

MN Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
October 13, 2020 9am – 11am
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Summary/Minutes

Council Members Present:	
Dennis Anderson	Tom Kennedy
Andrew Bauman	James McMurray
Thu Danh	Larry McPherson (Council Co-Chair)
Charlotte Detournay	Nafula Namuninia
Alissa Fountain	Asneth Omare
Alfredo Rincon-Gonzales	Jessie Saavedra
Cree Gordon (Council Co-Chair)	Jeremy Stadelman
Stephen Jensen	McKinzie Woelfel (Council Co-Chair)
Teresa Jones	Jo Ann Vertetis
Council Members Absent:	
Raymel Givens	Austin Phillips
Javier Andrews-Mendoza	Sarah Schiele
Community Members/Guests/Consultants:	
Johan Baumeister	Mary McCarthy
Jared Shenk	Alex Palacios
Audra Gaikowski	Darin Rowles
Anika Kaleewoun	Rachel Heule
Jacob Melson	Bill Tiedemann
Jill Moody	Tyrie Stanley
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Thuan Tran	Collen Bjerke
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	MCHACP Parliamentarian:
Peggy Darrett- Brewer	Pat Reymann, PRP
MCHACP Staff:	
Carissa Weisdorf, Council Coordinator	Richard Puella (minutes)

- I. **Call to order and Introductions, Read Guiding Principles and Agenda and August minutes approval:**
 Cree Gordon called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Introductions were made, and the guiding principles were read. Carissa Weisdorf noted a change to the proposed agenda. Part B will provide their update first followed by Part A. With that, the agenda along with the September minutes were approved.

- II. **Committee Reports (also provided in written format)**
 - A. **Executive and Co-Chair Update:**
 Larry McPherson announced the results of the Part A Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism.
 - 22 of 24 council members completed the assessment.
 - The results were reported in the Part A grant application.
 - For each objective, 20 of 22 council members agreed that objectives were met.
 - No corrective actions were identified by the council.

 - B. **Community Voices:**

James McMurray provided the update on behalf of the Community Voices Committee (CVC), and presented an action item to the council.

- **Action item:** Community Voices Committee co-chair election: Andrew Bauman meets the eligibility requirements as defined in the bylaws and has been nominated to serve as co-chair by the Community Voices Committee, forwarded to the council by the Executive Committee, and has agreed to serve in that capacity, and as a member of the Executive Committee.
- **MOTION:** James McMurray moved that Andrew Bauman be elected to serve as the co-chair of the Community Voices Committee. No debate or discussion followed. Carissa Weisdorf distributed a ballot to the council via Survey Monkey.
- **VOTE:** 16 (yes) 1 (no). The motion carries, and Andrew Bauman is now the new co-chair of the CVC.

C. **Disparities Elimination:** No updated provided. (Did not meet)

D. **Planning and Allocations:** No update provided. (Did not meet)

E. **Membership and Training:**

Carissa Weisdorf provided a summary report on behalf of the Membership & Training Committee.

- M&T reviewed new applications, council vacancies, and selected applicants to interview. Current vacancies include people from greater Minnesota (outside of the 13-county TGA), a representative of the State Medicaid office, a representative of or a formerly incarcerated person, and a member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe.
- Discussed interviews.
- Provided input into the council Facebook page.

F. **F. Needs Assessment and Evaluation:**

Aaron Peterson provided an update on the 2020 HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Needs Assessment. Overall, the data collection process is going well. The needs assessment team has collected over 700 responses and efforts are still ongoing to ensure greater Minnesota is represented. Significant progress has been made over the past few weeks, but challenges remain with obtaining responses from Hispanics and African-born individuals.

III. **Council Staff update:**

Carissa Weisdorf informed the council that the Membership & Training Committee reviewed the council Facebook page and they encourage all members to like and share posts to help promote the council's work. She also noted that information about all upcoming council and committee meetings are posted on the Facebook page.

Carissa mentioned that Tom Kelly Jr. will be relocating to a different state and has resigned from the council.

Richard Puella announced that each committee's minutes have been posted on the council website from May 2020 and will continue to do so moving forward.

IV. **Part B ADAP update:**

Rachel Heule presented on the, "*Minnesota AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)*", and provided a brief overview and background of ADAP.

- A question was raised about the provider “boot camp” and if that has already happened. Rachel noted that the camp will be on October 27, from 1:00-4:00pm. She mentioned that anyone who is interested in attending can email her at rachel.heule@state.mn.us and she will follow up.

V. Part A housing update:

Aaron Peterson provided an update on, “*Housing and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program,*” and Ryan White clients. He pointed out that the data for this presentation was obtained from the following data sources:

- CAREWare: the Ryan White services client level data reporting system.
- eHARS: Enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System, which is statewide HIV surveillance data.
- EvaluationWeb: database of publicly funded HIV tests.

Tyrie Stanley asked if any client has ever been removed from the transitional housing program once the 2-year time frame has passed.

- Asneth Omare indicated that the federal Ryan White legislation defines the housing service area as short-term and transitional, and, staff at JustUs Health work closely with clients from day one to identify long term housing options.

VI. Civic engagement presentation:

Alex Palacios presented, “*Hennepin County Elections,*” and noted that the presentation was put together in collaboration with Hennepin County Elections and the Aliveness Project.

VII. Recipient Updates:

- **Part B:** Colleen Bjerke provided an update on staff changes and job openings at the Department of Human Services (DHS). The HIV and benefits eligibility unit has a supervisor position that is open. The job posting closes on Thursday. She also noted that the customer care position has been filled. Once the new candidate has completed DHS’s onboarding process, DHS will make an announcement to the community at large.
- Darin Rowles discussed the proposed changes to the HIV medication class formulary for Medicaid. At the October 1, 2020 Medicaid Drug Formulary Committee (DFC) meeting, the DFC unanimously approved a proposal from the healthcare administration at DHS. If adopted, this proposal will move the HIV medication class to the preferred drug list management. With implementation of a preferred drug list, prescriptions for medications on the non-preferred list would require approval before Medicaid or any other Minnesota healthcare program would pay for the prescription. The medications that would be placed on the non-preferred list are Descovy, Dovato, Juluca, Rukobia and Trogarzo. Currently, the HIV Supports section at DHS has engaged internally to collaboratively work with the healthcare administration to support formulary management processes for HIV medication that do not create barriers to medication access.
- JoAnn Vertetis asked what is the prior authorization process. Darin noted that DHS is still investigating the specifics of what the prior authorization criteria would be. Rachel Heule noted the importance of training providers on how to properly process prior authorizations so medications can be prescribed as quickly as possible.
- **Part A:** Thuan Tran provided the Part A update on behalf of Jonathan Hanft. He reported that the FY 2021 Part A grant application was successfully submitted. The requested ceiling amount was \$6.1

million. The carryover request was approved by Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) in the amount of \$15,557. Of that, \$4,746 of MAI funding went to outpatient ambulatory health services (OAHS), and \$10,811.00 to foodbank/home delivered meals.

- Thuan also presented what the Hennepin County Ryan White Part A position is with regards to the proposal from the Drug Formulary Committee. Hennepin County Ryan White Program has concerns that this proposed decision will restrict patient access to life saving medication by requiring preauthorization of prescriptions, which may cause unnecessary delays and a patient can run out of medication while waiting. Additionally, slow advancement of patients along the HIV care continuum by causing delays in patient initiation of antiretroviral therapy, can delay achieving viral suppression. An increase in forward transmission of HIV infection by delaying viral suppression, increased HIV health disparities, including lower viral suppression rates among African Americans who already face multiple barriers to healthcare access, increased healthcare cost from delayed treatment, increased provider administrative burden and uncompensated cost by increasing HIV medical provider and pharmacy staff cost and hinder public health progress in achieving the statewide strategy End HIV MN and Positively Hennepin's goal to end the HIV epidemic.

VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business:

Cree Gordon announced the results of the CVC co-chair election.

Vote: 16 (yes) 1 (no). The motion passes, and Andrew Bauman is now the new co-chair of the CVC.

IX. Open Forum: Alex Palacios discussed some of the work that has been done in the HIV community regarding the proposal from the Drug Formulary Committee. He wanted to thank everyone who has made phone calls, shown up to rallies, and helped draft statements. They encourage everyone to continue to write, call and email the office of the commissioner urging that office to say no to these proposals.

X. Announcements: Carissa noted the presentations were too large to send by email to some recipients so she asked anyone who would like copies of the presentation to email her at Carissa.weisdorf@hennepin.us.

XI. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:50am

Meeting Summary

- The council received updates from each standing committee, recipients, and council staff.
- Rachel Heule presented on, "*Minnesota AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)*".
- Aaron Peterson provided an update on, "*Housing and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program*".
- The CVC co-chair election action item was approved by the council.

Documents Distributed before the Meeting:

- 2020.10.13 MCHACP Agenda
- 2020.09.08 MCHACP Minutes
- October 13 Committee Report Summaries
- FY 2019 AAM Results
- 2020.10.13 action item_CVC_co-chair election

Documents Distributed after the Meeting:

- **COVID-19 Safer Voting presentation**

- **MN ADAP presentation**
- **MSP-TGA housing presentation**

RP/cw