

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 2022**  
**9 – 11 a.m.**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**

<b>Council Members Present:</b>	
Joseph Amrhein	Nafula Namuninia
Charlotte Detournay	Lesla Nelson (council co-chair)
Alissa Fountain	Jay Orne
Megan Higdon	Sue Purchase
Calvin Hillary Hylton	Angela Reed
Annalise Jackson, RN, MSN, PHN	Sarah Schiele
Stephen Jensen	Paul Skrbec
Lori Linkous	Tyrie Stanley (council co-chair)
Larry McPherson	John Vener, MD
Amy Miller	Jo Ann Vertetis
Rev. Jim Mitulski	
<b>Council Members Absent:</b>	
Nyonbeor Boley	McKinzie Woelfel (council co-chair)
Julian Hines	
<b>Community Members/Guests/Consultants:</b>	
Dennis Anderson, Minnesota People of Color Pride	Hannah Kass-Aten, MDH HIV Epidemiologist
Amy Caron, Hennepin County Area Manager, Public Health Protection	Naomi Kyndberg, Rainbow Health
Heather Eagleton, Viiv Healthcare	James McMurray, Community Member
Jackie Gould, Hennepin County Contract Manager	Aurin Roy, Hennepin County Ryan White
Rachel Heule, DHS ADAP Coordinator	Walter Urey, Hennepin County Contract Manager
Teresa Jones, Community Member	Amy Yang, Minnesota Community Care
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	
Jonathan Hanft	<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b> Thomas Blissett
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	
Peggy Darrett-Brewer	<b>MCHACP Parliamentarian:</b> Pat Reymann
<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>	
Carissa Weisdorf, Coordinator	Bryan Bick, Administrative Specialist (minutes)

Quorum Present? **Yes**

**I. Call to Order**

- Lesa Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made.
- Lesa led the council in reading the guiding principles.

- Tyrie Stanley led the council in lighting a candle for former council member Destiny Holiday, who passed away last month.
- The agenda was reviewed and approved as printed.
- The minutes from the February 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.

## **II. Member spotlight: Joe Amrhein**

- Joe Amrhein introduced himself. He has been on the council for six months.
- Joe said an accomplishment he is proud of is serving as president of the Student Senate at Minneapolis College and advocating for the public safety officers there to carry Narcan. He worked to overcome initial opposition and provided education about Steve's Law to the college administration. Narcan was approved in nasal form for public safety officers to carry at every college in the Minnesota State system.
- Some of his favorite hobbies are long-distance biking, camping and traveling. He is looking forward to taking a class about grant writing. He has been in school for about half of the time that he's lived in Minnesota. He also does standup comedy.

## **III. Getting to know each other (breakout rooms)**

- Carissa Weisdorf explained that the Executive Committee requested time at this meeting for council members to split up into breakout rooms. The intent is for members to get to know each other better and build trust and open communication.
- Carissa placed some ideas for topics in the chat and placed the council members into the breakout rooms.

## **IV. Committee reports (also provided in written format)**

### **Executive Committee and Co-Chair Update**

- Tyrie Stanley provided an update on discussions about the hard topics framework.
  - The Executive Committee wants to know how the council feels about continuing hard topic conversations, and if there are volunteers to facilitate future hard topics conversations.
  - Carissa Weisdorf put a link to a document outlining the [elements of hard topics conversations](#) in the chat. She shared that a few council and community members have completed training on conducting a focused conversation and facilitating dialogues on race and racism. She asked if any additional council or community members are interested in being trained as a hard topic facilitator.
  - Angela Reed, Sue Purchase, Megan Higdon and Jay Orne expressed interest in being facilitators for future hard topics conversations. Carissa said she will coordinate with anyone who is interested to schedule the trainings at a convenient time.
  - Sue Purchase shared feedback that it is frustrating when harm reduction is billed as a "hard topic" when it is in fact a life-saving public health strategy supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Tyrie Stanley reported that the [Collaborative Partner Understanding](#) was approved by the four partners (the council, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and Hennepin County). Annually, the four partners agree to it.
- Tyrie reported that Executive Committee reviewed changes to the universal standards following Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) policy clarification notice 21-02.
- Tyrie reported that the Executive Committee discussed the council attendance policy, and heard reports from each standing committee, council co-chairs, recipients, and council staff.
- **Action Item:** MCHACP Parliamentarian Election
  - Tyrie Stanley reviewed the need for a Parliamentarian according to council bylaws. The Parliamentarian works with the council coordinator before and during the council and Executive Committee meetings, advises the council co-chairs on their duties, maintains awareness and compliance with the conflict of interest policy, and teaches parliamentary procedures as needed.
  - Tyrie stated that Patricia (Pat) Reymann is a Professional Registered Parliamentarian who has agreed to serve as Parliamentarian for the council.
  - **Motion:** Tyrie Stanley moved that Patricia (Pat) Reymann be elected to serve as Council Parliamentarian to serve from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. No discussion. **VOTE:** An electronic ballot was distributed. The number of ballots cast is 20. The number needed for a majority is 10. Pat Reymann received 20 votes and is elected to serve a one-year term as Parliamentarian.
- **Action Item:** Grievance Committee election
  - Tyrie Stanley reviewed the requirement that the council establish a Grievance Committee to consider and take action regarding grievances related to the planning process.
  - **Motion:** Tyrie Stanley moved that three council members, one of whom is HIV positive, be elected to serve on the Grievance Committee. Their term will be March 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023, or until they are replaced by the council.
  - Stephen Jensen, Jo Ann Vertetis, Sue Purchase, Megan Higdon, and Joe Amrhein expressed interest in serving on the Grievance Committee. Sue and Joe both stated they would withdraw since there were enough other participants.
  - With three individuals needed and three expressing interest, Pat Reymann advised that a council co-chair can declare those three individuals elected. Lesa Nelson declared that Stephen Jensen, Jo Ann Vertetis and Megan Higdon be elected and asked for any objections. Hearing no objections, Lesa declared these three individuals elected to the Grievance Committee.

### **Community Voices Committee Update**

- Jo Ann Vertetis reported that the committee met on March 7. They conducted a focused conversation about the committee's goals.

- The attendees felt they needed to be more hands-on with disseminating HIV information. No decision was made by the entire committee, but committee members were invited to disseminate information on their own. James McMurray can help by providing committee materials to anyone who wants them.
- The Community Voices Committee held an election for two new committee chairs. Two were selected pending council approval.

**Disparities Elimination Committee** did not have a meeting in February.

#### **Membership and Training Committee Update**

- Stephen Jensen emphasized the eight vacancies on the council. The committee is looking for help recruiting individuals who meet the reflectiveness and representation criteria. He asked attendees to notify him or Carissa Weisdorf if they have any referrals.

**Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee** did not have a meeting in February.

**Planning and Allocations Committee** did not have a meeting in February.

#### **V. Robert's Rules of Order training**

- Lesa recognized Pat Reymann, council Parliamentarian, to provide a training on Robert's Rules of Order and ***How to make and amend a motion.***

#### **VI. Recipient reports**

- **Part A:** Jonathan Hanft from the Hennepin County Ryan White Program gave the Part A update.
  - Jonathan provided updates on COVID-19.
    - Positivity rates are falling. They are now less than 6% in Minnesota and less than 5% in Hennepin County.
    - Mask mandates are changing. Jonathan shared a link to the Minnesota Department of Health's web site for guidance on how to best protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
    - Jonathan shared new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and from the State of New York showing that people with HIV have a lower vaccination rate than the general population. Jonathan asked providers and people living with HIV to continue encouraging HIV-positive individuals to get vaccinated to protect themselves from severe disease, hospitalization, and mortality.
    - The New York study also showed disparities in vaccination rates among different racial and ethnic groups. Also, people living with HIV/AIDS who are out of care and not virally suppressed have a less than 30% vaccination rate.
  - Jonathan provided updates on the two HIV outbreaks in Minnesota.
    - As of March 1, there are 89 cases associated with the HIV outbreak in the Metro area, and 21 cases in the Duluth area.
    - Jonathan shared a link to the Minnesota Department of Health web page that has up-to-date information.

- Jonathan shared that Part A has been discussing HRSA policy clarification notice 21-02.
  - This policy clarification notice eliminates the 6-month eligibility recertification requirement.
  - Part A and Part B have been working to align their policies with this policy clarification notice. One step is to update the universal standards of care for all Ryan White services.
  - Jonathan shared the update with the council. Annual certification for eligibility will still be required, and changes that occur between annual renewals should be reported to relevant county and state systems.
  - Thomas Blissett added that DHS will discuss the policy clarification notice at community engagement meetings on March 14 from 9am-11am and March 17 from 1pm-3pm.
- Jonathan shared staffing updates from Hennepin County Ryan White.
  - Bryan Bick is the new administrative specialist for the council.
  - Amy Caron is the new Public Health Protection Area Manager for Hennepin County.
  - Aaron Peterson is leaving the Ryan White Program to become Hennepin County Public Health's new Informatics Specialist. He will be working on expanding public health data capacity. Aaron has done amazing work in increasing HIV data capacity and analysis. Jonathan thanked Aaron and congratulated him on his new job.
  - The Quality Management Advisory Committee is seeking one unaffiliated consumer who lives in the Part A jurisdictional area.
- **Part B:** Thomas Blissett from the Minnesota Department of Human Services HIV Supports gave the Part B update.
  - Two vacant grant coordinator positions are now posted; they are open until March 25.
  - DHS will also be posting for a coordinator for END HIV MN. Mariah Wilberg held that position; she is now the nationwide U=U (undetectable=untransmittable) ambassador. For now, contact Darin Rowles at DHS for any questions regarding END HIV MN.
  - Ryan White Part B will receive a partial award for the 2022-23 grant year (starting April 1, 2022) that will utilize 2021-22 grant year amounts. The complete award amount will not be known until later this year. The program will utilize rebate money that DHS already had to fill any gaps, so there won't be any funding cuts during this time.
- Rachel Heule, ADAP coordinator for DHS, presented the ***MN ADAP Open Enrollment Update 2022***. Open enrollment occurred at the end of 2021 for the 2022 enrollment season.
  - A council member asked if individuals enrolled in a private plan can get assistance with health premiums. Rachel Heule responded that the state is currently working on a system to reimburse clients directly for health insurance as

long as the premiums are cost effective. State dollars would be used for this since Ryan White funding cannot be used to pay clients directly.

- Rachel Heule, [rachel.heule@state.mn.us](mailto:rachel.heule@state.mn.us), can be contacted with any additional questions about insurance or medications.
- **Prevention:** Peggy Darrett-Brewer from the Minnesota Health Department presented **MDH Recipient Updates**. The purpose is to cover the health department's full year of financials and program information.
  - Peggy offered to answer questions, and also referred council members to Anna Bosch for syringe service questions and Jose Ramirez for HIV testing questions.

## VII. Council staff report

- Carissa Weisdorf welcomed new council members and thanked them for coming to the new member orientation.
- Doug Stewart and Sarah Krier had changes in employment and have decided not to join the council at this time.
- All committees will elect co-chairs at their meetings this month. Carissa encouraged all council members to review the co-chair position description and consider running for a co-chair position and reminded members that they are asked to take on a leadership role at some point during their service.
- The draft work plan for the committees will be reviewed in each committee meeting this month.
- Carissa stated that Aaron Peterson, who is leaving the Ryan White team, has worked very closely with most committees to provide data. The council co-chairs asked that a card for Aaron come from the council. An electronic card will be sent in a link in a post-meeting email.
- Carissa reminded the council that a post-meeting evaluation will be available after the council meeting every month. Carissa put a link in chat, and the link will also be included in the post-meeting email.

## VIII. Knowledge Assessment Tool

- Carissa Weisdorf explained that a knowledge assessment tool will be used to assess council members' current knowledge level on key concepts for HIV planning processes. It will inform how much training we need to do on understanding and using data. This knowledge assessment is done in the spirit of parity, inclusion, and representation. Carissa displayed the knowledge assessment tool and said she will send a link following this meeting. Council members will have a couple weeks to fill out.

## IX. Unfinished Business / New Business

- Under unfinished business, Stephen Jensen provided an update from the Membership and Training Committee on the council attendance policy.
  - Stephen reviewed the current policy that missing three meetings in a row results in removal from the council, so after two missed meetings the Membership and Training Committee will give a notification phone call. Also, missing six meetings

in a rolling 12-month period results in removal. The Membership and Training Committee makes a call at four and five missed meetings.

- Stephen reported that the Membership and Training Committee has discussed the attendance policy at their last three meetings. They were not able to come to an agreement about changing it, so it will be unchanged for now.
- Calvin Hillary Hylton supported what Stephen shared. He encouraged individual members to reach out to him, Stephen, or Carissa Weisdorf, or come to a Membership and Training Committee meeting if they have specific concerns or ideas.
- There was no new business.

#### **X. Open Forum**

- Nothing was brought up during the open forum.

#### **XI. Announcements and Adjourn**

- Tyrie Stanley announced that Destiny Holiday's service is scheduled for March 12 at Shiloh Temple from 3:00-4:30pm. Destiny's Facebook page has more information.
- Jo Ann Vertetis reminded the council that Dining Out for Life is on April 28. She said that you can dine out and make a donation, or just dine out and the restaurants donate a portion of their profits to the Aliveness Project.
- Lesa Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

#### **Meeting Summary**

- Council members volunteered to receive training to facilitate future Hard Topics discussions.
- Pat Reymann was elected to serve another year as the Parliamentarian.
- Pat Reymann provided training on using Robert's Rules of Order to make and process a motion.
- The council heard updates from Part A, Part B, and prevention.
- The Membership and Training Committee reported its work on reviewing the council attendance policy. It was decided to leave it unchanged.

#### **Documents distributed before the meeting:**

- Proposed agenda for today's meeting
- February 8 meeting minutes
- Committee Report Summaries
- **Action item:** Parliamentarian Election
- **Action item:** Grievance Committee

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

- How to make and process motions
- Part A update
- MN ADAP Open Enrollment Update 2022
- MDH Recipient Updates

**BB/cw**