

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention  
Community Voices Committee Meeting  
Monday, November 8, 2021  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Microsoft Teams Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	
Megan Higdon	Taylor Scott
Stephen Jensen	Jo Ann Vertetis, co-chair
James McMurray, co-chair	Jessy Weiss
Lesa Nelson	
<b>Guests:</b>	
Aurin Roy (minutes)	Mariah Wilberg
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b>
Thuan Tran	Thomas Blissett
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>
None	Carissa Weisdorf

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- James McMurray called the meeting to order at 4:05pm and introductions were made.
- The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved unanimously.
- The September 13 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**II. Open Forum**

- James McMurray went over the END HIV MN update flyer with upcoming strategic meetings.
- Mariah Wilberg encouraged everyone to join one of the meetings and gave background on END HIV MN.
  - The meetings will help MDH/DHS figure out what to prioritize in the next two years with the END HIV MN strategy.
  - The beginning of each meeting will be spent reviewing END HIV MN updates, but the majority of the meetings will be spent listening to folks attending and getting their expertise and input.
  - There is no need to attend multiple meetings, but different meetings will emphasize different things, so Mariah recommended attending the meeting that most closely aligns with your expertise.
  - There will be some incentives for people not on work time to attend – either a \$25 or \$50 mailed incentive depending on how many people attend.
- James McMurray opened up space for community questions and concerns, and went over some examples of concerns (like dental care or accessibility).

- Stephen Jensen expressed happiness with his insurance.
  - Jo Ann Vertetis asked if this was through Medicare, and Stephen Jensen clarified that it was both Medicare and UCare through Program HH.
- James McMurray announced that the open enrollment period for Medicare is through December 7, 2021.
  - Jo Ann Vertetis asked about what types of plans will be available for open enrollment.
  - Thomas Blissett noted not knowing about what plans will be available, but said would pass a presentation to Carissa Weisdorf from the DHS “boot camp” extensively covering these plans.

### III. Connecting the Work

- James McMurray introduced the point of connecting the work.
- Carissa Weisdorf and James McMurray reviewed the **November 9 Committee Report Summaries** document.
  - The agenda for tomorrow’s (11/9/21) council meeting was reviewed.
  - James McMurray and Carissa Weisdorf gave the update on the Executive Committee. All the co-chairs, as well as council members, are encouraged to participate in an upcoming training session on designing a focused conversation.
  - Stephen Jensen gave the update on Membership and Training: two people were interviewed for council positions and there was a conversation about the attendance policy. There was also a slate put together of 5 names for voting tomorrow at the Council meeting. Membership and Training produced a document about their interview process. Accordingly, the **Council Membership Selection Criteria** document was displayed.
  - Lesa Nelson gave the update on Needs Assessment and Evaluation.

### IV. Community Input

- Carissa Weisdorf reviewed the **Report on Goals 1-3 for MCHACP**
  - HRSA and the CDC (the Council’s federal funders) require the creation of an Integrated Plan, and this year is the end of the previous 5-year plan. In the first Plan, the council had 4 goals around reducing infections, improving access and health outcomes, reducing disparities, and having a more integrated response from the government around HIV.
  - This report summarizes whether the goals from the Integrated Plan were met and additional ideas from the community on how we can impact the goals. Carissa Weisdorf displayed each sheet in the report for the committee to review.
  - Stephen Jensen asked whether the goals were met, and Carissa Weisdorf clarified that while many are not met, it is difficult to track

progress towards the goals through this document because of many nuances around funding. This document will be used as a guide for the next Integrated Plan (which will be created in the next year).

- There is a need to streamline all the strategies (END HIV MN, Positively Hennepin, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy) and make sure that they are aligned with each other in the next Integrated Plan.
- James McMurray asked about Objective 2.3. In response, Carissa Weisdorf linked [MCHACP - Planning & Allocations Committee - MCHACP \(mnhivcouncil.org\)](#) in the chat and reviewed how the data for viral suppression is calculated.
- The **2021.10.18 Monitoring Plan Reporting Table** was displayed and Goal 2 and Goal 3 measures were reviewed by Carissa Weisdorf.

## V. Planning for 2022 Meetings

- James McMurray reminded that there will be meetings on January 10 and on March 14. The point of these meetings is to engage as many people affected by HIV as possible (within MN and the two counties in WI – Pierce and St. Croix).
- James McMurray opened the floor for any feedback on how to make the meetings more engaging/what people from the community want from these meetings.
  - Stephen Jensen made a suggestion to have a meeting or presentation about dentistry and dental health care options. Jo Ann Vertetis seconded that this would be useful.
    - Thomas Blissett said that it may be possible to get somebody from Program HH/DHS to present about this in January. There was clarification from James McMurray that people may prefer a town hall type meeting, but Stephen Jensen and Jo Ann Vertetis said it might be helpful to have a quick (10 minute) presentation first so that people feel comfortable asking questions after that.
  - Jo Ann Vertetis said it may be helpful to have topics introduced in advance of the meetings in order to get more people engaged.
  - Jo Ann Vertetis mentioned that a gerontologist, Dr. Sheets, may be interested in coming to a committee meetings. Dr. Henry is retiring soon, so if the committee wants him to speak again, that should happen soon.
- Stephen Jensen shared that we should not repeat presentation topics that the Council will also cover. Dentistry is not something that the Council is currently planning on covering
- James McMurray offered that people could come to The Aliveness Project if they wanted to meet in person. The meeting is still a virtual meeting, so this is something people can do on their own. Contact James McMurray if interested.

- Carissa Weisdorf brought up that there will be a panel on HIV and aging at the Disparities Elimination Committee meeting on Thursday, November 18 at 9:30am (but this panel will happen closer to 10:45am). The agenda will go out this Friday, November 12. Both Hennepin Healthcare and Rainbow Health will present on this panel. If anyone is interested in this topic, they are welcome to attend the meeting.

## **VI. New or Unfinished Business**

- Stephen Jensen brought up potential issues with the attendance policy for Membership and Training. After 2 absences, people get a call and, after 3 absences, they are automatically removed.
  - James McMurray said that this was an agreement that was clarified during the interviews.
  - Jo Ann Vertetis shared that there should be contact after 1 meeting that someone misses in order to check-in on people. A heads-up before a meeting (a day before) may be helpful for some people as a reminder and could improve attendance. The goal is for the council to have the most robust participation possible.
  - James McMurray had a question about what other attendance policies are. Stephen Jensen clarified that these were reviewed and taken into consideration by Membership and Training.
  - James McMurray had a question about other responsibilities consumers may have that may prevent them from attending meetings. Stephen Jensen clarified that there needs to be further discussion about what other responsibilities are acceptable excuses.
  - James McMurray clarified that the current attendance policy may feel like being fired to some people.

## **VII. Announcements**

- The Aliveness Project has a PrEP clinic now, where people can drop-in.
- People are encouraged to join the council at [www.mnhivcouncil.org](http://www.mnhivcouncil.org)
- The committee will be providing gift cards for people who attended this meeting. There was a poll about who would like the cards mailed and who would like them electronically
- The flyers that were emailed were reviewed.
  - Tomorrow (11/9/21, 12pm-1pm): there is an input meeting on updates to service standards for Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals, Early Intervention Services, and Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services. This is the consumer input meeting (for people who receive services but are not employees of Ryan White agencies that receive Part A or Part B funds). There will be \$10 Target gift card incentive. Contact Carissa Weisdorf for more details.
  - There will be a public input meeting on 12/14/21 from 10:30-11:30am about the Part A grant application. Part A plans to apply for a waiver

for the core medical services expenditure requirement so that 75% of the grant does not have to be spent on core medical services. In the past, Hennepin County Part A has asked for a waiver because many people are able to access core medical services through other programs, so this allows for greater flexibility in terms of what services to fund instead. There will be a gift card incentive.

- There will be a Hard Topics discussion session at tomorrow's (11/9/21) council meeting about harm reduction. It is a 30 minute session.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

- James McMurray adjourned the meeting at 5:34pm.

### **Meeting summary:**

- There were updates about upcoming input meetings (see flyers and documents mentioned below).
- The November 9 Committee Report summaries were reviewed for presentation at tomorrow's Council meeting.
- The report on Goals 1-3 of the Integrated Plan was reviewed by the committee. Any questions on progress and monitoring were clarified by the corresponding Monitoring Plan document, which contains the relevant statistics.
- There was feedback on what people want to see for the upcoming committee meetings.
- There was discussion about potential ways to update the Membership and Training Committee's attendance policy to be more responsive and less punitive.

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

- Agenda for 11/8/21 CVC meeting
- Minutes for 9/13/21 CVC meeting
- Report on goals 1-3 for MCHACP
- END HIV MN update flyer with upcoming meetings
- RW 11/9/21 service standards consumer input meeting flyer
- 12/14/21 public input meeting flyer
- 2021-2022 CVC meetings flyer

### **Additional documents displayed during the meeting:**

- November 9 Committee Report Summaries document
- Council Membership Selection Criteria document
- 2021.10.18 Monitoring Plan Reporting Table

**AR/cw**