

Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee
Tuesday, June 28, 2022
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:	
Joe Amrhein (co-chair)	Lesa Nelson
Alissa Fountain	John Vener, MD
Committee Members Absent:	
Julian Hines (co-chair)	Gage Urvina
Angela Reed	
Guests:	
Asneth Omare, DHS	Dr. Rachel Sandler Silva, Medical Director, Hennepin County Adult Detention Center
Jose Ramirez, MDH	Brenda Senyana, Hennepin County
Aurin Roy, Hennepin County	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	
None	DHS (Part B) Representative: Dennis London
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	
Peggy Darrett-Brewer	MDH (Surveillance) Representative: Hannah Kass-Aten
MCHACP Staff:	
Carissa Weisdorf, Coordinator	Bryan Bick, Administrative Specialist (minutes)

Quorum? Yes

- I. **Welcome and introductions:** Joe Amrhein called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Introductions were made.

- II. **Review and approval of April 26 meeting minutes & proposed agenda**
 - Lesa Nelson mentioned that she is listed as co-chair of the Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee in the minutes from April 26, but she is not a co-chair.
 - The April 26, 2022 minutes were approved with that correction.
 - The proposed agenda was reviewed and approved as printed.

- III. **Overview of HIV testing and medication distribution in the Hennepin County corrections system:** Dr. Rachel Sandler Silva, Medical Director at the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center, presented ***HIV Care in the Hennepin County Jail.***
 - Dr. Sandler Silva was asked if the 492,320 doses of medication administered in the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center in 2020 were specifically HIV medications or all medications. She clarified that number represents all medications.
 - A committee member asked about the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy.

- Dr. Sandler Silva explained that it is a federal policy.
- She added that Minnesota has a Medicaid 1115 waiver which allows for Medicaid to be billed if an individual who is incarcerated gets admitted to a hospital.
- Dr. Sandler Silva pointed out that the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy can limit the care that a county with a smaller budget can provide to a person who is in custody.
- Dr. Sandler Silva was asked if any HIV testing is done following the initial nursing assessment that is done within 14 days of intake into the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center (HCADC), and if it was accurate that no HIV-positive cases had been identified with testing.
 - Dr. Sander Silva responded that they do not conduct repeated testing at HCADC, but they would offer further testing if an individual in detention finds out they were exposed to HIV (for example, if they found out their partner had tested positive).
 - She clarified that rapid HIV testing for individuals who inject drugs has not yielded any positive tests, but every year there are a couple newly identified HIV-positive individuals identified through blood tests.
- Dr. Sandler Silva was asked if viral load testing is ordered for HIV-positive individuals.
 - She explained that viral load and genotype testing is ordered for newly identified HIV-positive individuals.
 - For individuals with a known HIV diagnosis, viral load testing would be performed if the individual is out of care or if they due for an updated test.
- Dr. Sandler Silva was asked about the collaboration between HCADC and the Positive Care Center that allows people who are in custody to call HIV service providers toll-free.
 - Dr. Sandler Silva explained that people who are in custody at HCADC can make toll-free calls to a case manager at Positive Care Center, the general Positive Care Center number, and the disease intervention specialists at Hennepin County Public Health.
 - She added that the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office has been willing to let people make calls to additional relevant providers when they are seeking linkage to care services.
 - Dr. Sandler Silva added she believes people get information about the different options for HIV clinical care and syringe exchange services when they are discharged from incarceration.
- A council member asked for information about how private medical providers such as Centurion Health handle medical care for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), and what situations might cause PLWHA to fall through the cracks.
 - Dr. Sandler Silva explained that she does not have information about these settings, but generally national companies have more restricted formularies for medication.
 - She added that in pretrial facilities like HCADC, one of the biggest challenges is unknown length of stay. People in custody might post bail, or a new finding in case may lead a judge to have an individual released from custody. The medical staff may not be able to solidify a care plan before someone is unexpectedly released.
 - She also shared that lapsed insurance coverage when people are released from incarceration is often a barrier to medication access.

- Dr. Sandler Silva cited some additional barriers such as probation requirements conflicting with the need to receive frequent medical care, housing instability, and difficulty securing work due to criminal background as additional ways that people with a history of involvement with the legal system fall through the cracks.
- Dr. Sandler Silva was asked if there are policies prohibiting distribution of condoms in jails and prisons, and if it would be beneficial to provide condoms and info about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to individuals when they are released from incarceration.
 - Dr. Silva replied that jails and prisons do not distribute condoms while people are incarcerated due to concerns about contraband.
 - She stated that Hennepin County Adult Detention Center (HCADC) distributes Narcan to some individuals upon release, so she did not think there would be a restriction on providing condoms upon release.
- Dr. Sandler Silva was asked if she was aware of other counties in Minnesota that have a good system in place for providing medical care to people living with HIV/AIDS that the council can gather information from. Dr. Sandler Silva said Ramsey County's correctional health is embedded within the public health department so there is enhanced continuity.
- The DHS representatives on the call were asked for more details about the challenges with enrolling people who are incarcerated into ADAP.
 - Asneth Omare said the main challenge is that the ADAP program resides within the state's Medicaid system for claims processing. If the system records an individual's living situation as being in a facility, it will deny claims.
 - Asneth said individuals or their representatives can reach out to Program HH customer care to request that a claim be manually processed, but they are looking for ways to automate that process.
 - Asneth said some pharmacies have experience in getting their claims manually processed, but it has been difficult to communicate the process broadly to all pharmacies.

IV. Discuss creating focus groups with people with HIV who have gone through the corrections system: The committee elected to defer this topic to the next meeting due to limited time.

V. Unfinished Business / New Business

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

VI. Set agenda for next meeting: The *FY 2022 NAE Workplan* was displayed.

- Carissa Weisdorf stated that a discussion of next steps following today's presentation, including possibly holding focus groups with individuals living with HIV/AIDS who have a history of incarceration, will be added to the workplan for July.

- Asneth Omare and Rachel Heule will be invited to a future meeting to provide an update on DHS's efforts to integrate ADAP with health care systems in jails and prisons.

VII. Announcements: there were no announcements made.

VIII. Adjourn: Joe Amrhein adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Meeting Summary

- Dr. Rachel Sandler Silva presented on HIV care in the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center.

Documents distributed before the meeting:

- Proposed agenda
- April 26 meeting minutes
- FY 2022 NAE Workplan

Additional documents displayed during the meeting:

- *HIV Care in the Hennepin County Jail* presentation

BB/cw