

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
Disparities Elimination Committee
Thursday, January 20, 2022
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present:	
Cree Gordon (co-chair)	Sarah Schiele
Megan Higdon	Tyrie Stanley
Megan Mueller (co-chair)	
Committee Members Absent:	
Nafula Namuninia	Charlotte Detournay
Guests:	
Calvin Hillary Hylton, co-chair of Membership and Training Committee	Aurin Roy, HIV Disparities Elimination, Ryan White Program
Dennis Anderson, People of Color Pride	Ashley Hall
Nakehia Cotton	Allison LaPointe, HIV Surveillance, MDH
Hannah Kass-Aten, MDH	Dylan Flunker, Rainbow Health
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	
Thuan Tran	Fred Ndip
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	
McKinzie Woelfel	MCHACP Staff: Carissa Weisdorf

Quorum Present? **Yes**

I. Welcome and introductions

- Megan Mueller called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Review and approval of past meeting minutes and proposed agenda

- The December 16 minutes were approved as printed.
- The proposed agenda was approved as printed.
- Carissa Weisdorf provided clarification on FY 21-22 service area rankings that were highlighted on the document displayed at the last meeting. Highlighted service areas were not funded during the recent round of allocations because the council considers other sources of funding, cost, needs, etc. Services are funded by Ryan White Program Parts A & B and rebate funding; funding is combined.
- Carissa Weisdorf thanked Aurin Roy for taking meeting minutes at the last committee meeting and expressed that the minutes were very well done. Megan Mueller added that they did a wonderful job putting together the meeting minutes and presenting to the committee.

III. [Review of Ryan White service areas:](#) mental health and substance abuse

- Carissa Weisdorf displayed the **MCHACP Substance Abuse Service Standards** and reviewed the definition of the service area for the committee. Next, Carissa showed the

committee how to use the data dashboard to review expenditure and utilization data for the service area.

- Carissa Weisdorf displayed the **MCHACP Mental Health Service Standards** document on the council website and noted that mental health is a fundable service area. Megan Higdon read aloud the HRSA definition of mental health services. Carissa referred Megan to the data dashboard mental health services page; Carissa suggested that Megan cover highlights or questions for the committee to consider for information searches.
 - Carissa encouraged the committee to think of questions that would be used to query specific information (e.g., how many people who identify as MSM accessed this service last year?). She pointed out that the utilization data represents the most recent year, 2020. Carissa clarified various data representations and explained that the dark blue column areas represented those diagnosed after 1996 and that those prior to 1996 are termed long-term survivors. Antiretroviral meds became available after 1996; therefore, it was a different 'landscape' for those diagnosed prior to 1996 with different needs and populations.
- Carissa opened the floor for questions on this data; there were no questions.
- Carissa shared the link to and displayed the **Quick Reference Handout 5.1: Quick Guide to RWHAP Part A-Fundable Service** page and noted that this document is provided to new council members and it can be printed. It provides the definition of all service areas funded by the Ryan White program. This information is important to the work of the committee and council as a whole; it's a really good reference. It included information on the mental health and substance abuse areas.
- Carissa thanked Megan Higdon for presenting on this service area and how to utilize it in doing the work of the committee. Megan Mueller reiterated that it was a great way to see how things are funded and within the various demographics.

IV. **Voices of Health Survey data presentation**

- Megan Mueller introduced *Dylan Flunker, Rainbow Health*.
- Dylan thanked the committee for the opportunity to present at the meeting and displayed the **Voices of Health Annual Health and Wellness LGBTQ Survey** document. He prefaced the presentation clarifying that it is an annual (mostly) LGBTQ survey taken across Minnesota. The data was collected in 2020. It was not randomly collected; the data was collected online and via word-of-mouth at community events. Dylan announced that he would be primarily focused on HIV and PrEP-specific data due to time constraints and the importance of presenting on the data most pertinent to the committee.
 - Demographics overview: 2,806 LGBTQ completed the survey, and that it was skewed to cisgender women but included adequate representation of non-binary and transgender demographics. It was noted that sexual orientation was fairly evenly split and there have been more asexual respondents included in their samples. Race and ethnicity percentages were reviewed. Respondents were encouraged to respond in all applicable areas, so the percentage total is not 100% as some of those surveyed were included in multiple areas. Overall, results skewed younger, but within a larger sample with a wider array of rural respondents at 56%. This data disclaims the

opinion of some who believe all LGBTQ individuals live within cities. Individual versus household income was queried for the first time looking at who was in households - individual distribution of household incomes to get a sense of how many were in a household. The 50-and-under respondents were in the higher distribution.

- The question was raised as to whether there was a five percent listed; Dylan clarified that it was a half-percent. Dylan emphasized that there are different ways to split out multiple responses. but all areas participants select are reported.
- The HIV Testing slide was displayed: The survey participants were asked if they had ever been tested. Dylan highlighted that only 50% had ever been tested for HIV; white LGBTQ more likely to have been tested but only by about five percent. Differences in HIV testing among gender and sexual orientation groups were noted. There was some level of not knowing which gender groups they were participating and the corresponding risk of HIV transmission as the survey did not query sexual behaviors; it asked for sexual orientation and gender identity only. Gay men are much more likely to have been tested for HIV than other respondents.
- The HIV Positive, those living with HIV, slide was reviewed. It was noted that six percent of the LGBTQ respondents were living with HIV, and black respondents were more likely to be living with HIV than white respondents.
- The Medical Care slide was reviewed. Highlights included: 91% of the respondents living with HIV had received HIV-related medical care within the last year. There was a significant disparity between black at 77% and white at 100% of respondents who had received HIV-related medical care. Cisgender men are more likely to have received HIV-related medical care in the past year.
 - The definition of pansexual was questioned. Dylan responded that there are different answers. They have heard more often that it is being attracted to many or all genders and bi-sexual is too limiting to some. Pan, meaning "all" or all genders.
- HIV Support Services was reviewed. Dylan pointed out that 40% of those respondents living with HIV were using support services; 47% had used them previously, and 13% had never used HIV services. It was noted that a higher number of white respondents than BIPOC respondents had never used case management or HIV support services. Dylan pointed out that Ryan White funds might point to those with fewer resources to get them connected to the resources they need.
- The PrEP slide was reviewed, and Dylan reminded the committee that the survey did not look at sexual behaviors. Gender identity was requested, not sexual activity so it's hard to ask who should take PrEP. The data reflected who is on PrEP and those not knowing about it. It was noted that BIPOC respondents were more likely to have taken and known about PrEP than white respondents, and cisgender men were the highest number taking PrEP daily.
 - The question of why PrEP is not advertised in African American communities like it is in the white community, not just in the gay

community. If this is not known, how can folks get educated? What can we do about it? Dylan responded and clarified that he is a community researcher, so has the same questions for those who run campaigns in communities. should get these questions. PrEP is advertised in communities with the highest percentages.

- Carissa Weisdorf was asked if she could forward this survey document to MDH. She responded that McKinzie has shared in recent committee meetings and that MDH will be releasing a new pool of funding through an RFP for HIV prevention services including PrEP over the next five years. They will be focusing on PrEP and syringe exchange services. Carissa concluded that she would share this concern with McKinzie, and it will be documented in the committee meeting minutes.
- Dylan added that when they looked at who was taking PrEP from our samples taken in 2020, they found that gay men, bisexual, and queer men knew more about PrEP. There is room for improvement in that knowledge. More general sexual health in communities can be a positive thing.
- Respondents living with HIV and health concerns – Food Security reviewed; 48% of the general population living with HIV were worried they would run out of food. Tobacco use was reviewed, and it was noted that a smaller percentage of HIV positive had never smoked. Homeless was reviewed, and those living with HIV were more likely to be homeless including living in cars at the time of the survey; only 40% had never been homeless. Health Insurance was reviewed; those living with HIV were more likely to not have health insurance.
- Dylan shared his e-mail address dylan.flunker@rainbowhealth.org and announced the presentation would be sent to Cree Gordon and Megan Mueller. Dylan thanked the committee and shared that he is looking forward to learning more about this committee.
- Megan Mueller opened the floor for additional questions; there were no further questions.

V. Committee co-chair succession planning

- Carissa Weisdorf stated that the co-chair election will be held at the March committee meeting and the two who are elected will hold those co-chair positions for the next year. Carissa displayed and reviewed the **Committee Co-Chair Position Description** document. She pointed out terms may be served for one year or two consecutive one-year terms. Megan has been in the co-chair position for two years; Cree was elected a few months ago to fill in as the previous co-chair had left the position.
 - Carissa displayed the committee co-chair position description document and provided an overview of the purpose, requirements, and roles of the co-chair position. The committee was reminded that one committee co-chair must be a current council member. A community member may also serve in the position. For this committee, the attendance required to become a community member is three out of four consecutive committee meetings attended as well as to be eligible to run for committee co-chair. Co-chair experience is not required; however, the preference is for members to become a leader and co-chair at some point during their time with the council.

- Carissa emphasized that the committee co-chair must attend the Executive Committee meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. Large trainings are held at the start of the year and throughout the year at the Executive Committee meetings. She will send out the co-chair committee position description document and it will be provided at the March committee meeting.
- Megan Mueller encouraged members to apply. Cree Gordon announced stepping off the council and shared that there are people to help those interested in applying. Tyrie Stanley, who has served as a mentor offered to be referenced for any questions and support for those who are interested in becoming a committee co-chair.
- Carissa thanked committee members for sharing their experiences and encouraging other to take on the role and opened the floor to questions about the role or next steps. The co-chair election will be held at the March committee meeting; members will be able to nominate others or themselves and two people will be elected.

VI. New business / Unfinished Business / Goal Setting

- Nothing discussed

VII. Set agenda for next meeting

- Megan Mueller questioned if MDH was ready to present on prevention target populations Carissa responded she is waiting to hear from MDH what the timeline will be. If next steps are available, she will add it to the agenda.
- Megan Mueller questioned if there was anything else committee members wanted to know more about and possibly have someone come in as a guest speaker. Committee members were informed to provide any agenda requests to Cree Gordon, Carissa Weisdorf or Megan Mueller.
 - Carissa mentioned last month the committee identified service areas they wanted to discuss. Cree Gordon shared a list of options that can be added to the workplan. Housing and emergency financial assistance could be discussed at the February committee meeting and oral health at the March committee meeting.
 - Carissa informed the committee that the 2020 Needs Assessment Survey, a survey of over 800 individuals living with HIV in Minnesota will be presented at the next council meeting on February 8. She will send out the information upon request and it will also be available on the Hennepin County Ryan White and MCHACP websites following the presentation at the February council meeting.
- Carissa Weisdorf will work with the co-chairs to send out the next meeting agenda.

VIII. Announcements

- Carissa put a webinar meeting into Chat. It will be held on Thursday, January 27, and it is a webinar relating to National Black HIV Awareness Day which is observed on February 8. Everyone was encouraged to sign up. There is no cost to participate in the webinar. The link will be available to those members who attend the webinar.

- Carissa Weisdorf will send out a new meeting link for this committee meeting; it will be included on the next committee meeting agenda. This new link should eliminate some of the technical issues that had been occurring at previous meetings.
- Carissa Weisdorf recommended preparing committee highlights to share with the council. Members were invited to add them at the meeting or connect with Carissa via Teams or e-mail.

IX. Adjourn

- Megan Mueller adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Meeting Summary:

- The committee reviewed the service area descriptions and data in the data dashboard for mental health services and substance abuse services.
- Dylan Flunker, Rainbow Health, provided a presentation on the Voices of Health Annual Health and Wellness LGBTQ Survey an annual (mostly) LGBTQ survey taken across Minnesota. The committee engaged in a Q&A and Dylan shared that he was looking forward to learning more about the committee and announced that presentation would be sent to Cree Gordon and Megan Mueller.
- Carissa Weisdorf announced the upcoming committee co-chair election that will be held at the March committee meeting and reviewed the committee co-chair position document. Committee members were encouraged to apply. Former committee co-chairs offered support.
- New business: Carissa Weisdorf will check with MDH on next steps relating to prevention target populations and will add it to the workplan if available. Megan Mueller queried the committee on any new areas to learn about and the possibility of bringing in guest speakers. Carissa suggested looking closer are participants needs through a review of the 2020 Needs Assessment Survey, a survey of over 800 individuals living with HIV in Minnesota that will be presented at the next council meeting on February 8.
- There were announcements about a webinar, the new meeting link that will alleviate some technical issues, and the reminder to prepare committee highlights for presentation to the council.

Documents distributed before the meeting:

- Proposed agenda for January 20 meeting
- December 16 DEC minutes
- Fiscal Year 2021 DEC workplan

Documents displayed during the meeting:

- MCHACP Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service Standards
- Quick Reference Handout 5.1: Quick Guide to RWHAP Part A-Fundable
- Voices of Health Annual Health and Wellness LGBTQ Survey document
- Committee Co-Chair Position Description

RC/cw