

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention
Disparities Elimination Committee
Thursday, July 21, 2022
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present:	
Charlotte Detournay	Megan Mueller
Megan Higdon	Jay Orne (co-chair)
Océane Lune	Sarah Schiele (co-chair)
Committee Members Absent:	
Rev. Jim Mitulski	
Guests:	
Scott Bilodeau (Red Door Clinic)	Emily Reimer (DHS)
Sokun Derosier (DHS)	Shea Amaro (DHS)
Chase Underwood (Red Door Clinic)	Shannon Boyer (Red Door Clinic)
Brenda Senyana (Hennepin County)	Patrick Ingram (Red Door Clinic)
Bobby Hall (Red Door Clinic)	Ashley Hall (Minneapolis Health Department)
James McMurray	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Jonathan Hanft	Thomas Blissett
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	MDH (Surveillance) Representative:
McKinzie Woelfel	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 9:35 a.m. Introductions were made.

II. Review and approval of minutes from June 16 meeting and proposed agenda

- The minutes from the June 16, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.
- The agenda for the meeting was approved as printed.

III. Red Door focus group results: Red Door Clinic staff presented *Focus Group 2022: Black MSM & Same Gender Loving Men*

- The presentation included a quote from the focus groups: “We as the consumer feel slighted when we have to do the codeswitching, but professionals never have to.” Shannon Boyer invited the committee to discuss the concept of codeswitching.
 - A committee member described it as going back and forth between two different cultural contexts or having to speak to white professionals while also being themselves and representing their community.

- Patrick Ingram added that a key finding from the focus groups was that individuals who can assimilate to white cisgender societal norms had a better experience at the Red Door.
- The presenters have shared the focus groups results with staff at the Red Door Clinic to consider changes that would benefit their clientele. They believe findings from these focus groups can be useful for other provider agencies too.
- The presenters were asked if Red Door compared the findings for the four people who participated in both the 2020 and 2022 focus groups. They responded that the two rounds were done by different staff, but some themes were repeated.
 - Black men who are gay/bisexual/same-gender-loving talked about being groomed for drug abuse and sex work. The 2022 focus groups included a participant who had lived experience. This was also a finding from the 2020 focus groups.
 - The presenters were asked for more information about how grooming for drug use abuse and sex work happens. They explained that a participant who did not identify as gay or bisexual found themselves in that situation and did not have supportive community to fall back on. They explained that isolation creates vulnerability among young Black queer men. Often the only way for them to make social connections is through hookup apps.
- A meeting attendee asked if COVID precautions have impacted the front desk experience.
 - Red Door staff confirmed that masks and plexiglass shields make it more difficult to hear. Clinic visitors are forced to speak louder when answering questions that are sensitive.
 - They also said that people who move to the Twin Cities often struggle to make social connections, and the pandemic made it harder.
- Jay Orne asked the presenters for feedback on how their findings might be useful for the Disparities Elimination Committee when thinking about changes it can make or new directions to take.
 - Patrick Ingram talked about the importance of mental health, and how some clinic visitors come in because they just need to talk to someone.
 - Patrick added that it can be challenging especially for Black people to take time off from work and from navigating life to get to the clinic.
 - Additional challenges are stable housing and health literacy/insurance navigation.
 - Patrick said that overall, there is a need for supportive community space that does not revolve around substance use.
- The presenters were asked if the Red Door Clinic is looking into adding a mental health specialist to its team. They responded that previous efforts to do this have not been successful.
- Jonathan Hanft added that an estimated 70-75% of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Minnesota are eligible for Ryan White services, but only about 50% receive them. PLWHA have better outcomes when they receive Ryan White services, so it is important to get appealing messaging to people who don't.

- Patrick said focus group participants suggested partnering with faith-based organizations. He said this was surprising because faith-based organizations have not always been affirming.
- Scott Bilodeau reported that he is at a conference and has interacted with a couple organizations that have good ideas about engagement. He promised to bring back their contact information.
- A committee member shared that a previous Disparities Elimination Committee member had done a lot of outreach in barbershops.
- Patrick mentioned that there are a lot of Black queer barbers in the Twin Cities area. The focus group project helped Red Door staff develop a list of community members who can be resources.
- Patrick stressed that it is important to work in coalition. Agencies are often doing disparate things without coordinating, and it would be helpful to be in the same room to discuss a collective plan to address the increase in HIV diagnoses among Black people and other people who are experiencing health disparities.

IV. Carryover proposal

- Jonathan Hanft explained that the three components of the Ryan White Part A grant are formula, supplemental, and Part A Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI).
 - MAI is about 6% of the total grant amount.
 - Unobligated formula and MAI funds can be carried over.
- The **FY 2021 Part A MAI Carryover Proposal** was shared. Jonathan explained that the amount of unspent MAI funds in FY 2021 is estimated at \$15,563 and shared the proposal to allocate these funds to culturally responsive medical case management to meet the unmet needs of Black/African-born immigrants.
- A committee member shared that the proposal is sensible because medical case management recipients have a high rate of viral suppression. She added that it is not a large amount, and it doesn't make sense to try to fund a new service.
- **MOTION:** Jay Orne moved to direct the carryover amount from FY 2021 to Medical Case Management for Black/African-born people living with HIV.
 - The motion was seconded.
 - Sarah Schiele asked those with a conflict of interest to log off the virtual meeting or leave the room while the vote was conducted.
 - Council staff 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.
- **DEBATE:** There was no debate.
- **VOTE:** Sarah called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved with a vote of one aye and zero nos.

First Name	Last Name	Conflict of Interest	Vote
Charlotte	Detournay	Yes	Abstain due to COI
Megan	Higdon	Yes	Abstain due to COI

Océane	Lune	Yes	Abstain due to COI
Megan	Mueller	Yes	Abstain due to COI
Jay	Orne	Yes	Abstain due to COI
Sarah	Schiele	No	Aye

Sarah Schiele passed facilitation of the meeting to co-chair Jay Orne.

V. FY 2023 Part A MAI allocations proposal: Jonathan Hanft reviewed the **FY 2023 Part A MAI Allocations Proposal** was displayed.

- Jonathan explained that medical case management (MCM) is the hub of the wheel for HIV care and support, and outpatient ambulatory health services fill gaps for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) who are uninsured, underinsured, or have trouble finding culturally sensitive services.
- Jonathan mentioned a change in the allocations proposal to increase MCM by \$14,800 for Black/African-born PLWHA, and to decrease outpatient ambulatory health services by the same amount. This would sustain the amount that was carried over from FY 2021 Part A MAI and allocated to MCM for Black/African-born PLWHA.
- Jonathan pointed out that the HIV epidemiological data for American Indian/Alaska Native individuals shows prevalence as flat or declining even though there has been a significant increase in incidence in the last couple years. There are likely errors with how these individuals are identified in surveillance data. They may be identified as multiracial rather than American Indian/Alaska Native.
- Jay Orne said they and Sarah Schiele had previously discussed what they expected to see in the FY 2023 Part A MAI proposal and what alternatives might exist. They invited the committee to discuss its vision for how MAI can be used and asked if it is more important to continue successful programs or allocate funds to new programs.
 - A committee member commented she has struggled with this question because the same services are funded every year and disparities continue. She also struggles with the idea of changing the funding allocations.
 - A committee member pointed out that the 2020 needs assessment data showed large numbers of people who needed but were not receiving MCM in the targeted populations. They also were not able to access psychosocial and mental health services.
 - Carissa Weisdorf added that the Disparities Elimination Committee has purview over the entire allocations proposal, and Part A MAI is only a small percentage. She said there may be underspending in other service areas that can be reallocated to address disparities. The **Minnesota Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Spending Quarterly Report by Service Area** was displayed, followed by **Ryan White Part B: Funding July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023**.
 - Jonathan Hanft mentioned that the council could work on directing underspent funds to creating a program where PLWHA could get psychosocial support. He added that some Ryan White service areas are challenging to fund because Hennepin County Ryan White procures services through a competitive request for proposal and

- sometimes there are no respondents. He added that capacity building with culturally specific organizations is needed.
- Jonathan mentioned that the Disparities Elimination Committee can ask the Needs Assessment Committee to work on learning more from specific communities about what their needs are all along the HIV care continuum.
 - Shannon Boyer added that individuals in some populations may be doubtful that mental health and psychosocial support are valuable.
 - Thomas Blissett asked to clarify that Part B cannot step in to fund services that lose their Part A MAI funding due to the council's allocations decisions. Instead, the council can make recommendations to Part B, and if there is an identified need and available funds Part B can work to address it.
 - A guest asked about sending more at-home HIV tests to people who are at high risk.
 - Jonathan Hanft clarified that the Minnesota Department of Health has studied this and found that different communities are not open to receiving HIV tests in the mail.
 - A committee member said false positives have been reported with the OraQuick test. She also mentioned that the risk of suicidality goes up after someone receives an HIV diagnosis, so there is concern about people getting test results at home.
 - A committee member suggested that underspent funds in psychosocial services could be used to find support for people who just received positive test results at home.
 - Thomas Blissett mentioned that sometimes infrastructure needs to change to catch up with the times, and in those cases adding financial resources doesn't make the desired impact. For at-home HIV testing, he said a needs assessment should be done first to find out which communities would benefit.
 - There was no further discussion.
 - **MOTION:** Megan Mueller moved to accept the FY23 Part A MAI proposal to fund Medical Case Management and Outpatient Ambulatory Services. The motion was seconded.
 - **DEBATE:** There was no debate.
 - **VOTE:** Jay called for a voice vote on the motion. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The committee's recommendation to accept the FY 2023 Part A MAI Allocations Proposal will be forwarded to the full council.
 - Carissa Weisdorf displayed the **Minnesota Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Spending Quarterly Report by Service Area** again and encouraged the committee to think about how directives could be applied to unspent funds.
 - A committee member agreed that mental health and psychosocial support are underspent, and the committee could make a directive to Part A or a recommendation to Part B for how to use those funds.
 - Jonathan Hanft mentioned that many service areas are funded by Part A and Part B so the committee could combine a directive to Part A with a recommendation for Part B.

- A committee member asked if an expert on psychosocial support services could talk to the committee to help them get information about where to direct unspent funds.
 - Jonathan mentioned that a mental health provider named Dr. Akinsanya has consulted with several providers who receive Ryan White funds and may be able to help the council with ideas on which services on the mental health/psychosocial support spectrum could be applicable.
 - A committee member suggested looking at utilization and outcomes data to see if people who receive psychosocial support services have improved health outcomes. She wondered if evidence would support shifting funds from group support to individual support like peer navigators who could go to appointments with clients.
 - Patrick Ingram stated that it is important to speak to agencies that receive these funds and get their insight on what would help them maintain and improve their services. Shannon Boyer suggested the committee should seek insight from consumers as to what they want and why they stopped going to support groups.

VI. New business / Unfinished business

- Jay Orne asked if the Disparities Elimination Committee (DEC) had any questions regarding the priority setting and resource allocations (PSRA) process and what DEC's role can be in that.
 - Carissa Weisdorf said the proposal will be given to the council on August 2 and there will be a week to consider it. At the August 9 meeting, council members can make amendments or propose directives.
 - A committee member suggested having an additional DEC meeting between the council meetings on August 2 and August 9.
 - **MOTION:** Megan Mueller moved to convene a DEC meeting on August 4 at 9:30 a.m. to talk about the allocations proposal and possible directives. The motion was seconded.
 - **DEBATE:** There was no debate.
 - **VOTE:** Jay called for a voice vote. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
- No unfinished business was discussed.

VII. Set agenda for next meeting: Carissa Weisdorf displayed the ***Fiscal Year 2022 DEC workplan.***

- Carissa stated that she added discussion of the needs assessment section of the integrated plan to the workplan for August, at the request of the co-chairs.
- Carissa said she would also add mental health and psychosocial support needs to the workplan for August based on today's discussion.
- Sarah Schiele mentioned that the Hard Topics discussion in July had generated the idea of sponsoring a town hall in Duluth with organizations representing priority groups. This was added to the workplan for August.

VIII. Announcements and Adjourn

- Jonathan Hanft announced that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Part A site visit week is occurring the week of August 8. The site visit team wants to meet with 12-15 Ryan White Part A clients on August 8 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Jonathan said he is investigating whether incentives can be provided.
- Thomas Blissett introduced two new program officers at the Department of Human Services (DHS), Shea Amaro and Sokun Derosier.
- Thomas mentioned that DHS is scheduled for a Part B site visit from HRSA the week of August 15.
- Thomas announced that the National Ryan White Conference is scheduled for August 23-26. He encouraged attendance to learn about best practices from other states on service categories.
- Jay Orne adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Summary:

- Staff from the Red Door Clinic presented results from their focus groups with Black MSM & Same Gender Loving Men
- The Disparities Elimination Committee (DEC) voted to approve the 2021 Part A MAI carryover proposal.
- DEC voted to accept the FY 2023 Part A MAI Allocations Proposal to continue funding medical case management and outpatient ambulatory medical services.
- DEC voted to schedule an additional meeting on Thursday, August 4 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the overall allocations proposal for Part A and Part B that will be presented to the council on August 2.

Documents distributed before the meeting:

- Proposed agenda for July 21, 2022 meeting
- June 16, 2022 DEC minutes
- FY 2021 Part A MAI Carryover Proposal
- FY 2023 Part A MAI Allocations Proposal
- FY 2022 DEC Workplan

Documents displayed during the meeting:

- Focus Group 2022: Black MSM & Same Gender Loving Men
- Minnesota Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Spending Quarterly Report by Service Area
- Ryan White Part B: Funding July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

BB/cw