

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention  
Community Voices Committee Meeting  
Monday, September 13, 2021  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Microsoft Teams Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	
Vernice Acevedo	James McMurray, Co-Chair
Calvin Hillary Hylton	Jo Ann Vertetis, Co-Chair
Stephen Jensen	
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>
Kelley Dillon, dietetic intern	Thuan Tran
Akello Alay	
Emily Ostrow, registered dietician	
<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b>	<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>
Thomas Blissett	None
<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>	
Richard Puella	Carissa Weisdorf (minutes)

**I. Welcome and introductions**

- Jo Ann Vertetis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and introductions were made.
- The proposed agenda was approved unanimously.
- The July 12 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. Open Forum**

- James McMurray introduced the purpose of open forum.
- Vernice Acevedo asked if a nutritionist has been hired at the Aliveness Project and James McMurray confirmed yes.
- Carissa Weisdorf said in working with the co-chairs to plan for today's meeting, we looked into having a presentation on COVID-19 and potential implications for people with HIV. For example, COVID-19 infections in people with HIV and the third dose of the vaccine.
  - The Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center (MATEC) is hosting a webinar called "COVID-19 Update: Additional Vaccine Doses and People with HIV" on September 28, 12 – 1 p.m.
  - Community Voices Committee members are invited to attend and can register on the MATEC website or contact a MATEC staff person for assistance.
  - Carissa Weisdorf posted the information in the chat and emailed it to those attending the meeting.
- The committee discussed getting the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Jo Ann Vertetis said personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical equipment is available free of charge from Rainbow Health.
- Jo Ann Vertetis asked Carissa Weisdorf to discuss the hard topic discussion at tomorrow's council meeting. Carissa said tomorrow there will be a focused conversation led by two council members on the topic of "Reaching Black people living with HIV who do not have complete access to services available".
  - All council and committee meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend council meetings or committee meetings.
  - Tomorrow's council meeting will also include a legislative update.

### **III. Connecting the work**

- The committee received a summary from each committee on recent and upcoming meetings and activities.
  - Executive Committee reviewed recommendations from a report from a HealthHIV assessment team on the effectiveness of our planning council on ending the HIV epidemic in our area.
    - Co-chairs were broken up into small group breakout rooms.
    - Some of the recommendations have already been implemented, like allowing time for people to get to know one another.
    - One idea discussed was creating a story about how decisions are made and then goes out into the community. For example, if an allocations decision is made at a council meeting, how does it affect community members.
    - Limiting use of acronyms.
    - Allowing more time to educate members on what each of the committees does.
  - Disparities Elimination Committee is providing input on prioritizing actions and tactics in the [END HIV MN](#) statewide strategy. They are also having a presentation on Thursday on COVID-19 and disparities in infection, vaccinations, as well as information on variants and breakthrough infections for people who are fully vaccinated.
  - Membership and Training Committee is interviewing applicants for council membership. The committee also created a policy and procedure document for membership selection which will be presented to the council for review.

### **IV. Set agendas for next meetings**

- The co-chairs would like to include an educational component at every CVC meeting and have a few ideas for future meetings. They want to know what people are interested in discussing to make sure the meetings are interesting and relevant to the community. Please send your ideas by email to [HIVCouncil@hennepin.us](mailto:HIVCouncil@hennepin.us) before the next meeting.
- James McMurray stated people are interested in gathering for the meeting in-person. If you choose to do this, Aliveness Project has the space. The meeting is

still a virtual meeting so this would be on your own to gather and mileage reimbursement is not available. Contact James McMurray if you are interested in doing this.

- This could possibly be done in conjunction with a support group for women Jo Ann Vertetis is interested in starting.

#### **V. Educational Component**

- James McMurray said there has been interest in nutrition and dieticians so Emily Ostrow, a dietician, and Kelley Dillon, a dietician intern studying at the University of Minnesota, were invited to attend today's meeting. Both are working at the Aliveness Project and available to see clients by appointment.
- Emily Ostrow and Kelley Dillon presented ***HIV and Nutrition***.

#### **VI. Community Voices Committee Engagement Survey Results**

- James McMurray reviewed ***2021 CVC engagement survey results*** with the committee.
- Jo Ann Vertetis questioned if there is any feedback about what we can change.
- The committee discussed their "peach" from the meeting (something that was positive) and were invited to share a "pit" as well, if they have something that is not so positive that they want to share.

#### **VII. New or Unfinished Business**

- None

#### **VIII. Announcements**

- Details for the COVID-19 webinar on September 28 were sent by email.
- Announcements to share with the group can be emailed to [HIVCouncil@hennepin.us](mailto:HIVCouncil@hennepin.us).

#### **IX. Adjourn**

- James McMurray adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

#### **Meeting summary:**

- Received a presentation about HIV and nutrition and were invited to ask questions to a registered dietician in attendance.
- Discussed the guidance for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and how to access free personal protective equipment and other health supplies.
- Discussed the results of the recent engagement survey of past and current members of Community Voices Committee.
- Heard updates from each standing committee of the Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention.

#### **Documents distributed for the meeting:**

- Proposed agenda

- July 12 meeting minutes
- 2021 CVC meetings flier
- 2021 CVC engagement survey results
- FY 2021 CVC work plan

**Documents displayed during the meeting:**

- HIV and Nutrition

**cw**