

Disparities Elimination Committee

November 19, 2020

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Remote meeting

Meeting Summary/Minutes

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

Quorum Present? Yes

- I. **Welcome and introductions** Dennis Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and introductions were made.
- II. **Review, approval of minutes from October 15 meeting and proposed agenda:** After review, the October minutes and proposed agenda were unanimously approved.
- III. **Prepare report on status of Goal 3 of the integrated plan:** Carissa Weisdorf displayed goal 3 of the monitoring plan reporting table for the committee and explained the goal today is to review where we are not making progress on our goals and objectives and discuss ideas committee members have to address the gaps. New ideas will be added to the *“Report on Goals 1-3”* and will go to the Planning and Allocations Committee and then the council.
 - Dennis Anderson suggested town hall meetings with the community to help gather input on how to meet some of these goals.
 - Dennis asked for additional discussion on how to meet the goals and objectives that have not been met. There was no further discussion.
 - Carissa Weisdorf presented the *“Report on Goals 1-3”* to the committee and referenced Objective 3.2, “Increase number of PLWH in MN accessing Ryan White Services.” She asked if committee members have ideas on how to enroll more people in Ryan White services since we see a positive association with retention in care and viral suppression with people enrolled in Ryan White.
 - Aaron provided the most recent data on Ryan White enrollment, which was also presented at the last QMAC meeting. Aaron noted that in February 2020 the number of people enrolling in Ryan White services started to decline, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He recommended efforts for the remainder of 2020 and 2021 should focus

on maintaining folks in services, and how to best meet the needs of the community during these times.

- Megan Mueller pointed out that many healthcare services have shifted to telehealth, and access to a computer is important.

IV. New Business/Unfinished business/Goal setting: Thuan Tran mentioned that he is working on an application for a National Institute of Health (NIH) grant. The grant is research-based and focuses on disparities elimination. The application is due in March. Thuan mentioned the framework that he is working with is social justice theory. The research grant will focus on how to increase community participation and mentioned that participation could be better, not only in DEC, but other committees and subgroups as well. If the grant can be secured, he asked DEC to help with increasing participation around decision-making from communities most impacted by HIV.

- As Thuan completes the application he will keep DEC updated on the status.
- Aaron Peterson asked Dennis Anderson if he thought it would be easier or more difficult engaging with the community virtually at this time. He asked if Dennis or anyone on DEC had an idea on how to create a virtual environment where people will feel comfortable sharing their experiences.
 - Dennis noted that he has a BIPOC happy hour every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and is working with Twin Cities Pride to organize town halls for people of color to give feedback and opinions.
 - Aaron agreed to work with Dennis to come and present some of the data points to community members at those events. Dennis will follow up with Aaron after the meeting.

V. Set agenda for next meeting: The committee agreed to cancel December's meeting and reconvene in January.

- Items to be discussed in January
 1. Committee Co-Chair Succession Planning
 2. Update on the Part A capacity building grant activities and Positively Hennepin update.

VI. Announcements: No announcements were made.

VII. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Meeting Summary:

- The committee reviewed goals 1-3 of the integrated plan monitoring table and updated the report for the Planning and Allocations Committee.

Documents Distributed for meeting

- 2020.11.19 DEC Agenda
- 2020.10.15 DEC Minutes
- DEC workplan
- 2020.10.15 Monitoring Plan Reporting Table
- Report of Goals 1-3 for MCHACP

RP/cw