

# Disparities Elimination Committee

October 15, 2020

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Remote meeting

## Meeting Summary/Minutes

<b>Disparities Elimination Committee Members Present</b>	
Dennis Anderson (Co-chair)	Megan Mueller (Co-chair)
Charlotte Detournay	Nafula Namuninia
Raymel Givens	Fred Ndip
Teresa Jones	Tyrie Stanley
<b>Committee Members Absent:</b>	
Cree Gordon	Alfredo Rincon-Gonzalez
Tom Kennedy	
<b>Guests and Community Members:</b>	
Jacob Melson (DHS)	
Aaron Peterson (Hennepin County)	
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	
Thuan Tran	<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b>
	Fred Ndip
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representatives:</b>	
Jared Shenk	<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>
	Richard Puella (Minutes)
	Carissa Weisdorf, Council Coordinator

Quorum Present? Yes

- I. **Welcome and introductions** Megan Mueller called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and introductions were made.
- II. **Review, approval of minutes from August 20 meeting and proposed agenda:** After review of the August minutes, Carissa Weisdorf noted that Fred Ndip was not listed as one of the committee members. With that, the proposed agenda and past meeting minutes were approved.
- III. **Review Goal 3 data on integrated plan monitoring table:** Carissa Weisdorf provided a brief review of the development and monitoring of the council's integrated plan. She noted that the Disparities Elimination Committee (DEC) reviews goal 3 because it focuses on the reduction of HIV related disparities and health inequities. Each goal includes objectives, strategies, and activities and we review our progress towards meeting our goals annually.
  - Jared Shenk from Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) presented data points from goal 1 and goal 2, on the "Monitoring Plan Reporting Table." He pointed out that some data is not available today because MDH's epidemiology team has been reassigned to COVID-19 related work.
  - Aaron Peterson from Hennepin County (HC) and Jake Melson for the Department of Human Services (DHS) presented data on goals 2.2-3.1 on the "Monitoring Plan Reporting Table." Jake encouraged everyone to spend some time and review the data presented in the Monitoring Plan Reporting Table and look at the trends and think about why some sub-populations are more likely to be retained in care or virally suppressed.
  - Carissa Weisdorf asked about 3.1b, an objective that the council added in 2018, to increase people with HIV in Minnesota accessing Ryan White (RW) services to 60%. Carissa noted that last year was

the first time enrollment had increased to 52% and asked if there was any indication why more people enrolled in RW services last year?

- Aaron mentioned that investigating this is on his to-do list and indicated a few possible reasons for the sudden jump. One being, having more people remaining in the Ryan White program than dropping out, or with additional rebate funding people are staying in the program longer.
- Megan Mueller asked if there are any noticeable trends emerging with 2020 data or if it is still too early to tell.
  - Jared Shenk spoke on this in terms of incidence (new cases) because MDH monitors new cases on a monthly basis to look for outbreaks that may be emerging. He noted the new diagnoses are down quite a bit, and this is the trend being reported among other states as well; it is most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This can be misleading with this type of monitoring plan because new numbers for 2020 in goal 1 could show that incidence has gone down, and the goal appears to have been met. However, what is likely happening is people are delaying diagnosis.
- Megan Mueller noted that so many people at MDH, and across the board, have been pulled from HIV surveillance work, and HIV work in general, in response to COVID-19, and asked if there would be any lasting effects to HIV work.
  - Jared Shenk noted that data requests will still be provided, however it may be delayed. Jared ensured that MDH will do its best to meet the needs and support HIV work.
- Carissa Weisdorf explained the next step is to review and update our Report on Goals 1 – 3 and said members can view the current report at <http://www.mnhivcouncil.org/planning--allocations.html>. She encouraged everyone to review it before the next meeting. Please bring any ideas or suggestions for meeting goals.

**IV. New Business/Unfinished business/goal setting:** No new business was discussed.

**V. Set agenda for next meeting:**

- Review data on Goal 3 of integrated plan and prepare a report for Planning and Allocations (PAC).

**VI. Announcements:** Dennis Anderson reminded everyone to get out and vote.

**VII. Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 10:35am

**Meeting Summary:**

- The committee reviewed goals 1-3 of the integrated plan monitoring table

**Documents Distributed for meeting**

- 2020.10.15 DEC Agenda
- 2020.08.16 DEC Minutes
- DEC workplan
- 2020.10.15 Monitoring Plan Reporting Table

RP/cw