

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

October 8, 2024

9 – 12:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: MS Teams and HSB Room 110

Committee Members Present:	
Joe Amrhein (Co-Chair, NA&E, Ad Hoc)	Kevin Sitter (Co-Chair, PAC co-chair)
Tyrie Stanley	Alejandro Aguilera (NA&E and CVC co-chairs)
Mark Jenkins (DEC Co-Chair)	Quay Catalpa
Ellen Ryan	Gari Jaleta
Annalise Jackson	James Velek
Jay Orne	John Vener
JT Stewart (PAC Co-Chair)	Carol Labine
Lesa Nelson	Patrick Ingram (DEC Co-Chair)
Sara Schiele	Moua Xiong
Deon Kirby (M&T Co-Chair)	Shae Grutemaro
Jennifer Schoenberg	Stephen Jensen
Cynthia Elmore	
Committee Members Absent:	
Dongwook Kim	Raquelle Lenior
Nikki LeClaire	Terri Wilder
Derek Martin	Megan Higdon
Guests:	
Carissa Weisdorf, Hennepin County	Alissa Fountain, Hennepin County
Chip House, Viiv	Cody Raasch, Hennepin County
Scott Bilodeau, Hennepin County	Pat Reymann, Parliamentarian
Bob Wickoren, Merck	
Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:	DHS (Part B) Representative:
Eriika Etshokin (minutes)	Thomas Blissett
MDH (Prevention) Representative:	MDH (Surveillance) Representative:
Peggy Darrett-Brewer	Hannah Giles
MCHACP Staff:	
Jeremy Stadelman, Admin Specialist	

Quorum Present? **Yes**

I. Call to order, Welcome & Introductions

- Joe Amrhein called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- Introductions were done, with a warm welcome extended to new members of the council.
- The guiding principles were reviewed.
- The agenda was reviewed and approved with the addition of a co-chair Ryan White Conference report-back.
- The minutes from the August 13 meeting were reviewed and approved with the corrections outlined by Alejandro.

II. Recipient Report

- Part A Eriika Etshokin, Hennepin County Ryan White
 - i. Part A/MAI grant application for FY25-27 was submitted 9/26/24.
 - ii. Ryan White joint Request for Proposals (RFP) from DHS and HC was published on 9/3 and proposals due by 10/15.
 - iii. The Planning Council Coordinator position is being posted publicly after receiving no internal candidates. Once the link is live, Eriika will share it with planning council to disseminate

- iii. Joe noted that he attended multiple workshops, including one relating to HIV in jails and incarceration settings. He was encouraged to see opportunities for continuity of care. He attended a workshop on service standards noting the importance of including people with lived experience in the development of service standards. He highlighted the importance of lived experience in staffing HIV programs.

- **Community Voices Committee**

- i. 18 attendees at the last CVC meeting including a Woman of Color who has worked with HIV-affected babies
- ii. They discussed availability of services and brainstormed education opportunities for future meetings, including the engagement of MATEC and pharmaceutical companies to provide education and build health literacy going forward
- iii. Next meeting is scheduled for November 4th from 4-6 and aiming to finalize the meeting location this week
- iv. A World AIDS Day breakfast is being held on 12/6 at The Aliveness Project

- **Disparities Elimination Committee**

- i. Did not meet, no updates

- **Membership and Training Committee**

- i. Did not meet, no updates

- **Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee**

- i. Continuing to review the NA2025 survey that is planned to roll out in March 2025 and discussed outreach plans
- ii. Reviewed results of the Council and Committee Evaluation and the Priority Setting Resource Allocation process, which will be presented at a future Council meeting

- **Planning and Allocations Committee (PAC)**

- i. Did not meet, no updates

- **Criminal Justice Involved Ad Hoc Committee**

- i. Welcomed a new member this month
- ii. Conducted a focus group to learn more about the medical case management

IV. **Council Staff Update**

- DEC, PAC, NA&E will have a combined meeting on 10/23
- BIPOC Luncheon has been scheduled for October 29th from 11 – 1; those who self-identified as BIPOC on their membership application were invited, if you were not invited but identify as BIPOC, please reach out to Jeremy for the invitation

V. **Results of the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism**

- Jeremy Stadelman shared the **Results of the Part A Assessment** of the Administrative Mechanism which is the opportunity for the Planning Council to evaluate how rapidly the Part A funds are allocated and made available for care.
- 21 of the 23 active MCHACP members (4 members were on LOA) completed the survey

VI. **Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS (EIIHA) Update**

- Scott Bilodeau, the Clinical Quality Management Coordinator for the Hennepin County Ryan White Program presented the **Annual EIIHA Presentation with findings from the 5/2/24 EIIHA Workgroup Meeting** leaving time for discussion and questions.

- Alejandro asked if provider staff are required to attend EIIHA meetings; Scott clarified that they are not required but are strongly encouraged to attend.
- Alejandro asked if Latinx individuals are included in the data presented; Scott clarified that this population is included in the “Men of Color” label but should be called out explicitly and named in the data and messaging. He recommends overcommunicating as a step towards inclusiveness.
- Patrick asked about data collection strategies used to assess provider level readiness to hire and retain staff from priority populations; Scott responded that this data comes from CAREWare and MDH surveillance.
- Joe expressed gratitude for the explicit labeling of American Indian/Native Alaskan populations.
- Joe asked if any specific barriers to care were identified; Scott responded that this was not included in the presentation today but could be brought back to the Council for review.
- Jay expressed gratitude for Scott’s work in developing these goals and ensuring that the new goals are reflective of different funding streams leading to a stronger understanding of how priority populations are being reached.
- Jonathan asked if the testing data included Ryan White EIS data; Scott clarified that all testing data was MDH Ryan White testing data.

VII. Break

VIII. HIV Care Continuum Update

- Hannah Giles presented the *Demographic Breakdown of the HIV Care Continuum in Minnesota* with space throughout for council member feedback and questions.
- Kevin offered congratulations on the lower undiagnosed number. He asked about the timeliness on receiving provider reports on new diagnoses; Hannah wants to investigate this and report back. He asked if they’re able to review viral suppression data for provider trends. Hannah responded that they have facility data and could use this to identify trends.
- Jonathan noted the standout successful viral suppression rate data and the lower-than-anticipated linkage numbers pointing towards increased need for linkage and referral systems.
- Jay asked for clarification around how viral suppression for those not retained in care is collected considering those individuals are not retained; Hannah responded clarifying the difference between the “virally suppressed (of all PWH)” and “virally suppressed (of those retained in care).” Jay responded that it may be worth following up on identifying providers needing TA to facilitate the 30-day linkage needs.
- Alejandro asked if there was more specific information available relating to health insurance as an identified barrier to linkage to care. Hannah responded that this has come up in dialogue with disease investigation staff but that this point wasn’t broken out by different insurance plans. Jonathan noted the race/ethnicity disparities in insurance coverage as broken out in the Part A Grant Application which will be posted to the MCHACP website.
- Jonathan noted that for those retained in care and not virally suppressed, it may be interesting to review those who are not virally suppressed but retained in care based on once vs. twice a year per HIV care and treatment guidelines.
- Kevin noted that the RW Conference included notes about the source of new infections, many of which come from those who are unaware of their status or who are out of care and how this is addressed in Minnesota. Hannah noted that quarterly Not-In-Care lists are run and shared with Hennepin County Disease Investigation Specialists to follow up with through the Data2Care program at Red Door Clinic.
- Patrick noted internal systems issues that lead to lower-than-anticipated insurance uptake, including wait times and challenges in reaching insurance plan representatives. He notes the importance of using a lens of racial disparities when discussing insurance uptake rates. Finally, he highlights the importance of assessing how we identify outbreaks specifically in communities of color.
- Alejandro notes the importance of insurance access for clients with differing immigration status.

IX. Overview of Minnesota’s Prescription Drug Advisory Board

- Matt Toburen, Executive Director of The Aliveness Project presented the Prescription Drug Advisory Board (PDAB) as recently established by the state legislature due to the recent noted spikes in drug costs. PDAB includes community voices and as well as an advisory board that includes community voice.
- PDAB can review drug costs and prices in the state and collect non-public data around the pricing and usage of that medication and set an upper payment limit.
- PDAB is hiring an Executive Director and 1-2 staff members with interviews starting soon.
- Matt notes the importance of considering the DHS 340B Rebate Revenue which largely comes from the drug manufacturers when assessing drug pricing but that these are two separate administrative conversations.
- Joe asked how individuals may engage with the PDAB. Matt responded that members could sign up for meeting notifications and information via [a link to the Department of Commerce](#).
- Alejandro asked how PDAB works with the ADAP formulary advisory board. Matt responded that this is still being considered but is important to be part of the ongoing planning.
- Alejandro asked if the local PDAB is assessing lowering Hep C drug prices similar to New York's PDAB work. Matt responded that the board will develop criteria for identifying drug pricing red flags to address.
- Patrick asked if there will be a grandfather clause to better understand the PDAB landscape before beginning to adjust prices, and if not how will long-acting injectables be made affordable/accessible for more PWH. Matt responded that the PDAB will be weighing these questions and digging into solutions once better-established.

X. Unfinished/New Business

- None.

XI. Open Forum

- Alejandro highlighted Latinx Month and Latinx Business Week in Minneapolis with panels, shopping, and business owner resources. He noted several of the events that will take place to honor Latinx culture and community in the city.

XII. Announcements

- Joe shared that he will be moving out of state with this being his last in-person council meeting. He notes that he has grown tremendously in this role as a co-chair and encourages members to reach out for information/tips as the council seeks a replacement co-chair.
- Tyrie notes that he saw an MDH prevention promotion on public transportation.
- Kevin reminds council members of the 10/28 6-8:30 Aging with HIV Listening Session.

XIII. Adjourn

- Joe adjourned the meeting at 11:57.

Meeting Summary:

- Council heard reports from Committees, Recipients, and Council Staff
- Council reviewed and discussed results from the Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism
- Council received a presentation on updated EIIHA goals
- Council received a presentation on HIV Care Continuum data

Documents distributed before the meeting:

- Proposed agenda
- 08.13.2024 minutes
- FY 2025 PSRA Allocations
- October Committee Report Summaries
- Part A update
- Part B update

- MDH update
- FY 2023 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism results

Documents distributed during and/or after the meeting:

- Annual EIIHA presentation slides
- 2023 Care Continuum update slides
- Whole Person Care flier

EE/JS