

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention  
Community Voices Committee Meeting  
Monday, May 9, 2022  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Hybrid In-Person/Microsoft Teams Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	
Virginia Blom	James McMurray
Samson Bowman	Lesa Nelson
Danielle Brantley (co-chair)	Sherry Outten
Belinda Charleston-Green	Alex Palacios
Antwon Davis	Joe Reyes
Calvin Hillary Hylton	Patricia Stephens
Stephen Jensen	Jo Ann Vertetis (co-chair)
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b>
None	Thomas Blissett
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>
None	Carissa Weisdorf, Coordinator
	Bryan Bick, Administrative Specialist (minutes)

**I. Welcome**

- Jo Ann Vertetis called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. and introductions were made.
- The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved as printed.
- The March 7 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as printed.

**II. Community questions and concerns**

- Thomas Blissett provided updates from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).
  - Thomas reported that DHS is hiring for three HIV grant coordinator positions. The positions close on May 11. Having lived experience with HIV or prior work experience with people living with HIV is included as one of the minimum qualifications in the job posting.
  - Thomas shared that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released [the updated Part B manual](#) today. It is available on the HRSA web site.
  - Thomas stated that the Ryan White Part B site visit will take place in August and it will be all virtual. The team conducting the site visit will likely want to hear from consumers of Ryan White services. An invitation will come from DHS.

**III. Connecting the Work:** The **May 10 Committee Report Summaries** document was displayed.

- **Council and Executive Committee:** Calvin Hillary Hylton spoke on behalf of the Executive Committee.

- Calvin shared that the Executive Committee approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to review the council's attendance policy and to make recommendations for changes.
- Calvin shared that the attendance policy may have interfered with council recruitment and retention due to being too rigid. He said the ad hoc committee hopes to make the attendance policy more flexible.
- Calvin encouraged the Community Voices Committee to share their thoughts on the attendance policy.
- **Disparities Elimination Committee:** No updates provided.
- **Planning and Allocations Committee:** No updates provided.
- **Membership and Training Committee:** Calvin Hillary Hylton spoke on behalf of the Membership and Training Committee.
  - Calvin encouraged individuals at this meeting to think about applying for the council.
  - Meeting attendees noted an absence of council promotional materials at community-based agencies and a shortage of community events intended to recruit new members. Alex Palacios said that as a staff member of the Aliveness Project they are willing to help the council improve its efforts to raise awareness.
- **Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee:** Lesa Nelson gave a report on behalf of the Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee. She stated that the committee received training on the data dashboard. It also received training on the priority setting and resource allocation (PSRA) process and reviewed the sources of data used in that process.

**IV. Community priorities:** Jo Ann Vertetis explained that the council is completing its biennial Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) process and wants to hear from this committee about the community's needs and priorities for HIV services.

- Carissa Weisdorf shared the [Prioritization Rankings for FY 2021-2022](#) document.
- Jo Ann explained that the committee will review how the services had been ranked in the past, what the services entail, and the rationale for their ranking in previous years.
  - A meeting attendee said he receives medical case management services from a community agency but has not been able to reach his case manager for a couple months. Thomas Blissett responded that he would like to investigate the issue and contact information was shared.
  - Another meeting attendee shared that she is having difficulty with medical transportation for her cardio rehab appointments. She explained that they take her to the front of the hospital instead of the entrance closest to her appointment location. She also stated that transportation pays for rides on public transportation, but she is in the process of recertifying for Metro Mobility and in the meantime is using ride share services, which Ryan White services do not reimburse.
  - Another meeting attendee stated that transportation for health education and risk reduction meetings is an unmet need. Rides are only available if the meetings are "sit-down" meetings at a clinic or agency, but not if they occur outside at a park or other alternative setting.

- A meeting attendee shared that people in Greater Minnesota have told her they have limited access to oral health care. She stated that Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis may be the only provider in the state that receives Ryan White Part F funding to provide dental services that aren't fully covered by Medicaid or private insurance.
  - Thomas Blissett was asked how dental providers would know about Ryan White Part F grants. He replied that <http://www.grants.gov> is the place where all government grants are advertised, and there are numerous listservs that share information.
  - Thomas added that any dentist who participates in Minnesota Health Care Programs would be able to bill Program HH in addition to Medical Assistance.
  - Thomas shared that Hank Jensen, the Program HH customer care specialist, can assist Program HH clients with finding dental providers. Hank gave a presentation to the Community Voices Committee in January 2022. Council staff will email a copy of that presentation to people in attendance at this meeting.
- A meeting attendee shared that her mental health provider wasn't paid by Program HH all last year for services. She said claims have been submitted multiple times. Thomas Blissett said he will pass the concern along to Program HH customer care specialist Hank Jensen.
- Thomas Blissett asked if it would be helpful for the Community Voices Committee to hear a presentation on health care coverage for people living with HIV. The committee agreed this would be beneficial. Meeting attendees talked about how it can be difficult to get the information they need to select a managed health care plan when they are on Medical Assistance, or the right plan offered by Program HH.
- James McMurray stated that the Aliveness Project has a health insurance navigator who can assist with insurance barriers. Aliveness would also be willing to sponsor an educational event prior to this year's Medicare open enrollment period. James also mentioned that the Aliveness Project provides care linkage services and encouraged people in the meeting to reach out if they are ever unable to pay for their medication.
- A meeting attendee stated that an educational group for people who are on waitlists for housing would be helpful. While they are on the waitlist, they can gain skills that will help them maintain housing stability once they secure housing.
- Carissa Weisdorf led the committee in completing the survey on ranking service areas. She then displayed the **Community Priorities Survey Results**.
  - Carissa reviewed the core medical services priorities.
    - Seven respondents said the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) would be one of their top priorities.
    - Four respondents each chose medical case management, mental health services, and oral health care as priorities.
    - A meeting attendee said they wondered how the prioritization would be different if services that are already well funded such as ADAP and medical case management were removed from the survey.

- Carissa reviewed the support services priorities. The top three were housing, medical transportation, and emergency financial assistance.
- Stephen Jensen added that the council is responsible for priority setting and resource allocation (PSRA). He encouraged the meeting attendees to consider joining the council so they can have a more direct voice in the PSRA process.
- Jo Ann Vertetis stated that the council application should be sent to meeting attendees. Council staff agreed to do so.

**V. New or Unfinished Business**

- No new business was discussed.
- No unfinished business was discussed.

**VI. Set agenda for next meeting**

- The Community Voices Committee meeting attendees expressed interest in having a representative from Program HH come to the July meeting to give an overview and answer questions.

**VII. Announcements and adjourn**

- Joe Reyes shared that the Aliveness Project is starting a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funded outreach program called d-Up for men of color who sleep with men. He explained that the program will seek out sexual health influencers who can reach target populations through social media. Joe is looking for diverse individuals to get involved.
- A committee member asked if the Aliveness Project would sponsor community members to go to conferences or camps for people living with HIV. Jo Ann Vertetis advised that the question should be brought to the Membership Advisory Committee at Aliveness.
- Jo Ann Vertetis adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

**Meeting summary:**

- The meeting attendees discussed their experiences with the Ryan White care system and took a survey to rank their top three core medical services and top three support services. The results were shared and discussed.
  - Core medical service priorities:
    - ADAP
    - Medical Case Management (tied)
    - Mental health (tied)
    - Oral health care (tied)
  - Support service priorities:
    - Housing
    - Medical transportation
    - Emergency financial assistance (EFA)

**Documents distributed for the meeting:**

- Proposed agenda
- March 7, 2022 Community Voices Committee meeting minutes

- RWHAP Part A PC/PB Training Guide Module Quick Reference Handout 5.1: Quick Guide to RWHAP Part A-Fundable Service Categories
- 2022 CVC Meeting flier

**Additional documents displayed during the meeting:**

- May 10 Committee Report Summaries
- Community Priorities Survey Results

**BB/cw**