

Disparities Elimination Committee
Thursday, March 18, 2021
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Disparities Elimination Committee Members Present	
Dennis Anderson (Co-chair)	Megan Mueller (Co-chair)
Charlotte Detournay	Nafula Namuninia
Raymel Givens	Sarah Schiele
Cree Gordon	Tyrie Stanley
Committee Members Absent:	Guests:
Alfredo Rincon-Gonzalez	Mariah Wilberg
Tom Kennedy	Christine Jones
Teresa Jones	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Thuan Tran	Fred Ndip
MDH (Prevention) Representatives:	MCHACP Staff:
None	Richard Puella (minutes)
	Carissa Weisdorf, Council Coordinator

Quorum Present? Yes

I. Welcome and introductions

- Megan Mueller called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and introductions were made.

II. Review, approval of minutes from February 18 meeting and proposed agenda

- The proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

III. End HIV MN update:

- Mariah Wilberg provided an update and presented the, “*End HIV MN Disparities Elimination Committee.*”
 - Megan Mueller noted that the new approach to the RFP process is very innovative and asked what motivated the change to the process and was it difficult.
 - Mariah mentioned that the motivation came from community feedback by those who voiced their concerns.
 - Mariah posed a question to the committee. She noted that there has been lots of internal discussion around the use of the word Latinx vs Latino. She asked if the committee have any insight or ideas on which was best to use.
 - Cree Gordon commented that they did not feel like the term Latinx has been pushed on the community by “white allies,” and feels that the term is rooted in Latino communities, however, they feel that sometimes people tend to over intellectualize things especially for people with certain educational backgrounds.
 - Mariah mentioned that if there is any further dialogue on this topic the state is always interested in knowing what the preferred language is for the community.
 - Cree thanked Mariah for making herself available to everyone and praised her for all the work she is doing especially in making sure that consumer input are the voices steering the conversations on how to end HIV in Minnesota.

- Chryssie Jones mentioned that as the state's AIDS Director she is always available and if anyone ever needs her to please reach out.
- Megan Mueller asked to note that discussions regarding Latinx should be added to future DEC meetings and leaders from Latinx organizations should be invited to provide input.

IV. Fast Track Cities update:

- Sarah Schiele from the Minneapolis Health Department and Cree Gordon presented, *"Minneapolis Fast Track."*
 - Cree Gordon mentioned that since there isn't much funding, they suggested using storytelling sessions. For example, being stigmatized at the doctor and preexisting data could be used to develop training for providers.
 - Mariah expressed how excited she was to have been invited to the Fast Track meetings and looks forward to partnering with the city and discussing ways to align their awareness projects together.
 - Cree Gordon mentioned that there is a Fact Track Cities meeting this afternoon and all are welcome to attend.
 - Sarah Schiele will forward the invite to the committee.

V. HIV testing discussion:

- Cree Gordon and Megan Mueller facilitated a discussion about the pros and cons of target population testing.
- Cree provided an explanation on what target population testing is and noted that with targeted testing it can be challenging to identify parts of a community that haven't been tested, and can be limited in the amount of testing a program is allowed to do.
- Cree felt that it would be nice if testing was available for all programs that way anyone could drop in and take a test.
- Megan Mueller agreed with Cree and mentioned that there have been times at JustUs Health where targeted testing has held the program back and feels there is a lot of value in making sure certain communities get resources.
- Megan Mueller invited the committee to a Jamboard session on the pros and cons of HIV target population testing.
 - Chryssie Jones asked what the goal of this discussion will be because she understands the concerns, but MDH cannot do testing for all programs and must use targeted testing.
 - She mentioned that based on her 22 years of experience, without targeted testing, the populations that experienced the greatest disparities were not being tested.
 - She feels that success should not be measured by the number of tests that people do, but rather focus on testing those at the highest risk.
 - She noted that the state is always open to looking at the ways target populations are determined.
 - She noted that it is a federal mandate that targeted testing be performed and wanted to ensure the committee did set any expectations that MDH could not meet, but was more than happy to receive any feedback from the committee on how those target populations are determined.

HIV Target Population Testing	
Pros	Cons
Demonstrates a good use of resources	Doesn't identify the best way to reach populations
Populations are allocated funds, nobody misses out	Makes it difficult to build on the projects with community partners that aren't in target testing population
Meets federal requirements	Makes it difficult to "normalize" HIV testing
Populations experiencing the greatest disparities have access to testing	Can be perceived as stigmatizing
Is based on data	Testing the same people to meet quota
Can foster collaboration between organizations that have the same funding or can trade tests at an event	Adds administrative burden
	Creates new and difficult barriers that interfere with the way we need to be flexible to be able to truly serve said target population and folds in general
	Can prevent agency collaboration if 2 agencies have an opportunity to work together to reach the same populations
	We're not reducing the rate of new infections drastically, and our disparities are getting worse, so it might not be doing its job

VI. Committee co-chair election:

- Carissa Weisdorf facilitated the co-chair elections and shared the co-chair position description with the committee.
 - At least one co-chair who is a council member is needed since Dennis Anderson has termed off and both Dennis and Megan are community members.
 - Carissa noted the responsibilities and expectations of the co-chair position and then called for nominations.
 - Teresa Jones is still interested in running for co-chair.
 - Megan Mueller nominated herself for co-chair.
 - Tyrie Stanley nominated himself for co-chair.
 - Tyrie withdrew from the running.
 - Teresa Jones and Megan Mueller were elected by acclamation.

VII. Review FY 2021 work plan:

- The committee reviewed the workplan.

VIII. New Business/Unfinished Business/Goal Setting:

No new business was discussed.

IX. Set agenda for next meeting

- Review the Red Door focus group summary results
- FY 2021 post-award grant award adjustments for MAI

X. Announcements:

- Carissa Weisdorf asked the committee for help with recruitment and asked if they knew of anyone who could fill a vacancy to encourage them to fill out an application for the below vacancies.
 - A black or African American person living with HIV, but not affiliated with an agency.
 - An unaligned consumer who is trans or non-binary and not affiliated with an agency.
- Tyrie noted that he will not be able to attend next month's meeting.
- Carissa Weisdorf thanked Dennis Anderson for his time and service as co-chair.

XI. Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourned at 11:13am.

Meeting Summary:

- Mariah Wilberg provided an update and presented the, "*End HIV MN Disparities Elimination Committee.*"
- Sarah Schiele from the Minneapolis Health Department and Cree Gordon presented, "*Minneapolis Fast Track*"
- The committee discussed the pros and cons of targeted HIV testing.
- The committee held co-chair elections and elected Teresa Jones and Megan Mueller as the new committee co-chairs.

Documents distributed before the meeting:

- 2021.03.18 DEC agenda
- 2021.02.18 DEC minutes
- Disparities Elimination Committee Co-Chair Position Description
- FY 2021 DEC workplan

Additional documents displayed during the meeting:

- End HIV MN Disparities Elimination Committee
- Minneapolis Fast Track

RP/cw