization was ready to establish supportive housing when they were awarded the funds.
 - Mickinzie clarified that staff was only hired in August under the contract that goes from May 2023 – February 2024.
 - Jay notes that when making future directives, it may be useful to hear directly from recipients.
 - Eriika notes rapid reallocation is a new process and that the recipient welcomes feedback on how best to make reallocation determinations and how to best report those determinations back to the Council.
 - Eriika noted that Hennepin County is continuing discussions with this provider to identify long term funding solutions to help them meet the spirit of the directive and offer long-term supportive housing to more PLWH (people living with HIV).

- Jay requests that this discussion come back to the committee on future agendas.

VI. NYC Presentation Debrief/Reflection

- Sarah requested committee feedback around the NYC Presentation noting the time and energy it took for that jurisdiction to make their directive.
 - Alejandro followed up to the NYC presenter to ask more questions about the directive process. He noted that it may be worth exploring getting locally elected officials involved in the conversation. He also mentions that this will take significant project management.
 - Jay calls for a short-term strategy of creating a directive around service models that recipients may explore, such as peer accompaniment. A long-term strategy may be to suggest to the Council to explore a long-term solution to work with the recipients to find ways of combining mental health services.
 - Jay notes that it would be good to have opportunities in the RFP scoring process to acknowledge the importance of relationships between agencies. He notes the potential to prioritize collaborative proposals between agencies.

VII. New business / Unfinished Business

- Calvin noted that there was a lack of conversation around youth during the MCHACP DHS Engagement Session on November 14. He is interested in having more conversations around age disparities in HIV/AIDS. Jay mentioned that there may be room in the upcoming year workplan to devote to this topic.

VIII. Set agenda for December meeting

- DEC will meet next on December 21, 9:30 -11:30am
 - Continue the discussion on the New York City Planning Council's mental health directive
 - Monitoring plan table follow up discussion
 - MDH HIV Transmission categories discussion

IX. Announcements

- None.

X. Adjourn

- Sarah Schiele adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Meeting Summary

- The committee received a presentation from Cody Raasch, the Data Analyst at the Hennepin County Ryan White Program about suppression of Native American/Alaska Native data.
- The committee received a presentation from Membership & Training to help determine the best way to reflect council member race/ethnicity going forward.
- The committee received an update on the Housing RFP Directive.

Documents shared before the meeting:

- 2023.11.16 DEC Agenda
- 2023.09.21 DEC Minutes
- 2023.10.25 DEC, PAC, NAE Minutes

- Part A Housing Directive Update 11.8.2023

Documents shared during the meeting:

- Council Reflectiveness Grid options
- American Indian – Alaska Native Data Powerpoint

EE/JS/ag