

MN Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
March 09, 2021 9am – 11am
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Summary/Minutes

Council Members Present:	
Johan Baumeister	Larry McPherson (Council Co-Chair)
Nyonbeor Boley	Amy Miller
Charlotte Detournay	Lesla Nelson
Alissa Fountain	Sue Purchase
Raymel Givens	Jessie Saavedra
Alfredo Rincon-Gonzales	Paul Skrbec
Cree Gordon (Council Co-Chair)	Tyrie Stanley
Teresa Jones	Antony Stately
James McMurray	JoAnn Vertetis
Council Members Absent:	
Andrew Bauman	Austin Phillips
Calvin H. Hylton	Sarah Schiele
Tom Kennedy	Jeremy Stadelman
Javier Andrews-Mendoza	McKinzie Woelfel (Council Co-Chair)
Nafula Namuninia	
Community Members/Guests/Consultants:	
Alejandro Aguilera	Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa
Anna Bosch	Mary McCarthy
Marion Green	Darin Rowles
Stephen Jensen	Zelda Tobias
Christine Jones	David Verhasselt
Sarah Krier	Bob Wickoren
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	
Jonathan Hanft	Colleen Bjerke
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	
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 February minutes approval:** Larry McPherson called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Introductions were made, and the guiding principles were read. After review, the agenda and February minutes were approved.
 - Johan Baumeister asked if a motion is required to add an item under new business.
 - Pat Reymann noted that adding items to new business does not require a motion.

- II. **Remarks by Commissioner Marion Green, Chair of Hennepin County Board of Commissioners**
 - The Council heard remarks from Commissioner Marion Green.

- III. **Remarks by Assistant Commissioner Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa, MN Department of Human Services**
 - The council heard remarks from Assistant Commissioner Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa.

IV. Remarks by Christine Jones, Section Manager, HIV/STD/TB, Minnesota Department of Health

- The council heard remarks from Christine Jones of the Minnesota Department of Health.

V. Recipient Updates:

- **Part A:** Jonathan Hanft reported on behalf of Part A.
 - The FY 2021 core medical services expenditure waiver was granted.
 - Integrated HIV prevention and care plan guidance is scheduled to be released by June 2021. The plan will then be due in December 2022.
 - Part A COVID CARES grant no-cost extension requested with an estimated unobligated balance of \$37,249.
 - Expenditures are still expected to come in from providers and it's possible the unobligated balance could be smaller.
 - Any remaining unobligated balance will be used to support foodbank home delivered meals to meet the needs of people with HIV who are experiencing food insecurity.
 - 3rd quarter Part A and B expenditure report:
 - Jonathan provided a walkthrough on how the expenditure report was structured.
 - Under normal circumstances, 75% of funds are expected to be spent by the third quarter for Part A and B combined.
 - Given this is an unusual year because of COVID, 71% of combined Part A and B funds have been spent through the 3rd quarter.
 - Expenditures are still expected to come in for the last quarter.
 - Outpatient ambulatory health services expect delays because those providers need to bill insurance companies before charging Ryan White as Ryan White is the payer of last resort.
 - Johan Baumeister asked why ADAP was not included.
 - Jonathan explained that rebate funds are not included, but ADAP funds are.
 - Johan asked where rebate funding comes from.
 - Colleen Bjerke explained that rebate comes from pharmaceutical companies when HIV medications are purchased.
 - Antony Stately mentioned that there is a state bill being introduced that will aim to eliminate copays for Medicaid and Medicare patients, and asked how this would affect the rebate structure.
 - Darin Rowles explained that the legislation is for both Medicaid and Minnesota Care. Based on initial analysis, DHS does not anticipate that any significant reduction in rebate funds.
- **Part B:** Colleen Bjerke reported on behalf of Part B.
 - CARES Act funding in the amount of \$197,000 and has been 100% spent.
 - Funds were used to pay for food vouchers and help individuals pay their phone bills, specifically cell phones, to ensure patients could keep in contact with their case managers and care providers.
 - The CARES Act funding is due to expire on March 31, 2021.

- She noted that although the CARES Act funding expires, the programs that it funded will not end and will be covered through other means.
- She noted that a lot of programs were underspent especially in the first quarter since everything was shutdown.
 - This was a result of patients making fewer visits to medical providers, and there was little travel by staff in terms of visiting clients.
- **Prevention:** Anna Bosch provided an update on the HIV outbreak and presented, *“HIV Outbreak Update, March 2021.”*
 - Currently there are 13 cases associated with the Duluth outbreak within a 30-mile radius of the Duluth area.
 - This included individuals who may be in treatment centers or experiencing homelessness.
 - Mary McCarthy asked about the metro area outbreak, and asked if some of this can be attributed to increased outreach in encampments or other patterns?
 - Anna noted that the work in the metro area has been focused on individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are unsheltered/unhoused.
 - Sue Purchase asked what testing sites exist in Duluth and the surrounding areas.
 - Anna mentioned that they are at the beginning phase of responding to this outbreak and are looking at ways to increase testing capacity in that area.
 - Currently Rural AIDS Action Network (RANN) and other social services are providing testing.
 - Antony Stately asked if the convergence of HIV and COVID infections is something that is being tracked
 - Jonathan mentioned that Hennepin County is tracking that data.
 - Antony mentioned that the governor is going to announce that vaccinations will “open up” for vulnerable populations beyond the elderly, and wanted to know how is the HIV community going to advocate for a coordinated response to ensure people who are living with HIV, get the vaccination.
 - Peggy suggested that folks sign up and register on the vaccine connector at <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/connector.jsp>
 - Antony Stately asked that the state give some information back to the community on how well the state and its partners are doing at identifying people who are living with long term HIV and the rate at which they’re getting vaccinated since both of these (HIV & COVID) diseases impact people of color and other disenfranchised communities at a higher rate.
 - Peggy noted that there is an email that folks can write to bring concerns around tracking data and would make sure Antony gets that information after her presentation.
 - Anna mentioned that if anyone has any questions she can be reached at Anna.r.bosch@state.mn.us.
- Peggy provided an update for prevention.

- In 2020 MDH Early Intervention Services (EIS) programs were awarded \$1,337,858 in COVID funding. MDH has spent \$811,212, roughly 66% of the award.
- In 2020 the HIV testing and syringe service programs was awarded \$1,779,157 in Federal and State funding. MDH has spent \$1,650,636, roughly 93% of the award.
- Some HIV programs were not able to perform HIV testing work due to the complications of learning to navigate the COVID-19 environment.
- The Partner Services program was award \$220,500 and the program spent 100% of that funding.
- The first quarter of 2021 Early Intervention Services (EIS) have now resumed testing at a reduced capacity.
- MDH is working closely with grantees to develop best practices around HIV testing, one of which is HIV home testing.
- There is a vaccine data page on the MDH website <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/whos-getting-vaccinated/vaccinated.jsp>
- Minnesota is currently in phase 1A tier 3, which includes home health aides, PCAs, dentists and others who provide direct patient care.
- All Minnesotans are encouraged to use the COVID-19 connector (<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/connector.jsp>), that will alert you when you are eligible to receive a vaccine; connect you to resources to schedule a vaccine appointment; and notify you if there are vaccine opportunities in your area.
- Jonathan Hanft mentioned that those performing in person testing in the field might fall under 1A and may be eligible for a vaccine and asked Peggy to investigate.
- Peggy agreed to investigate and get back to Jonathan.

VI. Committee reports (also provided in written format):

- **Executive Committee:**
 - **Action Item:** MCHACP Parliamentarian Election
 - **Motion:** Cree Gordon moved that Patricia (Pat) Reymann be elected to serve as council parliamentarian from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. No debate.
Vote: The motion carried unanimously.
 - **Action item:** Grievance Committee Election
 - **Motion:** Cree Gordon noted that the Executive Committee adopted a motion on the criteria of the grievance committee and noted that three council members, one of whom who is HIV positive shall be elected at this meeting to serve on the grievance committee. The term will be from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022.
 - Larry announced that the floor is open for nominations
 - Tyrie Stanley, JoAnn Vertetis, and Jessie Saavedra were nominated to serve on the grievance committee.
- Johan Baumeister mentioned that in terms of representation, there is only one person who identifies as female.

- Cree Cordon mentioned to keep in mind that the committee will appoint a sixth person for a specific grievance and that could be a time for someone to volunteer.
- Larry McPherson announced that Tyrie Stanley, JoAnn Vertetis, and Jessie Saavedra were elected by acclamation to the grievance committee.

- Community Voices
 - James McMurray reported that the CVC had a meeting on March 8, 2021.
 - Representation from each standing committee was in attendance and provided an update to the committee.
 - Carissa Weisdorf did a training on Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program service areas.
 - The committee held co-chair elections and reelected James McMurray and Andrew Bauman.
 - Two additional meetings have been added to the CVC.

- Disparities Elimination
 - No updates.

- Planning and Allocations:
 - **Action Item:** Annual review of service standards
 - **Motion:** Tyrie Stanley moved to accept the Planning and Allocations Committee recommendation and approve the 2020 service standard review and the service standards development schedule. No debate. **Vote:** the motion carried unanimously.

- Membership and Training
 - Tyrie Stanley asked council members that are interested in serving as mentors to let either himself, or council staff know.

- Needs Assessment and Evaluation
 - Lesa Nelson reported that the committee discussed the needs assessment survey and mentioned that Aaron Peterson and Jacob Melson are working on data clean up.
 - Training on the data dashboard is being planned for the council to take in the future.

VII. Council staff update:

- Carissa Weisdorf mentioned that there is a vacancy on the council and asked members to let her know if they fill it.
 - Someone who has been formerly incarcerated or someone who works directly with this population.
- Email standards were developed and outline elements and expectations of council email groups and the use of email for staff and members. This document will be sent to everyone after today's meeting.
- 90% participation was achieved with the Health HIV survey.
- New member orientation documents have been revised and are available on the council website under the Current Members tab.
- Richard Puella mentioned that the council contact sheet has been updated and is available upon request. It was provided to all new members.

VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business:

- Johan Baumeister wanted to discuss whether there's an accessibility issue with starting meetings at 9am and suggested starting meetings at 10am.
- Tyrie Stanley mentioned that the council has always started at 9am since its creation.
- Johan asked to table this discussion until next meeting.
- Tyrie noted that he can bring this up at Membership & Training since the M&T committee oversees council operation.

IX. Open Forum:

- Nothing was discussed

X. Announcements:

- Johan Baumeister mentioned that a special Positive Link session will be held on March 17, 2021 at 6:30pm regarding COVID-19.
- Johan will send the information to Carissa Weisdorf and she will forward to council members.

XI. Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourned at 11am

Meeting Summary

- The council heard the remarks of Commissioner Marion Green.
- The council heard the remarks by Assistant Commissioner Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa.
- The council heard the remarks of Christine Jones from the Minnesota Department of Health.
- The council received updates from each standing committee, recipients, and council staff.
- Anna Bosch provided an update on the HIV outbreak and presented, "*HIV Outbreak Update, March 2021*".
- The council elected Patricia (Pat) Reymann to serve as council parliamentarian from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.
- The council elected Tyrie Stanley, JoAnn Vertetis, and Jessie Saavedra to serve on the grievance committee.
- The council approved the 2020 service standard review and the services standards development schedule.

Documents Distributed before the Meeting:

- 2021.03.09 MCHACP Agenda
- 2020.02.09 MCHACP Minutes
- March Committee Report Summaries
- 2021.03.09 action item_ Parliamentarian election
- 2021.03.09 action item _ grievance committee
- 2021.03.09 action item _ annual review of service standards
- RW Standards Development Schedule 2020-2021