

**Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention (MCHACP) Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	
Jay Orne (DEC co-chair)	John Vener, MD
Quay Catalpa	Stephen Jensen (M&T co-chair)
Moua Xiong	Megan Higdon
Ellen Ryan	Terri Wilder
Calvin Hillary Hylton (council co-chair)	Lesla Nelson
Julian Hines	Alissa Fountain
Kevin Sitter	Tristian Sparks (CVC co-chair)
Tyrie Stanley (council co-chair, PAC co-chair))	Shea Grutemaro
James Velek	Doug Peterson
Alejandro Aguilera (NA&E co-chair)	Angela Reed
Gage Urvina	Danielle Brantley (CVC co-chair)
<b>Committee Members Absent:</b>	
Zoe Neba Caboret	Nikki LeClaire
Annalise Jackson	Joe Amrhein (council co-chair, NA&E co-chair)
Charlene Leach	
<b>Guests:</b>	
Matt Toburen, The Aliveness Project	Pat Reymann (Council Parliamentarian)
Carissa Weisdorf, Hennepin County	Rashmi Acharya, Hennepin County
Larry McPherson, community member	Emma Bessire, SAGE
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	
Eriika Etshokin	Thomas Blissett
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	
Peggy Darrett-Brewer	Hannah Kass-Aten
Quay Catalpa	
<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>	
Audra Gaikowski, Council Coordinator	Jeremy Stadelman, Admin Specialist (minutes)

Quorum Present? **Yes**

**I. Welcome and introductions**

- Calvin Hilary Hylton called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Introductions were made.
- The agenda was reviewed and approved as written.
- The minutes from the June 13 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

**II. Recipient Report**

- Part A: *Eriika Etshokin, Hennepin County Ryan White Program*
  - Part A is working on responding to findings from a site visit from HRSA in 2022. Responses are due July 16.

- HIV Outbreak update:
  - Hennepin County: As of June 27, 2023, there were 81 Encampment-Related HIV Outbreak Counts (up from 75 in May) and 109 MSM/IDU & IDU Non-Encampment HIV Outbreak Counts (up from 108 in May)
  - Duluth Area: As of June 27, 2023, there were a total of 37 Cases (no change from May).
  
- Part B: *Thomas Blissett, Minnesota Department of Human Services HIV Supports* (see written report, sent to the committee on June 13)
  - Part B was successful in getting a onetime increase in funding. The amount is \$12.1 million and will be available on July 31, 2023. DHS is making sure that services can continue uninterrupted through the fiscal year. Additional steps include:
    - Updating budgets for FY 24/25 (through June 30, 2025).
    - Remaining funds will be distributed to services that need additional funding to maintain their programs.
  - Part B has applied for supplemental funding, and they are anticipating between \$800,000 and \$1 million, which is based on Minnesota's prevalence population.
  - Centralized Eligibility will begin on August 14, 2023.
    - DHS is actively engaging with the community to better communicate with consumers about what centralized eligibility means for them.
      - a. DHS staff met with CVC last night and got quite a bit of information from the community.
      - b. DHS will continue to engage consumers and Ryan White providers in conversations about centralized eligibility and what it means for them.
  - Program HH is exploring paths to cover the cost of medications more effectively for people in county jails when needed. Program HH will update the council once more information is gathered.
  - DHS is continuing efforts to inform all consumers about the public health emergency ending and when they need to recertify.
  - Contracts have been amended for state fiscal year 24, which began July 1. The total for all of the Part B Ryan White funding that went out into the community, including core medical and supportive services (excluding program HH and ADAP), was \$9,623,143.80.
    - This was a reduction of \$2,013,401.70 from state fiscal year 23, which was based on the expenditures from statements from FY 22.
  - The Advisory Board meeting was held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, which included a fiscal update from DHS and an update on the workplan and implementation strategies for Ending HIV Minnesota.
  - DHS will be moving forward with filling the HIV strategy and service coordinator position role.
  - Questions:
    - Tyrie inquired about the integrated plan celebration that has been discussed in the past.
      - a. Eriika and Thomas agreed to follow up on this.
  
- Prevention: *Peggy Darrett-Brewer Minnesota Department of Health HIV/STD/TB*

- Federal funds were cut due to the ending of the covid emergency. However, MDH has received supplemental funding to support Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) through 2024.
  - DIS programming includes getting newly diagnosed individuals linked to needed care and treatment and assisting individuals living with HIV who have fallen out of care to reengage with a healthcare provider.
  - MDH is developing a plan to determine what positions to hire and which to not fill due to budget cuts.
  - MDH is advocating to find other sources of funding via NCSD and CDC.
  - MDH has enough funding to continue to support all staff who are on the DIS grant, but most currently vacant positions won't be filled.
  - Activities that had been planned such as HealthEquity related trainings and evaluations will not be funded at this time.
- New legislation decriminalizes drug paraphernalia in Minnesota.
  - Via this legislation, MDH has received \$2.2 million in HIV prevention HealthEquity funds that were approved for FYs 24/25. This makes up for the reduction in rebate funds to MDH for FYs 23 and 24.
    - a. These funds will be used to for grants, purchasing supplies for grantees, our media campaigns, and to hire an HIV testing student.
- MDH is planning a PrEP institute in October to increase PrEP providers in Minnesota and the Institute.
- First quarter updates for our Early Intervention Services (EIS), PrEP and syringe programs:
  - MDH tested 141 people and found five positives.
  - 2234 outreach events were conducted, and 6360 condoms were distributed.
  - 82 folks were linked to PrEP.
  - 550,597 clean syringes were distributed in the community.
  - Received 317,877 used syringes that were disposed of by the grantees.
- Questions:
  - Kevin asked how many DIS positions are open compared to how many positions there are.
    - a. Peggy indicated that she would look into this and report back to the council.

### **III. Committee reports (see written reports)**

- Executive and Co-chair Update
  - Did not meet.
  - Co-chairs will participate in the monthly project officer call tomorrow.
  - Let Jeremy know if you have special dietary needs if you are coming in person to Community Voices Committee or full council meetings.
- Community Voices Committee (CVC)
  - Met on July 10.
  - Had a conversation with MDH about how communities build health for the Statewide Health Assessment.
  - Received an update on centralized eligibility.

- Voted to continue planning for the World AIDS Day Breakfast in 2023.
- Disparities Elimination Committee (DEC)
  - Received an update from Part A, B and MDH on actions that were taken as a result of the 2019 recommendations from the mental health subcommittee.
  - Debriefed the mental health provider discussion and will continue to review the provider discussion notes and discuss possible directives.
  - Discussed the results of the meeting format survey and will decide on meeting format in the July DEC meeting.
- Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee
  - Approved the biannual council and committee operations evaluation. Council members, please complete the evaluation by July 25, 2023.
  - Received a presentation from Cody Raasch at Hennepin County Public Health on the 2020 Needs Assessment data on people living with HIV who have been incarcerated.
  - Discussed next steps for researching the needs of people living with HIV who are incarcerated, including a possible service impact evaluation.
  - Voted to move committee meetings to a hybrid format, with an in-person option at Health Services Building (525 Portland Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55415).
- Planning and Allocation Committee
  - Did not meet.
  - Will meet again on July 26, 2023.
- Membership and Training Committee
  - Reviewed attendance and selected committee members to contact council members who had missed meetings.
  - Interviewed applicants and discussed interviews.
  - We are seeking applications from people who fill the following vacancies:
    - a. Greater MN
    - b. Hospital planning agency or health care planning agency
    - c. State Medicaid agency
  - Voted to continue hosting committee meeting virtually.

#### IV. Council Staff Report

- Two council members have resigned from the council: Tesha Johnson and Mohamedkader Mohamed
- A link to complete the biannual council operations survey will be sent out. Please complete by July 25.
- The Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism will be going out this week. Please complete by July 31.

#### V. Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism *Audra Gaikowski, Council Coordinator*

- Audra presented a PowerPoint titled **Assessment of the Efficiency of the Administrative Mechanism** (Audra emailed the PowerPoint to the council on July 11, 2023.)

- Questions:
  - a. It is an issue that this only assesses Part A; how does Part B gather this type of input?
    - i. Part B does take prioritization and allocation recommendations from the council.
      1. Historically, Part B does follow the recommendations from the council.

**VI. Legislative Update** *Matt Toburen, Executive Director of the Aliveness Project*

- The legislative session was largely successful because of the advocacy of the HIV community.
- Matt presented a PowerPoint about the legislative accomplishments for the HIV community.
  - \$12 million in new HIV services funding
    - a. Must go to community services
    - b. DHS is administering
  - \$4.5 million in new HIV prevention services funding
    - a. This is first increase for HIV prevention in Minnesota since the 1990's
    - b. One-time funding to be spent over 2 years
    - c. Will need to advocate again in 2 years to continue this funding
  - Removed cost share on PrEP
  - Increased food shelf funding
  - \$8 million in harm reduction funding
    - a. First time funds have been allocated for harm reduction in the state of MN
    - b. Includes funding for treatment services
  - Syringe access and paraphernalia law
    - a. Decriminalizes laws against transporting or possessing syringes or paraphernalia
    - b. Legalized paraphernalia- the first state in US to pass such legislation
  - \$1 billion in housing and homeless funds
    - a. Supports a broad array of housing programs in the state, including HIV housing programs
  - Charitable gaming tax reduction
    - a. More of gaming winnings now go back to charity, including HIV charities
  - Conversion therapy ban
  - Transgender refuge bill
    - a. Allows people from other states to come to MN to receive gender affirming care if their state restricts it
  - Repeal of sodomy statute
- Questions:
  - What does the state plan to do with funds now that the stadium is paid off?

- a. Advocating for more of the money to go back to the community.
- An HIV community legislative celebration is in the works. Matt will share more information as he gets it.

**VII. HIV & aging long-term bill presentation, Terri Wilder, HIV/Aging Policy Advocate & Emma Bessire, Manager of Civic Engagement at SAGE**

- Terri and Emma presented a PowerPoint titled, **LGBT+ and HIV Long Term Care Bill of Rights: An Overview** (Audra emailed the PowerPoint to the council on July 11, 2023).
  - No such bill currently exists in Minnesota.
  - Protects people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status in long-term care settings.
  - Mandates LGBTQ+ and HIV competency training for staff.
  - Meeting to discuss next steps to pass a MN LGBTQ+ and HIV long term care bill of rights in Minnesota will occur on July 25.
- Questions:
  - Are younger individuals who are long term survivors being considered in this?
    - a. Groups like the Reunion Project are working on this.
    - b. Focus is on long term care (LTC) facilities, so age is not necessarily a determining factor in the protections the bill would provide.
  - What protections are there for people receiving care from those who use religion to withhold care? What is the middle ground?
    - a. Federal legislation provides that no law can be passed that infringes on religious beliefs, but non-discrimination laws protect people from using religion to prevent someone from receiving care.

**VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business**

- None

**IX. Open Forum**

- There was no discussion.

**X. Announcements**

- Thanks to the new Executive Director of Pride for this year's successful Pride celebrations!
  - MN POC Pride is next month August 13-19.

**XI. Adjourn**

- Meeting adjourned at 10:53am.

**Meeting Summary:**

- Part A, Part B, and MDH updates were provided.
- Committee updates were reported to the council.
- The council received a training from Audra Gaikowski, Council Coordinator) on the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism.

- The council received an update on the 2023 Minnesota Legislative Session from Matt Toburen, The Aliveness Project.
- The council received an HIV & aging long-term bill presentation from Terri Wilder, HIV/Aging Policy Advocate & Emma Bessire, Manager of Civic Engagement at SAGE.

**Documents distributed before the meeting:**

- July 11 Agenda
- June 13, 2023 minutes
- Committee Report Summaries

**Documents distributed after the meeting:**

- LGBT+ and HIV Long Term Care Bill of Rights: An Overview PowerPoint
- Assessment of the Efficiency of the Administrative Mechanism

**JS/ag**