

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
Executive Committee
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
1 – 2:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present:	
James McMurray (Community Voices)	Tyrie Stanley (Planning and Allocations)
Lesa Nelson (Needs Assessment and Evaluation)	
Committee Members Absent:	
Alissa Fountain (Needs Assessment and Evaluation)	Larry McPherson (Council Co-chair)
Cree Gordon (Council Co-chair)	Megan Mueller (Disparities Elimination)
Calvin H. Hylton (Membership and Training)	McKinzie Woelfel (Council Co-chair)
Stephen Jensen (Membership and Training)	Jo Ann Vertetis (Community Voices)
Guests:	
Thomas Blissett	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Jonathan Hanft	Amy Miller
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	MCHACP Parliamentarian:
Peggy Darrett-Brewer	Pat Reymann, Parliamentarian
Council Staff:	
Carissa Weisdorf (minutes)	

Quorum Present? **No**

I. Welcome and introductions:

- Lesa Nelson volunteered to lead the meeting today because none of the council co-chairs could attend. Lesa Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Consideration and approval of proposed agenda

- There were no changes to the proposed agenda.

III. Consideration and approval of December 7 meeting minutes

- Because the committee did not have quorum, the past meeting minutes could not be approved.

IV. Council co-chair update

- No report

V. Committee Reports

Membership and Training Committee

- Stephen Jensen provided a report by email so Carissa Weisdorf read the report aloud:
 - The committee conducted four interviews and discussed them afterward.

- The committee discussed the attendance policy and will talk more about it next month, hoping to finalize it.

Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee

- Did not meet.

Planning and Allocations Committee

- Did not meet.

Disparities Elimination Committee

- No report

Community Voices Committee

- Carissa Weisdorf said the next meeting is Monday, January 10 from 4 – 6 p.m. An email with the agenda and meeting materials was sent yesterday and included all council and community members.

VI. Recipient Reports

Part A

- Jonathan Hanft said the council administrative specialist position is vacant and interviews for the position start tomorrow. He thinks it is possible to have someone in place by sometime in February. In the meantime, our temporary staff person we previously identified to support the council will start hopefully next week.
- One additional case was added to the HIV outbreak in Hennepin County and Ramsey County, bringing the total cases to 86.
 - Six people identified in the outbreak who are experiencing homelessness will be supported to get permanent housing through funding from City of Minneapolis COVID HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) funds.
 - After meeting with HUD (Housing and Urban Development), it was determined that there are not enough people experiencing unsheltered homelessness who were identified in the HIV epidemic (29 people at the time) to receive technical assistance from the agency. However, HUD will help to ensure that HUD and HOPWA funding sources are well coordinated in the outbreak response.
- Congress has not yet passed appropriations for fiscal year 2022, and are currently operating under a continuing resolution. Part A expects the full grant award will be delayed and will receive a partial award in February 2022. Once Congress passes the appropriations, it is signed by the President and then typically takes HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau three months to issue the final grant award.

Part B

- Thomas Blissett said on December 17, 2021, Ryan White Part A and B conducted a feedback meeting focused on the potential elimination of six-month recertification. Additional community feedback is planned for the upcoming Community Voice Committee on January 10, 2022 and the full MCHACP

meeting. Part B's HRSA Project Officer has indicated that the proposed elimination of the six-month recertification is aligned with PCN 21-02. DHS is completing internal approvals for this change and working collaboratively with Hennepin County (Ryan White Part A) on next steps.

- On January 10, 2022, the Ryan White Part B Request for Proposal (RFP) will close.
- January 15, 2022 is the last day of Open Enrollment. Any client that does not have insurance will need to apply no later than January 13, 2022 to ensure payment is made timely.
- Tyrie Stanley asked about the status of centralized eligibility which has been on hold. Jonathan Hanft said the government parties (DHS, Hennepin County, MDH) are close to executing the governance document which will then move the project forward. After that, providers will be trained on CAREWare 6 and the eligibility screening process.

Prevention

- Peggy Darrett-Brewer said the Duluth area is also experiencing an HIV outbreak and currently has 18 cases associated with it. You can review information about the two HIV outbreaks in Minnesota at: [HIV Outbreak Response and Case Counts - Minnesota Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us). It includes case counts and information about outreach efforts.
- The surveillance unit recently hired Nathan Bloomfield as the HIV surveillance operations epidemiologist and Hannah Kass-Aten as the HIV care and prevention epidemiologist. The HIV care and prevention epidemiologist will work closely with the council. There is also an open position for a research analyst specialist, and the link was sent to the council.
- Nationwide, CDC is awarding \$2 million per year over five years to expand, train, and sustain a response-ready DIS (Disease Investigation Specialist) workforce to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other infections. This will result in several new positions.
- FIMR (Fetal Infant Mortality Review) Board is looking for two people with lived experience of living with HIV while pregnant to join the board. It is open for an additional two weeks but after that time you can contact Gina Liverseed if you know someone who is interested. Application at: [MN FIMR/HIV Member Recruitment Survey](https://state.mn.us).
- The Minnesota Syringe Service Programs Fall 2021 Evaluation and Impact Survey (**SSP Evaluation Report**) was published and emailed to the committee. This looks at the impact of syringe programs in Minnesota and includes a lot of information about harm reduction, what is needed, and what has been done.
- MDH will provide a full report of their financials in March 2022 and reports on their SSP and HIV testing.
- Jonathan Hanft said you can sign up for updates from MDH on the HIV outbreak at [Minnesota Department of Health \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com). It provides updates when there are new HIV cases and is showing that while the total HIV incidence was down in 2020 it is back up in 2021.

VII. Part A year-end reallocation proposal

- Jonathan Hanft presented **FY2021 Part A Year-end Reallocation Proposal**. Pat Reymann suggested that the proposal is reviewed and discussed today but due to lack of quorum we cannot vote on it. The chair can ask if there is any objection to sending the proposal to the council for approval.
- Peggy Darrett-Brewer asked what Substance Abuse Services/Outpatient includes. Jonathan Hanft said it includes Rule 25 assessments and treatment readiness counseling, counseling post-treatment to help people maintain their sobriety or harm-reduction plan. It does not include medication-assisted therapy but can include referrals and coordination to access it.
- Jonathan Hanft said it was underspent last year as well but that was probably due to people unable to access appointments during the stay-at-home order. This year, the way contracts are funded changed to fund the cost of the program rather than on a per-client basis. Therefore, he anticipates the spending will go up next year and the service area will be fully spent.
- After review, Lesa Nelson asked if there is any objection to sending this proposal to the council for approval. There were no objections.
- Carissa Weisdorf will create an action item for this recommendation. It will need a motion and second at the council meeting which can come from a member of the Executive Committee. Tyrie Stanley volunteered to move it at the council meeting.

VIII. Council staff update and review council meeting agenda

- Carissa Weisdorf said there will be an election for the two community co-chair positions in February and she will provide the position description with the council meeting email this month.
- The Teams link for most meetings will change in February so please look for a new electronic meeting invitation. The email address HIVCouncil@hennepin.us will be used moving forward for all meeting invitations.
- The **draft council meeting agenda** was reviewed and it was determined conflict of interest will need to be managed for the financial action item.

IX. Unfinished Business/New Business:

- Nothing discussed

X. Announcements

- None

XI. Adjourn

- Lesa Nelson adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Meeting Summary:

- Reviewed and forwarded the Planning and Allocations Committee action items for service standards for Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals, Early Intervention Services, and Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services.

- Forwarded the action item to elect Cree Gordon as co-chair of the Disparities Elimination Committee.
- Heard reports from each standing committee, council co-chairs, recipients, and council staff.

Documents distributed before the meeting:

- Proposed agenda
- December 7 meeting minutes
- FY2021 Part A Year-end Reallocation Proposal
- SSP Evaluation Report

Documents displayed during the meeting:

- Part B report
- Draft council meeting agenda

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