

Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention (MCHACP) Meeting

July 9, 2024

9 – 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: MS Teams and HSB Room 110

Committee Members Present:	
Alejandro Aguilera (NAE and CVC co-chair)	Jay Orne
Joe Amrhein (council co-chair)	Ellen Ryan
Quay Catalpa	Sarah Schiele
Cynthia Denise Elmore	Jennifer Schoenberg
Shea Grutemaro	Kevin Sitter (council co-chair, PAC co-chair)
Patrick Ingram (DEC co-chair)	Tyrie Stanley
Stephen Jensen	JT Stewart
Dongwook Kim	John Vener, MD
Nikki LeClaire	Moua Xiong
Lesla Nelson	
Committee Members Absent:	
Deon Kirby (M&T co-chair)	Derek Martin (LOA)
Mark Jenkins (DEC co-chair)	Megan Higdon (LOA)
Annalise Jackson (LOA)	Carol Labine
James Velek (LOA)	Terri Wilder
Guests:	
Carissa Weisdorf, Hennepin County	Tim Presley, DHS
Cody Raasch, Hennepin County	Bob Wickoren, Merck
Calvin Hillary Hylton, DEC and NAE community member	Amy Miller, DHS
Verneice Acevedo, community member	Jonathan Hanft, Hennepin County
Scott Bilodeau, Hennepin County	DeCarlo Braddy, DHS
Emma Sherman, Indigenous People’s Task Force	Pat Reymann, Parliamentarian
Mary McCarthy, PAC community member	Amy Caron, Hennepin County
Ndekela Sakala, MDH	Connie Jorstad, ViiV Healthcare
Asneth Omare, DHS	Darin Rowles, DHS
Emily Reimer, DHS	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Eriika Etshokin	Thomas Blissett
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	MDH (Surveillance) Representative:
Peggy Darrett-Brewer	Hannah Giles
MCHACP Staff:	
Audra Gaikowski, Council Coordinator	Jeremy Stadelman, Admin Specialist

Quorum Present? **Yes**

I. Call to order, Welcome & Introductions

- Joe Amrhein called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- Introductions were made and the guiding principles were read.
- A candle was lit for those we recently lost.
- The agenda was reviewed and approved as written.
- The minutes from the June 11 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

II. Recipient report

- Part A: *Eriika Etshokin, Hennepin County Ryan White Program*
 - Part A/MAI Grant Reporting

1. FY23 Unobligated Balance Report and Carryover request submitted to HRSA on 6/21
 2. FY24 Program Submissions due to HRSA 7/20
 - a. Service Category Plan Table & HIV Continuum Services
 - b. Planning Council Reflectiveness and Roster
 - c. CEO-signed Planning Council Endorsement and Allocations Table
 3. FY24 Program Terms Report due to HRSA 8/2
 - a. Contracts and Allocations
- Ryan White Request for Proposals (RFP) – Fiscal Year 2025
 1. The Department of Human Services (DHS) and Hennepin County (HC) are currently planning community engagement around RFP release and plans to offer some proposal writing education opportunities to help existing and new proposers prepare.
 - Hennepin/Ramsey County HIV outbreak update from [MDH Website](#).
 1. Going forward, MDH will begin to report on the outbreak in the Duluth area.
 2. Tyrie asked for demographic information for the outbreak in the TGA.
 - a. For the outbreak occurring in homeless encampments, most of those affected are American Indian/Alaska Native and African American. Age, however, is mostly reflective of the overall epidemic.
 - b. For the outbreak occurring in non-homeless encampments, the racial disparities are not as stark, but MSM (men who have sex with men)/IDU (intravenous drug users) and MSM are the groups being most affected.
 3. Jonathan clarified that the number diagnosed (259) was the total recorded for the duration of the outbreak and the first case was recorded in 2019.
 - Part B: *Thomas Blissett, Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) HIV Supports*
 - See written report.
 - Prevention: *Peggy Darrett-Brewer, Minnesota Department of Health*
 - Syringe Service Program:
 1. MDH (IDEPC) released an RFP late last year to expand access to comprehensive syringe services programs (SSPs) for people who inject and/or use drugs (PWID/PWUD) and people experiencing homelessness and/or housing instability (PEH/PEHI).
 2. Seven organizations were selected to expand or start new SSPs including: Avivo, Fond du Lac Tribal Nation, Hennepin County-Healthcare for the homeless, Northpoint, Neighborhood Health Source, Southside Harm Reduction, and Rural AIDS Action Network in partnership with the Lincoln center in St. Cloud.
 - Early Intervention Services:
 1. The latest HIV Tester training was conducted June 12th-14th.
 - a. 25 New community HIV testers were trained and certified!
 2. May 21st: MDH All Grantee meeting!
 - a. MDH Provided updated data, opportunities for social connection, and a skin care set up training.
 - MDH STD/HIV/TB section has officially changed its name to STI/HIV/TB Section.
 - Duluth area HIV Outbreak response:
 1. No new cases have been reported in 9 months. MDH is working with the CDC to close the ICS (incident command) response.
 - Pride:
 1. MDH provided 280 Mpox vaccinations at Pride.
 2. MDH and Red Door reported that their vendor space was different than in years past (in less trafficked areas). This was due to the Pride event becoming more popular and in increase to vendor costs. As a result, testing was lower than in previous years.
 3. Tyrie noted that MN POC Pride distributed 3,000 condoms.
 - Update on RFP for advertising efforts:

1. The RFP has closed and MDH is working with its financial department for vendor selection/contracts.
- Kevin requested that MDH provide a Mpox update with epidemiological information. Peggy indicated that she would work to provide this information at a future meeting.
- Alejandro informed MDH that a new homeless encampment is at 31st Street and 2nd Avenue in Minneapolis with a lot of fentanyl use occurring there. Alejandro recommended that MDH provide SSPs to the area.
 1. Jay noted that there will be a popup hosted by Southside Harm Reduction and other organizations will be joining to provide services at the encampment today.

III. Committee reports (also provided in written format)

- Executive and Co-Chair Update
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Extension of October Council Meeting
 - **MOTION:** The Executive Committee recommends that the council extend the October 8, 2024 council meeting to accommodate presentations from the MN Prescription Advisory Board & Community Access National Network.
 - **DEBATE:**
 - Tyrie asked for clarification about what these organizations will be presenting to the council and why it is useful for members to know.
 - Patrick responded that the Board is new in Minnesota, and we want to have an understanding of what this Board will do since their decisions can impact HIV drug prices and 340B funding. 340B rebate funding is used to provide HIV services in Minnesota.
 - The council can also provide feedback to the Board so that they better understand the needs of the HIV community. The council's feedback may influence how costs are considered and set. Ultimately, it is important that consumer voices are being heard by the Board and that this is reflected in their bylaws.
 - **VOTE:** With 15 ayes and 0 noes, the motion carries.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Hosting a Luncheon for BIPOC Members of the Council
 - **MOTION:** The Executive Committee recommends that MCHACP hosts a networking lunch for BIPOC members of the council funded by the council operating budget. Council staff will facilitate scheduling and planning as needed.
 - **AMENDMENT:** Tyrie Stanley moved that the motion be amended to include BIPOC members of the council *and committees*. Alejandro Aguilera seconded.
 - **VOTE:** With 13 ayes and 1 no, the motion carries.
 - **AMENDED MOTION:** The Executive Committee recommends that MCHACP hosts a networking lunch for BIPOC members of the council and committees funded by the council operating budget. Council staff will facilitate scheduling and planning as needed.
 - **DEBATE:**
 - Stephen wondered why the luncheon would not be open to all members and why the council budget is supporting this.
 - a. Kevin emphasized that this effort is to bring more equity to the council. The goal is to bring synergy of support with BIPOC members to lift their voices on the council.
 - b. Calvin noted that it is crucial to understand BIPOC experiences on the council. Why have some BIPOC members left the council before their terms ended?

This opportunity will allow BIPOC members to talk about their experiences and inform leadership on the membership experiences of BIPOC members.

- c. Patrick added that this will provide a safe space for BIPOC members to share grievances and offer a level of support and fellowship. Patrick noted that he is in favor of the motion. Patrick emphasized that there are large racial disparities in MN. The council centers race in its work and allocations and we need to make sure that BIPOC individuals can persevere in navigating white supremacy in various structures.
 - o **CALL TO ORDER:** Patrick Ingram made a call to order. Alejandro Aguilera seconded.
 - i. **VOTE:** With 14 ayes and 0 noes, the motion to end debate carried
 - o **VOTE:** With 16 ayes and 0 noes, the motion carries.
- See written report
- Community Voices Committee
 - Oral health, mental health, legal, and childcare services were discussed as priorities for the community.
 - Discussed how to improve attendance at future meetings.
- Disparities Elimination Committee
 - See written report.
- Membership and Training Committee
 - See written report.
- Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee
 - The prioritization worksheets are due on July 12. All members are required to complete them.
 - The Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM) will be distributed to members today. Completing the AAM is a legislative requirement.
 - See written report.
- Planning and Allocations Committee (PAC)
 - See written report.
- Criminal Justice Involved Ad Hoc Committee
 - See written report.

IV. Council staff report

- Teresa Jones has resigned from the council.
- Please complete the service prioritization worksheets by July 12. Completing the worksheets is a requirement of membership.
- The Ryan White Program Service Providers map is up to date on the [council website](#).

V. Part A Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism training

Audra Gaikowski, Council Coordinator

- Audra presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, **Assessment of the Efficiency of the Administrative Mechanism** (Audra emailed the presentation to the council on July 9).

VI. Service utilization data: Home & community-based health and housing services

Audra Gaikowski, Council Coordinator

- Audra presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, **Home & Community-Based Health Services and Housing Services**.
- Questions/comments:
 - o Patrick inquired as to why is housing utilization so low considering the great need.

- Jonathan replied that housing is a costly service. To serve the large need, a lot of resources are needed (an estimated 1000 individuals living with HIV are unstably housed in Minnesota) and Ryan White resources for housing are limited. There are also other limitations in housing, including rent costs and legal barriers. Part A is currently working on developing low-barrier housing guidelines that the council may want to consider when reviewing housing service standards.
- Thomas noted that emergency financial assistance also provides services for housing needs.
- [HOPWA](#) is also a key resource for providing housing services to people living with HIV in Minnesota. The City of Minneapolis has provided an update to the council on HOPWA funding in the past. Audra agreed to discuss this further with the Executive Committee.
- Calvin agreed that there are a lot of obstacles and red tape in accessing affordable housing for people living with HIV in Minnesota.

VII. Service utilization data: EIS, health education and risk reduction, legal services

Alejandro Aguilera, NAE Co-Chair

- Alejandro presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, **Early Intervention Services, Health Education/Risk Reduction, and Legal Services**.
- Questions/comments:
 - Jonathan noted that Ryan White funding can be used for criminal records expungement services within the legal service standards.

VIII. BREAK

IX. Data training: Funding sources

Cody Raasch & Emily Reimer, Data Analysts

- Cody and Emily presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, **HIV Council Data Training** (Audra emailed the presentation to the council on July 9).
- The data training is available on the [council's website](#).

X. Report back on rapid engagement

Amy Moser, Consultant

- **MOTION:** Jay Orne moved that, due to time limitations, the video update from Amy Moser be emailed so members can view it on their own time. Patrick Ingram seconded the motion.
- **DEBATE:**
 - Alejandro noted that this will limit the ability to ask questions.
 - Tyrie would like this to be on the agenda for next month.
 - Patrick suggested that members watch the video before the next meeting and that some time on the August agenda can be allotted for discussion.
 - Audra indicated that she could email the video today and save some time on day one of the August allocations retreat to have a discussion.
- **AMENDMENT:** Alejandro Aguilera moved that the motion be amended to indicate that the video will be emailed to members and then discussed at day one of the allocations retreat.
 - There were no objections to the amendment.
- **AMENDED MOTION:** Jay Orne moved that, due to time limitations, the video update from Amy Moser be emailed so members can view it on their own time and then discussed at day one of the August 6 allocations retreat. Patrick Ingram seconded the motion.
- **DEBATE:** None.
- **VOTE:** With 12 ayes and 0 noes, the motion carries.

XI. Update on additional DHS funding

- Darin and Thomas presented a PowerPoint titled, **DHS HIV Supports and Ryan White Part B Fiscal and Program Updates** (Audra emailed the presentation to the council on July 9).

XII. Unfinished business / new business

- None.

XIII. Open Forum

- Patrick reminded members that the council's resource allocation process was amended in April to center race in its decisions around allocations.

XIV. Announcements

- MN POC Pride is holding Pride events, August 13-18. For more information, visit MNPOCPride.Org.

XV. Adjourn

- Joe Amrhein adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Meeting Summary:

- Part A, Part B, and MDH updates were provided.
- Committee updates were reported to the council.
- Approved a motion that the council extend the October 8, 2024 council meeting to accommodate presentations from the MN Prescription Advisory Board & Community Access National Network.
- Approved a motion that MCHACP hosts a networking lunch for BIPOC members of the council and committees funded by the council operating budget. Council staff will facilitate scheduling and planning as needed.
- Received a training on the Part A Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism.
- Reviewed service utilization data for home & community-based health, housing services, EIS, health education/risk reduction, and legal services.
- Received a data training on funding sources.
- Approved a motion that, due to time limitations, the video update from Amy Moser be emailed so members can view it on their own time and then discussed at day one of the August 6 allocations retreat.
- Received an update on addition DHS funding.

Documents distributed before the meeting:

- Proposed agenda
- May 14 minutes
- ACTION ITEM: Extension of October Council Meeting
- ACTION ITEM: Hosting a Luncheon for BIPOC Members of the Council
- Part A update
- Part B update
- MDH update
- Committee report summaries
- Service utilization data for home & community-based health, housing services, EIS, health education/risk reduction, and legal services PowerPoints

Documents distributed after the meeting:

- Amy Moser / DHS report back on rapid engagement funding video
- Data training: funding sources
- SFY 26 HIV fiscal and program update
- Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM) training