

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention**  
**Tuesday, May 10, 2022**  
**9 – 11 a.m.**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**

<b>Council Members Present:</b>	
Joseph Amrhein	Jay Orne
Charlotte Detournay	Sue Purchase
Alissa Fountain	Angela Reed
Megan Higdon	Sarah Schiele
Julian Hines	Paul Skrbec
Calvin Hillary Hylton	Tyrie Stanley (council co-chair)
Stephen Jensen	John Vener, MD
Larry McPherson	Jo Ann Vertetis
Rev. Jim Mitulski	McKinzie Woelfel (council co-chair)
Lesa Nelson (council co-chair)	
<b>Council Members Absent:</b>	
Nyonbeor Boley	Lori Linkous
Annalise Jackson, RN, MSN, PHN	Amy Miller
<b>Community Members/Guests/Consultants:</b>	
Anika Kalewoun, Hennepin County Ryan White	Carter Peterson, Red Door Clinic
Allison LaPointe, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH Surveillance)	Emily Reimer, Department of Human Services
James McMurray, Community Member	Aurin Roy, Hennepin County Ryan White
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	
Brenda Senyana	<b>DHS (Part B) Representative:</b> Thomas Blissett
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	
Jose Ramirez	<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, Welcome and Introductions**

- Lesa Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were made and Lesa led the council in reading the guiding principles.
- A candle was lit for Carissa’s cousin who passed away last month and for Tyrie’s friend who passed away. The council observed a moment of silence.
- The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved as printed.
- The minutes from the April 12, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.

- II. Committee reports:** The document ***Committee Report Summaries*** was displayed.
- A. Executive Committee and Co-Chair Update:** Tyrie Stanley provided the co-chair and Executive Committee update.
- The co-chairs reviewed the results of the post-meeting evaluation. The co-chairs encourage council members to fill it out after every council meeting. Tyrie reported the response rate to the survey has been low.
  - Tyrie shared that the Executive Committee received leadership and facilitation training at their last meeting.
  - Tyrie reported that the project officer from Health Resources and Services Administration HIV/AIDS Bureau (HRSA/HAB) for the Minneapolis/St. Paul TGA will be changing again.
- B. Community Voices Committee:** Jo Ann Vertetis provided the committee update.
- Jo Ann shared that the committee discussed Ryan White service areas and ranked their top priorities using a survey. Carissa Weisdorf shared the priorities in the meeting chat.
    - The top priorities for core medical services were: 1) AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP); 2) tie between medical case management, mental health, and oral health care.
    - The top priorities for support services were: 1) housing; 2) medical transportation; 3) emergency financial assistance.
  - Jo Ann reported that a few attendees of the meeting expressed interest in council membership. The council application will be sent to them.
  - Jo Ann explained that the meeting was held in a hybrid format with some attendees in person and others participating remotely. She reported that it worked well overall.
- C. Disparities Elimination Committee (DEC):** Sarah Schiele provided the committee update.
- Sarah shared that DEC heard an overview of Program HH dental services from the Program HH customer care specialist.
  - Sarah Schiele and Jay Orne reported that DEC received an update from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on their upcoming request for proposal (RFP) and discussed how DEC can provide input.
- D. Membership and Training Committee:** Stephen Jensen reported on behalf of the committee.
- **Action Item: Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention New Membership Election** was displayed.
    - **MOTION:** Stephen Jensen moved to elect Doug Peterson, Damon Romar, and Gage Urvina to fill unexpired terms ending on February 29, 2024.
    - **DEBATE:** Lesa Nelson asked if there was any debate. There was none.
    - Lesa Nelson stated that the election will be by ballot and each council member may vote for up to three individuals. Bryan Bick shared a link to the Membership Election Ballot in the meeting chat and emailed the link to the members of the council. Bryan asked each council member to complete the ballot only one time.

- Stephen Jensen reported there are still seven vacancies on the council. The vacancies in representation and reflectiveness were shared in the ***Committee Report Summaries***.

**E. Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee:** Julian Hines provided the committee update.

- Julian shared that the committee received training on the data dashboard.
- Julian stated that the committee will hear a presentation on HIV care and prevention in jails and prisons at the June meeting.
  - Sue Purchase added she talked with officials in jails in Lake County and Carlton County, which are run by public health. She learned that the structure of health provision within different counties and correctional structures can be very different. Sue said that Harm Reduction Sisters wants to provide HIV testing for people in jails or upon their release.
  - Carissa Weisdorf added that the information on HIV care and prevention in jails will be presented by Dr. Rachel Silva at the June 28 meeting of the Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee and anyone is welcome to attend.

**F. Planning and Allocations Committee:** Larry McPherson provided the committee update.

- Larry reported that the Planning and Allocations Committee kicked off its preparation work for the priority setting and resource allocation (PSRA) process. The committee received training and agreed to use the same process that was used in the 2020 cycle.
- Larry shared that the committee agreed to execute the PSRA process with two council meetings of no longer than three hours each.

### III. Data Dashboard training

- Emily Reimer presented the ***HIV Council Data Training: Data Dashboard***.
- Carissa Weisdorf added a direct link to the [Data Dashboard](#) in the meeting chat and encouraged council members to click on it and bookmark it.
- Emily was asked how current the data dashboard is. She responded that the information is complete through December 31, 2020 and 2021 data are not yet available. Carissa added 2021 data will be available before the council completes its priority setting and resource allocation process which begins in June.

### IV. Recipient reports

**A. Part A:** Brenda Senyana from the Hennepin County Ryan White Program provided the Part A report.

- Brenda reported on the COVID-19 response.
  - Brenda shared that COVID-19 infection rates are on the rise in Minnesota with the BA.2 variant of omicron predominant.
  - Brenda added that people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) still have lower vaccination rates than the general population. She reminded the council to encourage PLWHA to get vaccinated and that PLWHA are now eligible for a second booster.
- Brenda provided an update on the HIV outbreaks in Minnesota.

- Brenda shared that since the April council meeting there have been five new cases associated with the metro area HIV outbreak among people who inject drugs, and one new case in the Duluth area.
- Brenda stated that Hennepin County Public Health is building a new infectious disease response team to expand capacity to respond to the outbreak with additional nursing and community health worker staff.
- Brenda added that the fiscal year (FY) 2021 annual progress report for Ryan White Part A is due May 29. It will be a preliminary report because final Part A expenditures won't be determined until June.
- Brenda shared that the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) is determining final FY 2022 Part A grant awards now that federal appropriations bills have been signed into law. Part A should receive the final grant award by the end of May.
- Brenda reported that the Part A site visit will occur the week of August 8-August 12. The virtual HRSA site visit team will ask to meet with council members.
- Brenda shared that Anika Kaleewoun is leaving the Hennepin County Ryan White Services team for a new quality improvement position with Hennepin County Health and Human Services. She expressed thanks to Anika for her excellent work.
- Brenda reported that the Hennepin County Ryan White Services team is hiring for the quality management and the data analyst positions. They are currently posted internally and will be posted externally if internal candidates are not identified.

**B. Part B:** Thomas Blissett from Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) presented the Part B report.

- Thomas reported that Program HH implementation of Policy Clarification Notice (PCN) 21-02 is complete as of April 1, 2022.
  - Program HH consumers no longer need to complete six-month renewals.
  - DHS is developing electronic forms that consumers can use to report any changes with their eligibility.
- Thomas stated that the Program HH section of the Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) provider manual has been updated effective April 22, 2022.
  - The provider manual contains policies and procedures for health care providers that bill Program HH using the state Medicaid system.
  - The manual gives clarification on policies and procedures for obtaining prior authorization and billing HH for drug benefits, mental health, dental, nutrition, and medication therapy management services.
  - The Program HH manual was moved to main table of contents of the MHCP provider manual so it can be found more easily.
- Thomas shared that the 2022 AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) data are now input into CAREWare and that Program HH staff will start submitting the ADAP Data Report (ADR) in early June once the ADR build is complete.
- Thomas reported that Program HH has two positions open. One is the ADAP insurance specialist position which is on leave until June 2022 and the other is an office administration and support position that is temporarily reassigned in another area.

- Thomas stated that the Department of Human Services (DHS) is making amendments on ongoing contracts and executing new contracts from the latest request for proposal (RFP) for a July 1 start date. All but one contract has been fully executed. DHS will share a summary when all the contracts are signed.
  - Thomas shared that Fred Ndip has accepted a new role with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and ended his work with DHS. Thomas said that he and other DHS staff will meet tomorrow with provider management to go over what that transition will look like. There are now three program officer positions open and the job posting for those roles closes tomorrow.
  - Thomas shared that work on END HIV MN continues.
    - The community engagement phase of the update has concluded and eight priority tactics were established to guide work in the upcoming years.
    - Work groups are identifying potential action steps for the next two years.
    - The END HIV MN advisory board is looking for members.
    - DHS is hiring a coordinator for END HIV MN. Interviews are scheduled for this week and next week.
  - Thomas announced that an HIV Awareness Toolkit has been released for the public and the HIV community service unit at DHS will soon release an RFP for diverse media vendors to help share the message. Stakeholder engagement has been completed to inform an RFP for ambassadors who will support the work of using diverse media to promote the toolkit.
- C. Prevention:** Jose Ramirez from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) presented the prevention report.
- Jose shared that MDH surveillance staff is closing the year in HIV data and surveillance data and the data release should be scheduled for June 29th.
  - Jose announced that MDH is hosting an HIV testing and COVID-19 vaccination event on June 1st at Sanctuary Covenant Church in north Minneapolis from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. HIV testing, syphilis testing and hepatitis C testing as well as COVID-19 vaccination will be offered. The goal is to test up to 200 people and if it goes well there will be more this summer. MDH will share information and Jose asked the council to share with the community.
  - Jose shared that MDH-funded syringe services programs continue to be very engaged in outbreak responses both in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties and in the Duluth metro area. An increase has been seen in nearly all activities including syringes distributed, used syringes collected and naloxone distributed, as well as the number of participants served. Jose said that many providers are expanding by increasing provision of mobile services.
  - Jose added that the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is working with state offices to advocate for funding from the state budget surplus for syringe services and harm reduction programs.
  - Jose reported that MDH is saw a huge increase in HIV testing numbers in quarter one which ran from January to March 2022. HIV testing numbers are almost double where they were last year. Jose shared that some public health nursing staff in Greater Minnesota are still reassigned to COVID response so HIV testing capacity is limited.

- Jose announced that MDH will have a booth at both the Pride and Rondo Days festivals.
- Jose shared that MDH will host a syphilis virtual learning series in October. The scheduled dates are October 10<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>, and October 18<sup>th</sup>. MDH will send out registration information and details closer to those dates.

#### V. Council staff report

- Carissa Weisdorf shared a link to the post-meeting evaluation in the meeting chat. She encouraged council members to complete it at the end of the meeting today. She emphasized that the survey results are reviewed to help improve the meetings for everyone.
- Carissa stated that an orientation for four new council members will take place Friday, June 3. Anyone on the council or committees is welcome to attend for a review.
- Carissa reminded the council that all members must complete the conflict of interest form annually. It can be found at [https://www.mnhivcouncil.org/uploads/3/4/7/5/34759483/conflict\\_of\\_interest\\_form\\_fill\\_and\\_sign.pdf](https://www.mnhivcouncil.org/uploads/3/4/7/5/34759483/conflict_of_interest_form_fill_and_sign.pdf). It should be returned to her or to Bryan Bick.
- Carissa announced that the steering committee for next integrated plan for 2022-2026 has formed. It consists of the council co-chairs and staff from each of the three government agencies. It held its first meeting a couple weeks ago and will be reconvening every other week as the work continues.

#### VI. Hennepin County Ryan White Program Quality Management Update and Learning Activity: Anika Kaleewoun and Aurin Roy presented the *Hennepin County Ryan White Program Quality Management Update*.

- Regarding retention in care, a council member asked when the 12-month date range starts. Aurin responded that it is a rolling 12-month period, so if you wanted to determine whether someone was retained in care for a certain time you would look back 12 months from that date.
- The presenters were asked why the number of Part A clients would be different from the number of Minneapolis/St. Paul Transitional Grant Area (MSP-TGA) clients. Aurin and Anika explained that the Part A clients received services administered and/or funded by Hennepin County Ryan White Program through Part A, and MSP-TGA refers to services provided in the Metro area either by Hennepin County or DHS through Part A, Part B, or rebate funds.
- Aurin Roy stated in the presentation that a significant amount of viral load data is missing for 2021, which affects the final viral suppression percentage.
  - A council member mentioned that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) only requires providers to measure patients' viral loads once per year, and some people living with HIV whose viral loads are undetectable may not have gotten a viral load measurement in 2021 because of COVID precautions.
  - Aurin explained that it is still not known why so much viral load data is missing and the CAREWare team is still looking into it. They added that up to a quarter or one-third of data is missing for many providers which is significantly more than would be expected.

- A council member asked if there has been consideration of creating a separate category for multiracial individuals who specifically identify as American Indian and another race. Aurin Roy responded that the count of individuals who identify in that demographic category would likely be fewer than 100. Anika Kaleewoun added that data for groups smaller than 100 are suppressed publicly but can still be used internally for program planning and evaluation.
- Anika led the council in a breakout session activity to give an example of how council members can compromise while still advocating for a specific position and maintaining good relationships.

## **VII. Unfinished Business / New Business**

- The Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention New Membership election results were announced during unfinished business.
  - **VOTE:** Lesa Nelson announced the ***Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention New Membership Election*** results. The number of ballots cast was 18 and the number needed for a majority was 9. There was one illegal ballot.
    - Doug Peterson received 17 votes.
    - Damon Romar received 14 votes.
    - Gage Urvina received 16 votes.
  - Lesa Nelson announced that all three candidates on the ballot were elected to join the council.
- No other unfinished business was discussed.
- No new business was discussed.

## **VIII. Open Forum**

- Tyrie Stanley acknowledged that the meeting went past 11:00 a.m. and expressed appreciation to the council members for staying until the end.

## **IX. Announcements and Adjourn**

- There were no announcements.
- Lesa Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

### **Meeting Summary**

- The council heard reports from the committees, the recipients, and council staff.
- Emily Reimer from DHS gave a presentation on using the Data Dashboard to make decisions.
- Anika Kaleewoun and Aurin Roy presented the Hennepin County Ryan White Program quality management update.
- The council elected Doug Peterson, Damon Romar and Gage Urvina to fill unexpired terms ending February 29, 2024.

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

- Proposed agenda
- April 12 meeting minutes
- Committee Report Summaries

- Action item: Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention New Membership Election
- 2022 Community Voices Committee Meetings flier

**Additional documents displayed during the meeting:**

- Part A update
- Part B update
- HIV Council Data Training: Data Dashboard
- Hennepin County Ryan White Program Quality Management Update

**BB/cw**