Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
Disparities Elimination Committee
Thursday, November 18, 2021
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:	
Charlotte Detournay	Megan Mueller (co-chair)
Cree Gordon	Sarah Schiele
Committee Members Absent:	
Nafula Namuninia	
Guests:	
Kevin Davis, Avita Pharmacy	James McMurray, Community Member
Megan Higdon, Council Member	Aurin Roy, HIV Disparities Elimination, Ryan White Program (minutes)
Allison LaPointe, HIV Surveillance, MDH	Brenda Senyana, Positively Hennepin, Ryan White Program
Maren Levad, Aging Advocate, Rainbow Health	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	**DHS (Part B) Representative:**
Aaron Peterson, Data Coordinator, Ryan White Program	Frederick Ndip
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	**MCHACP Staff:**
McKinzie Woelfel	Carissa Weisdorf

Quorum Present? **Yes**

I. **Welcome and introductions**
- Megan Mueller called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Introductions were made.

II. **Review and approval of past meeting minutes and proposed agenda**
- The October 21 minutes were approved as printed.
- The agenda was approved as printed.

III. **Positively Hennepin update**
- Brenda Senyana displayed and presented *Positively Hennepin Update | November 18, 2021*.
  - The housing milestone update for Goal B (slide 12/30) is specifically focused on people outside of the Ryan White Program, since 8/10 of Ryan White clients are stably housed.
  - The communities prioritized and partnered with for Goal C (slide 13/30) include men of color (especially African-born men and African American and Latino MSM), women of color (especially African-born and African American women), people experiencing homelessness, and people who use injection drugs.
  - A link to the updated Positively Hennepin Framework was provided in the chat by Brenda Senyana: Template-Reports-PublicHealth (hennepin.us)

- A link to the Positively Hennepin website was provided in the chat by Brenda Senyana: Positively Hennepin | Hennepin County
- Megan Higdon asked about data collection processes for Positively Hennepin. Aaron Peterson answered that there are two sources for the data: state-wide HIV surveillance data from MDH (lab results, diagnoses, etc.), which is then sent to local public health departments, and CAREWare, which is where the surveillance data is stored and reported. A diagram of the data collection process was provided in the chat by Carissa Weisdorf: PowerPoint Presentation (mnhivcouncil.org)
- Megan Higdon asked a follow-up question about whether there is data for Native American clients. Brenda Senyana answered that this data is only for select ethnicities and that MDH data suppression practices prevent the disclosure of Native American data because of the small population sizes. Aaron Peterson added Factsheet-1Column (hennepin.us) in the chat and clarified that Native American data is often reported in combination with other races since some Native Americans identify with other races to obtain a large enough count and circumvent data suppression rules.
- McKinzie Woelfel asked for more information about the Positively Hennepin tactics that were not included in the presentation. Brenda Senyana offered to send Carissa Weisdorf the information about the tactics, and also noted that this is available on the Positively Hennepin website.
- Email Brenda Senyana with any further questions or comments about Positively Hennepin.
- Brenda Senyana shared information about an upcoming partnership with the Black AIDS Institute to provide training for community members and providers on race/bias/discrimination and race/power/healthcare. These trainings advance culturally responsive care and were created in response to the HIV incidence increase in African American MSM and women.

IV. HIV and Aging panel

- Cree Gordon introduced the panel and its objectives. Pre-COVID-19, DEC was discussing disparities other than race, and aging was one of the disparities that came up in that conversation. The discussion around HIV and aging is now being revitalized in response to work that Charlotte Detournay and Maren Levad are doing at the Positive Care Center (PCC) and Rainbow Health respectively. The aim of this panel is to provide information about this work, bring greater attention to aging-related disparities, and open up future conversations about tangible steps that can be taken to support people with HIV as they age.
- Charlotte Detournay presented about the HIV and aging related work happening at the PCC. A former patient had left a $1.2 million endowment to the hospital and asked that part of these funds be used to develop an HIV aging initiative at the PCC in collaboration with the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (SF General) in order to improve services for older people living with HIV. SF General has a very comprehensive program called Golden Compass that is focused on supporting individuals aging with HIV and identifying any barriers they may face.

- o PCC is mirroring this program. They hired a geriatrician to consult patients who are over 50 years old and identify their specific needs.
- o PCC recently implemented a 50+ support group about a month ago.
- o PCC/Charlotte is focused on housing as well, so they are part of an HIV and Aging Coalition to look for ways to better support individuals aging with HIV in maintaining their housing.
- o PCC partnered with Habitat for Humanity on a grant that they obtained to help people who own their homes to age in their homes.
- o PCC incorporated a dietician into their staff who specializes in supporting the older population. They are expanding their clinic and moving into a new space next year. This will allow them to have access to a pharmacy where they can begin to store Ensure (a major dietary need for the aging population).
- o PCC produced a brochure to highlight their HIV and Aging program and will share that with the group.
- Maren Levad presented about HIV and aging related work happening at Rainbow Health. Rainbow Health is currently still in its strategy phase, but they have already been serving the 50+ community and people who have been living with HIV for over 15 years.
  - o Most of the efforts at Rainbow Health are focused on informing staff about aging resources (especially those that are inclusive) and about the work that other local HIV/AIDS service organizations are doing around aging. Maren Levad expressed not wanting to duplicate others' work and making sure that staff know of the opportunities and resources available to them to support aging clients.
  - o Rainbow Health has been exploring ways to serve aging clients around things like isolation.
  - o The results from the LGBTQ Aging Survey show that people like most of their services to be mainstream, but that they want social and support groups to be LGBTQ specific. Rainbow Health is exploring whether that applies to clients with HIV, so they are looking for funding to start an Aging HIV Advisory Group to improve their HIV aging services.
- Cree Gordon announced that one of their mentors, Dr. Megan Rothenberger, works at Veterans Affairs (VA) and will be giving a talk at Rainbow Health on December 1 about HIV and aging. Cree Gordon will look into asking Dr. Rothenberger to speak at DEC because of her insight on the needs of people aging with HIV.
- Contact Charlotte Detournay or Maren Levad for any ideas or connections around HIV and aging. PCC and Rainbow Health are exploring potential partnerships around this work as well.
- Carissa Weisdorf expressed that the Community Voices Committee (CVC) is interested in this topic as well, and will explore whether Charlotte Detournay and Maren Levad can be on the CVC workplan.
- Carissa Weisdorf mentioned that there may be opportunities to connect the HIV and Aging Coalition's work with the Council's if DEC is interested in continuing this

conversation. Cree Gordon expressed interest in this opportunity. Maren Levad noted that Hope House's mission has expanded and that their work may shift in the future.

V.   Data cleaning for 2020 HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- Aaron Peterson presented and displayed the ***NA 2020 Data Cleaning*** document. The data book and presentation with key findings will be released in December. Aaron Peterson first presented on the gender identity part of the data cleaning guidelines.
  - o This is the consolidated methodology on how to report gender-related questions from the Needs Assessment (NA) survey. The questions were reviewed by DEC before the NA2020 survey.
  - o There will be no reporting on sex assigned on birth. This data was solely used to code for gender identity and MSM status (both of which will be reported).
  - o The data cleaning methodology is guided by the desire to increase counts for transgender people so that it is possible to report that data in accordance with more stringent DHS data suppression rules.
  - o The table of counts by gender identity is the end result once this methodology is followed.
  - o Cree Gordon noted that "trans*" could also be used as an umbrella term to help simplify data reporting.
  - o Carissa Weisdorf asked about the NA survey results. Aaron Peterson displayed the ***NA2020 Databook*** and reviewed how the NA summary would look once the data is cleaned.
  - o Megan Mueller asked about what the "unknown" gender category was. Aaron Peterson and Cree Gordon clarified that those were people who preferred not to answer or skipped the question.
- Aaron Peterson presented on the sexual identity part of the data cleaning document.
  - o Cree Gordon asked if there was demographic data (e.g., race, age, English fluency) about the 42 people who were classified as "unknown." Aaron Peterson responded that the final data book will include an appendix about the distribution of these stratification variables, especially because questions about sexual identity were potentially confusing for non-English speakers.
  - o Megan Mueller asked if there could also be a demographic breakdown for people who selected "gay or lesbian" vs. "bisexual" vs. "pansexual" vs. "queer." Aaron Peterson responded that the breakdown numbers got too small and messy to be meaningful, especially because a number of people selected many combinations of answers to describe their sexual identity.
- Aaron Peterson presented on the MSM status part of the data cleaning document. The definition of MSM status follows local, community-based guidelines and does not mirror the CDC definition of MSM (which is inclusive of transgender women and genderqueer/nonbinary individuals who were assigned male at birth)
  - o Cree Gordon affirmed that the data cleaning guidelines were good and liked that the MSM guidelines are better reflective of the community than CDC or other data reporting methods.

- Megan Mueller reiterated this sentiment, but also mentioned that people may have questions about which MSM definition is used to clean the data. Aaron Peterson clarified that the data book will be presented with a number of footnotes and definitions to help reduce confusion.
- Aaron Peterson will present the data book in about 4 weeks.

VI. Understanding allocation and expenditure data
- Carissa Weisdorf displayed and presented *Understanding Allocation and Expenditure Data*.
    - The Council is aligned with the Part A fiscal year (FY) (March 1 – February 28), but Part B has its own FY from April 1 – March 31.
    - The Council is focused on Part A and Part B funding allocations, and does not look at other sources of funding (e.g., ADAP, 340B rebate, etc.)
    - This presentation will be available on the council website under Trainings.
- Carissa displayed the *2021.11.09 Council Expenditure Report* and reviewed the information in the report. There is both a combined Part A and Part B report and a separate report for each of the parts. The priority order for funded services is determined by the Council.
- Carissa Weisdorf asked discussion question 1: what percentage of funding would you expect to see expended at the end of the 6 months of the Part A program year?
    - Megan Mueller answered 50%. Cree Gordon confirmed this answer for Part A but noted that Part B may not be as clear-cut because of rebate funding.
- Carissa Weisdorf asked discussion question 2: what concerns does this report raise for the council? How might the council use this information?
    - Cree Gordon noted that the things that were prioritized the most were close to the expected 50% mark. However, some services that were ranked lower for priority were utilized heavily as well, and those may be ranked higher for the next fiscal year.
    - Carissa Weisdorf noted that the expenditure report is one data source used to make prioritization decisions, but the NA data and data dashboard on the council website also help determine priorities.
    - Charlotte Detournay added that there is a billing lag that may create data delays and cautioned on misinterpreting service categories with lower or higher expenditure percentages as being more or less prioritized/utilized.
- Cree Gordon noted appreciating smaller trainings like this.

VII. Co-chair election
- Megan Mueller said that Teresa Jones had to step down from co-chair and opened the floor for nominations for co-chairs for DEC. Cree Gordon clarified that this co-chair position is for the remainder of the fiscal year (until March 2022). Carissa Weisdorf also clarified that this person needs to be a current Council member.
- Cree Gordon offered to co-chair for the remainder of the fiscal year. Since there were no other nominees, Cree Gordon was elected by acclamation.

VIII. New business/unfinished business/goal setting
- Kevin Davis noted that it was refreshing to see younger people on the Council, in comparison to the Dallas Council which is a part of.

IX. Set agenda for next meeting
- Carissa Weisdorf displayed **FY 2021 DEC Workplan** and noted that there are no currently listed agenda items.
- Cree Gordon said that this meeting was productive and that this structure was effective and can be replicated for future meetings. Megan Mueller seconded this.
- Carissa Weisdorf noted that DEC is responsible for the selection of prevention target populations in January, so is there any pre-work for that can be done in the December meeting.
  - McKinzie Woelfel explained that funding for prevention programs is based on MDH incidence data, and that data should be ready by January. It is unclear whether this data will be ready in time for the December meeting.
- Any ideas for agenda items for the December meeting can be sent to Megan Mueller or Carissa Weisdorf.

X. Announcements
- Today is Give to the Max Day.
- McKinzie Woelfel noted that orders for the Condom Distribution Orders are low and encouraged people to spread the word about the program.
- December 1st is World AIDS Day, and there will be a program for it at the Macedonia Baptist Church from 4-8pm. There will be COVID-19 and HIV testing opportunities, as well as a showcase of talent and speakers. Cree Gordon will send the flyer to Carissa Weisdorf for distribution.
- Carissa Weisdorf will send the follow-up meeting email and will include Microsoft Teams tips in the email. For one-on-one help with using Microsoft Teams, contact Carissa Weisdorf.
- The Council is looking for members, so encourage people to apply. Carissa Weisdorf will note what type of vacancies are currently available in the follow-up email.
- Encourage people to attend DEC as community members.

XI. Adjourn
- Megan Mueller adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

Meeting Summary:
- There was an update about Positively Hennepin and the revisions that were made to the strategy.
- Data cleaning methodology for the 2020 Needs Assessment data was presented and reviewed.
- There was a short training about understanding allocation and expenditure data.
- A new co-chair was elected for the remainder of the fiscal year (until March 2022).

- A potential agenda for the next meeting was discussed, and relevant announcements were shared.

<u>Documents distributed before the meeting:</u>
- Proposed agenda for November 18 meeting
- October 21 DEC minutes
- Fiscal Year 2021 DEC workplan
- DEC co-chair position description
- NA2020 Data Cleaning

<u>Documents displayed during the meeting:</u>
- Positively Hennepin Update | November 18, 2021
- NA2020 Databook
- Understanding Allocation and Expenditure Data
- 2021.11.09 Council Expenditure Report

AR/cw