

Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
9 – 11 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present	
Nyonbeor Boley	Lesla Nelson
Charlotte Detournay	Jessie Saavedra
Cree Gordon (Council Co-Chair)	Sarah Schiele
Calvin Hillary Hylton	Paul Skrbec
Teresa Jones	Tyrie Stanley
Amy Miller	Jo Ann Vertetis
Nafula Namuninia	McKinzie Woelfel (Council Co-Chair)
Council Members Absent	
Johan Baumeister	Sue Purchase
Alissa Fountain	Jeremy Stadelman
Larry McPherson (Council Co-Chair)	
Community Members/Guests/Consultants:	
Stephen Jensen, Community Member	Aaron Peterson, Data Coordinator, Ryan White Program
Allison LaPointe, Manager, STD and HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, MDH	Emily Reimer, HIV Supports Data Analyst, DHS
James McMurray, Community Member	Kaade Wallace, Hennepin County Intergovernmental Relations
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Thuan Tran	Thomas Blissett
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	MCHACP Parliamentarian:
None	Pat Reymann, PRP
MCHACP Staff:	
Carissa Weisdorf (minutes)	

Quorum Present? **Yes**

I. Call to Order and Reading of Guiding Principles

- Cree Gordon called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and led the council in reading the Guiding Principles.

II. Welcome and Introductions

III. Consideration and Approval of Proposed Agenda

- The agenda was approved as printed.

IV. Consideration and Approval of September 14 Meeting Minutes

- The minutes were approved as printed.

V. HIV Care Continuum Update

- Allison LaPointe, manager of Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) STD and HIV Section Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit, presented ***HIV Care Continuum in Minnesota 2020***. She mentioned the care and prevention epidemiologist position for the department is currently vacant and is posted on the state jobs site. She said the council received a presentation on the 2019 HIV Care Continuum in April 2021; it was presented later than normal but now they are getting caught up so today's presentation is data reported to the health department in 2020.
- The HIV Care Continuum is on the MDH website at:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hiv/stats/carecontinuum>.

VI. Data Training: data and reports used in the planning process

- Aaron Peterson, data coordinator, presented ***Data and reports used in the planning process***. The slides are available on the council website at:
<http://www.mnhivcouncil.org/trainings>.
- This is part of a series of trainings on data from the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and Hennepin County Public Health and the presentation was created jointly. The intent is to review various data sources council members can use to make decisions in order to advance the health and wellbeing of people with HIV.

III. Recipient reports

Part A

- Thuan Tran provided the report on behalf of Part A (Hennepin County Ryan White Program). He said the three-year grant application was submitted to HRSA which is the first time it is not an annual grant application.
- There are now 81 cases of HIV associated in the metro area HIV outbreak and 21 in Duluth. 64 of those cases are in Hennepin County and 17 in Ramsey County. For the Duluth-area, 20 in St. Louis County and 1 in Lake County. As reported on the MDH website, the people who are at high risk in the current outbreaks include:
 - People who use injection drugs or share needles/works
 - People experiencing homelessness or unstable housing
 - Men who have sex with men (MSM)
 - People who exchange sex for income and other items they need

- Related to the outbreak, there is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) meeting in late October to provide technical assistance to recipients of HOPWA funding (Housing for People with HIV/AIDS).
- The council administrative specialist position is currently vacant; Richard Puella is no longer with Hennepin County. A temporary staff person will be hired until the position is filled.
- Aurin Roy has joined Hennepin County Ryan White Program for two years as a CDC Public Health Associate and they will be working on reducing HIV-related disparities.

Part B

- Thomas Blissett provided the report on behalf of Part B and ADAP (Minnesota Department of Human Services HIV Community Supports). He said open enrollment begins November 1 and ends on January 15. For clients to have a January 1 start date for insurance benefits, they will need to be enrolled through the marketplace by December 15. After that it will be a February 1 start date. There is an open enrollment bootcamp for case managers scheduled for October 27.
- Request for Proposals (RFP) for Part B Ryan White core medical and support services is set to be released this month. Currently funded agencies have been notified.
- HRSA's Notice of Funding Opportunity for continuation of non-competitive funding for Part B funds is due November 8 and they are in process to complete it.
- Staffing update: Gayle Caruso is retiring on December 7, 2021. Sharlonda Pierce is leaving the unit to take on a new position within the disability service division at DHS; October 26 is her last day. The process to fill these open positions is underway.

Prevention

- The next update is December 2021.

IV. Council staff report

- The link to the e-card for Larry McPherson was shared in the chat.
- Carissa Weisdorf reminded members to take the post-meeting evaluation after today's meeting. This was a recommendation from the HealthHIV assessment to ensure members are understanding the information that is presented. We also want to make sure members feel respected and heard during meetings. The link was shared in the chat at the end of the meeting and emailed following the meeting.

- Carissa Weisdorf informed the council that Javier Andrews-Mendoza had to be removed from the council by the Membership and Training Committee due to the attendance policy. The Membership and Training Committee tracks members' attendance at council and committee meetings and contacts members who are getting close to violating the attendance policy through a phone call and letter.

V. Results of Assessment of Administrative Mechanism

- Carissa Weisdorf presented **Results of Part A Assessment of Administrative Mechanism** and the complete document is posted on the council website at: <http://www.mnhivcouncil.org/documents>.

VI. Committee reports (also provided in written form)

- **Executive Committee and Co-chair Update**
 - Cree Gordon provided the report on behalf of the council co-chairs and referred to **Committee Report Summaries** for written reports from all of the committees. They added that some members participated in a focused conversation training to prepare to become hard topic facilitators. The co-chairs felt the training is relevant to all members, especially anyone who is interested in serving in a leadership role on the council. We have invited the trainer to attend our next meeting to briefly talk about the training and invite anyone who is interested to attend. We will schedule the training for January 2022.
- **Planning and Allocations**
 - No further update
- **Community Voices**
 - No further update
- **Disparities Elimination**
 - No further update
- **Membership & Training**
 - Carissa Weisdorf asked for all council members to review the current council vacancies and assist with recruitment. She noted some of these vacancies will be filled during the election next month.
 - To promote membership for the next fiscal year, information will go out soon to Part A and Part B funded agencies, prevention grantees, council email groups, the council Facebook page and END HIV MN listening sessions. Information was sent to the Hennepin County Commissioners to include in their monthly newsletters. We have printed materials for agencies and postcards and brochures were included in food bags for clients of Open Arms and Aliveness Project.

- Council members discussed additional recruitment and outreach strategies:
 - Radio and TV ads
 - Red Door and Northpoint have advertised on KMOJ
 - Materials displayed or distributed in waiting areas at funded agencies
 - Governor's list of vacancies
 - PSAs about what the council does and what we need
 - State includes council info in advertisements they do on bus ads or END HIV MN campaigns
 - END HIV MN meetings and events
 - Word of mouth: talk to people in our networks, invite them to committee or council meetings so they can be introduced to the work, like a buddy system. Have one-on-one conversations with individuals to talk about why you serve on the council.
 - Council members share recruitment messages. Put together short text that can be shared by email, text message, and social media.
 - Council has a brochure and business card
- **Needs Assessment & Evaluation**
 - No further update

VII. Legislative update

- Kaade Wallace from Hennepin County Intergovernmental Relations joined the meeting to provide an update on state and federal legislative policies and funding related to HIV and the community. Kaade said she is the health and human services lobbyist for the county and noted that Jonathan Hanft is a strong partner with Intergovernmental Relations when meeting with federal lobbyists and the state and he is a great advocate for HIV funding, the Ryan White Program, and is a strong voice in advocating to include Minnesota in the next round of federal Ending the HIV Epidemic funding.
- State update:
 - Representative Hornstein, Representative Dibble, and delegation members introduced legislation to ensure HIV medications are exempted from Minnesota Care and medical assistance co-pays.
 - There has been a lot of work to ensure, as much as possible, that HIV drugs are available to the people who need them and the Minnesota Department of Human Services does not put restrictions on HIV medications by putting them on the formulary drug list.
- Federal update:

- Trying to set up a meeting with a federal lobbyist and Senator Murphy's office to have Minnesota included in the next round of Ending the HIV Epidemic funding, especially considering Minnesota is currently experiencing two HIV outbreaks.
- Senator Tina Smith introduced a bill related to prescription drug pricing and affordability, especially for HIV drugs.
- California Representative Adam Schiff has introduced a bill related to blood donations and lifting restrictions on who can donate blood.
- To prepare for the 2022 session, Hennepin County hosts Hennepin Academy where state legislative leaders meet with a Hennepin County Health and Human Services policy expert to discuss key priorities for 2022 and what issues are happening. She said Jonathan Hanft is involved with that and suggests Jonathan or Kaade provide a summary to the council after it occurs.
- There are interdisciplinary conversations occurring with elected officials on the intersection of needle use and harm reduction, knowing that this can prevent new HIV infections.
- Issues related to HIV and prevention of HIV are often addressed by bringing up health insurance, and disparity reduction, and other issues that relate to HIV.
- Kaade Wallace said she is available to assist organizations who wish to partner on policies.

VIII. Unfinished Business / New Business

- The council continued the discussion on council member recruitment strategies, and additional notes were added to discussion under the Membership and Training Committee report.

IX. Open Forum

- Nothing discussed.

X. Announcements

- None

XI. Adjourn

- Cree Gordon adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Meeting Summary

- Received the annual HIV care continuum update.
- Participated in a data training on data and reports used in the planning process.

- Presented with the results of the FY20 assessment of the administrative mechanism for Part A.
- Heard a legislative update on state and federal legislation relevant to HIV and the community.
- Heard reports from each standing committee, council co-chairs, recipients, and council staff.

Documents distributed before the Meeting:

- Proposed agenda
- September 14 meeting minutes
- October Committee Report Summaries

Documents displayed during the meeting:

- HIV Care Continuum in Minnesota 2020
- Data and reports used in the planning process
- Results of Part A Assessment of Administrative Mechanism

CW