

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
Disparities Elimination Committee
Thursday, June 16, 2022
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present:	
Charlotte Detournay	Jay Orne (co-chair)
Megan Higdon	Sarah Schiele (co-chair)
Megan Mueller	
Committee Members Absent:	
Océane Lune	Damon Romar
Rev. Jim Mitulski	
Guests:	
Joe Amrhein	Hanna Debele (MDH)
Calvin Hillary Hylton	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	
Jonathan Hanft	DHS (Part B) Representative:
	Thomas Blissett
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	
McKinzie Woelfel	MDH (Surveillance) Representative:
	Hannah Kass-Aten
MCHACP Staff:	
Carissa Weisdorf, Coordinator	Bryan Bick, Administrative Specialist (minutes)

Quorum Present? **Yes**

I. Welcome and introductions

- Sarah Schiele called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Review and approval of minutes from May 19 meeting and proposed agenda

- The minutes from the May 19, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.
- The agenda for the meeting was approved as printed.
- Sarah reminded the committee that its roles and responsibilities are described on the back of the meeting agenda.

III. Fiscal year 2022 Part A MAI post-award adjustments: Jonathan Hanft displayed the *Hennepin County Ryan White Program presentation to the June 16, 2022 Disparities Elimination Committee meeting.*

- Jonathan presented the *FY 2022 Part A Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) Allocations Increase Proposal.*
 - Jonathan shared that the Hennepin County Ryan White Program’s (HCRWP) final FY 2022 award included an increase of \$21,912 in Part A MAI funds.
 - Jonathan stated that HCRWP’s proposal is to allocate the increase to medical case management to meet the unmet needs of the growing Latinx population living with HIV in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Transitional Grant Area.

- Jonathan Hanft then presented the complete ***FY 2022 Part A Increase Allocations Proposal***.
 - Jonathan explained that Hennepin County Ryan White Program (HCRWP) proposes to allocate \$62,070 of the Part A award increase to medical case management prioritizing Latinx people with HIV, and \$183,900 of the Part A award increase to housing services.
 - He shared that the HCRWP wants the additional funding for housing services to be utilized specifically for HIV outbreak cases, and the Disparities Elimination Committee (DEC) could create a directive along those lines.
 - Jonathan shared internal data about HIV outbreak case demographics. Because the data is for internal use, the committee decided to pause the recording of the meeting.
- After recording and minutes resumed, a committee member asked how many clients would be served by allocating the additional Part A funding to housing services. Jonathan stated there is data showing that it costs between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to provide rental assistance and housing coordination, so the increase would serve about 40 individuals.
- Jonathan was asked if clients would need to go through the Coordinated Entry system to benefit from the additional housing service funds.
 - He replied that it is best if people who are part of the HIV outbreak go through Coordinated Entry to find housing because they will be prioritized due to HIV status, but the Ryan White program does not require it.
 - Jonathan mentioned that there is a low-barrier HIV housing technical work group which has extensively discussed challenges with the Coordinated Entry system. The work group is doing a process mapping project to look for improvement in the process from Healthcare for the Homeless referral to the Ryan White-funded programs. It is also implementing a project to interview people with lived experience to find out what kind of housing they desire, and what barriers they've encountered in establishing desirable stable housing.
- A committee member stated they believe the needs of American Indian/Alaskan Native individuals who are part of the HIV outbreak are very complex, and many individuals have been diagnosed and are not currently in care or have never been in care.
- A committee member added the agency they work for is seeing many new clients who are either coming from encampments or are non-English speakers from Latin American countries. They said these clients need case management to access resources right away.
- A committee member asked for clarification on how a directive could be used for allocation of the post-award adjustment.
 - Jonathan clarified that DEC should work to eliminate disparities with all the resources the council prioritizes and allocates or recommends, not just Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funds.
 - A committee member said they feel the directive should be attached to the Part A post-award increase for housing services. They did not want to direct medical case management funding away from the Latinx population.

- Carissa Weisdorf added that a directive for the Part A post-award increase allocation would go as a recommendation from the Disparities Elimination Committee (DEC) to the Planning and Allocations Committee (PAC).
- Carissa was asked what would happen if PAC voted against the directive. She explained that a member of DEC could add the directive as an amendment to the motion approving the reallocation proposal at the council meeting in July. If the amendment is seconded, the council would debate and vote on it.
- **MOTION:** Megan Mueller moved to accept the post-award Part A MAI allocations proposal which increases funding to medical case management. The motion was seconded.
 - Sarah Schiele asked those with a conflict of interest to log off the virtual meeting while the vote was conducted. Carissa Weisdorf referred to the council bylaws which state that the presiding co-chair of a committee will only vote on matters of the council when their vote affects the outcome.
 - **VOTE:** Sarah called a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

Name		COI?	Vote
Charlotte	Detournay	Yes	Abstain due to COI
Megan	Higdon	Yes	Abstain due to COI
Megan	Mueller	Yes	Abstain due to COI
Jay	Orne	Yes	Abstain due to COI
Sarah	Schiele	No	Aye

- **MOTION:** Jay Orne moved to recommend that the Planning and Allocations Committee allocate the Part A award increase (excluding MAI) to housing services and to prioritize housing unhoused people who inject drugs and American Indian/Alaskan Native HIV-positive individuals because those populations are associated with the outbreak.
 - **VOTE:** Sarah Schiele called for a voice vote.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Fiscal year 2023 allocations proposal: Jay Orne invited the committee to brainstorm what data it would need to have the best possible discussion about the 2023 allocations, and what the committee’s goals should be.

- A committee member shared it would be helpful to have a larger and more diverse membership on DEC. They encouraged committee members to access their personal and professional networks. Jay reminded the committee that they and Sarah are leading a hard topics discussion on how to increase engagement in diverse communities and suggested those who attend can be encouraged to help with recruitment.
- Jonathan Hanft suggested committee members look closely at the [main databook](#) and the [services databook](#) from the 2020 HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Needs Assessment as they think about allocations for 2023.
- Jonathan Hanft also mentioned that it is important to know what other sources of funding are being directed toward service areas of interest.

- Thomas Blissett clarified that Part A Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funds and Part B MAI funds are very different. The sole purpose of Part B MAI is to reach African American, Hispanic, and Native American individuals who are HIV-positive and to enroll them in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). Thomas agreed it would be helpful to hear from the Disparities Elimination Committee (DEC) about what specific populations they would like Part B MAI to focus on.
- A committee member asked if it would be possible to invite someone who is familiar with the 2020 HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Needs Assessment data to come to the July DEC meeting to point out areas of focus. Carissa Weisdorf suggested Emily Reimer, data analyst from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and Thomas Blissett agreed.

V. New business / Unfinished business

- Sarah Schiele stated that she and Jay Orne have discussed having future DEC meetings at the Aliveness Project with an option for people to participate remotely if they prefer.
- No unfinished business was discussed.

VI. Set agenda for next meeting: Carissa Weisdorf displayed the *Fiscal Year 2022 DEC workplan* and added discussion of the fiscal year 2023 allocations proposal to the plan for July.

VII. Announcements

- Jay Orne announced that there will be a Hard Topics conversation meeting on July 19 at 10:00am and invited committee members to participate and invite others.
- Megan Mueller announced that Freedom Ball is Friday, June 17 starting at 5:00pm.

VIII. Adjourn: Jay Orne adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Meeting Summary:

- DEC approved the proposal for the FY 2022 increase in Part A MAI to be allocated to medical case management to meet the unmet needs of the growing Latinx population living with HIV in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Transitional Grant Area.
- DEC approved a motion to recommend that the Planning and Allocations Committee allocate the Part A award increase (excluding MAI) to housing services and to prioritize housing unhoused people who inject drugs and American Indian/Alaskan Native HIV-positive individuals because those populations are associated with the outbreak.
- DEC began discussion of its process to evaluate and make recommendations for the FY 2023 allocations proposal.

Documents distributed before the meeting:

- Proposed agenda for June 16, 2022 meeting
- May 19, 2022 DEC minutes
- FY2022 Part A MAI Allocations Increase Proposal
- Fiscal Year 2022 DEC workplan

Documents displayed during the meeting:

- Hennepin County Ryan White Program presentation to the June 16, 2022 Disparities Elimination Committee meeting
- Hennepin County data dashboard on HIV outbreak cases
- FY 2022 Part A MAI Allocations Increase Proposal
- FY 2022 Part A Increase Allocations Proposal

BB/cw