

**MN Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
Community Voices Committee Meeting (CVC)
(Remote Mtg.)
July 13, 2020
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Meeting Summary/Minutes

Committee Members Present:	
Destiny Holiday	Lesa Nelson
Belinda Charleston-Green	Jo Ann Vertetis
James McMurray	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Thuan Tran	Darin Rowles
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	
None	
MCHACP Staff:	
Richard Puella, Hennepin County (minutes)	Carissa Weisdorf Council coordinator

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Introductions were made, and the proposed agenda and minutes were approved by unanimous consent. Belinda Charleston-Green pointed out that she had sent an email to James McMurray and Destiny Holiday on two topics that she would like to discuss at today's meeting.

II. What's working and not working with Community Voices committee:

The Committee wanted to discuss the challenges, obstacles and successes of the Community Voices Committee (CVC). For those individuals who have been a part of the CVC in the past, what motivates them to return. Belinda Charleston-Green's motivation for attending CVC is she is a part of this community, and she wants to be heard, and doesn't want anyone making decisions for her. She expressed her frustration with these meetings as the same conversations are discussed repeatedly.

- Belinda feels that the CVC should be ahead of the Planning Council. This is important because it gives the people a chance to bring forth what they feel are needs or gaps in services. Rather than stakeholders making decisions for consumers. She mentioned that San Francisco's consumer committee are ahead of their planning council and the people make the decisions, and she doesn't understand why the consumers are not leading Minnesota's planning council.
- James McMurray acknowledged what Belinda was saying and asked her to help spread the word because James would like to see more people at these meetings. JoAnn Vertetis agreed with everything Belinda said, and felt the women are very important and are sometimes overlooked. Like Belinda, she feels that the CVC should be leading not led by the Council.

III. Expanding our membership:

How do we bring more people to the table? How can this be accomplished virtually? James asked what didn't work in the past and asked to discuss why it didn't work. It was suggested to share information from the CVC and extend the invitation within our own personal network. However, having said that, it was stated that is not the sole responsibility of the consumers to bring people to the table. Hennepin County is the largest stakeholder over the Ryan White Program and Hennepin County has the responsibility for spreading the word also.

- Concerns on how to reach consumers who do not go to the clinics and live in the shadows of HIV because of the stigma associated with HIV were raised. Belinda reiterated that the stakeholders should be the ones responsible for getting that information out to the community.
- Jo Ann Vertetis suggested placing flyers for upcoming CVC meetings in food bags. She also thought that posting flyers for CVC on an agency's Facebook page would also help spread the word. In addition, having a guest speaker attend some CVC meetings might also help draw in more people. She mentioned that in the past when meetings were in person, a big draw for people was the food. Belinda agreed with JoAnn and mentioned the mileage reimbursement was a big motivational driver, but since all meetings are online those incentives are no longer there. It was brought up that the All God's Children's Pastor DeWayne Davis would be a good candidate for a guest speaker.
- James mentioned a website called "Target HIV, Tools for HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program." This site includes a webinar called Elevating Consumer Voices. The site mentioned that all the planning bodies have consumer members, and how community voices lead the rest of the groups. There are webinars to help build consumer leadership skills and best practices are found on the site. James would like to present these trainings to the CVC. Carissa mentioned that information can be accessed on the Council's website on the Community Voices Committee page. She noted that there are lots of useful trainings that the CVC can utilize to help elevate their voice.
- Carissa encouraged the committee to use the existing resources that are available, such as webinars that can be found on the Council's website. She referred to the technical assistance that was provided by HRSA two year ago that could be useful; and the actionable tasks that were provided to this committee and other council committees. Having a training component at some of the meetings can be helpful as well, and this was one of the actionable items. At a meeting last year, we had a nutritionist come and provide information about nutrition and living with HIV. A presentation on PrEP and housing has also been given in the past and those topics seemed to include a lot of conversation because it seemed relevant to people.
- JoAnn suggested that the committee send a personal email reaching out to those who have attended CVC in the past. She suggested adding a personal touch by saying, "we missed you at the last meeting and we would like to see you at the next meeting", etc.
- Thuan Tran suggested reaching out to participants who only attended one meeting and ask them, what brought them to the first meeting, and why they haven't returned. He mentioned that a strong motivator for volunteers in any organization is the feeling of contribution and that their time is worth it. It was suggested to ask the current Council members why they don't participate in the CVC. Belinda echoed Thuan's idea on asking why those on the Council do not participate on CVC so they can help lead those who attend CVC.
- Destiny Holiday agreed with JoAnn's suggestion in reaching out to with a personal touch to past attendees as well as Council members, but she feels that is the responsibility of Council staff, not the CVC co-chairs. JoAnn felt that a message from a staff person would be good, but a message from a co-chair would be better. James McMurray said he would be more than happy to reach out.
- Belinda asked if it would be possible to send a gift card for a fast-food restaurant to draw more people to attend. She suggested to include a RSVP in the email so staff can send out gift cards ahead of time.
- On behalf of Hennepin County Thuan Tran said he would follow up to see if that was possible. Darin Rowles also stated he would need to follow up to see if that was possible, and he committed to investigating that and have an answer by the next meeting.
- Destiny Holiday informed the committee that the city she resides in has allowed gatherings of 50 people or less as long as attendees comply with social distancing rules and wear masks. She asked staff if there was a reason why the CVC couldn't meet in person so long as they comply with the same rules. Carissa

informed the committee that the guidance from Hennepin County prohibits any in person meetings for the remainder of 2020. Darin Rowles agreed.

IV. How do we get more people enrolled in Ryan White HIV/AIDS Services:

Concern on how to reach communities experiencing disparities, and how to get those people enrolled in services was raised. Looking at what other cities like Atlanta and San Francisco have done can help our committee reach more members of the community.

- Carissa mentioned that this topic is relevant to the Council's work, and the Council developed a goal a two years ago to increase the number of people who are receiving Ryan White services from 50% to 60%. Any tangible ideas that the committee can come up with can be brought back to the Council or the Planning & Allocations Committee.
- Darin Rowles mentioned that improving access and reducing barriers to the Ryan White Program is a key goal that government entities focus on, and if there are any new ideas that this committee has will help further inform the conversations that are already happening.

V. Set Agenda for Nest Meeting:

- The committee felt having a guest speaker come to a future CVC meeting would be worth trying. James McMurray said he would try and reach out to All God's Children's Pastor DeWayne Davis.
- Discussion on "elevating consumer voices" webinar; the committee decided to view it on their own time and come with to the meeting with their reactions and ideas.
- Create an evaluation for CVC.

VI. Open Forum: There were no discussion.

VII. Announcements and Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Documents Distributed for the Meeting:

- 2020.07.13 CVC agenda
- 2020 CVC meetings flyer
- 2020.06.08 CVC minutes

RP/cw