

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

**January 14, 2025**

**9 – 11:00 p.m.**

**Hybrid Meeting: MS Teams and HSB Room 112**

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	
Kevin Sitter (Council Co-Chair; PAC Co-Chair)	Tyrie Stanley (Council Co-Chair; M&T Co-Chair)
Mark Jenkins (DEC Co-Chair)	Alejandro Aguilera (NA&E Co-Chair; CVC Co-Chair)
Quay Catalpa	Ellen Ryan
Gari Jaleta	Shea Grutemaro
Annalise Jackson	Jay Orne
Jennifer Schoenberg	John Vener
JT Stewart (PAC Co-Chair)	Lesa Nelson
Patrick Ingram (DEC Co-Chair)	Raquelle Lenoir
Sarah Schiele	Stephen Jensen
Terri Wilder	Moua Xiong
Dongwook Kim	Cynthia Elmore
<b>Committee Members Absent:</b>	
Deon Kirby (M&T Co-Chair)	James Velek
<b>Guests:</b>	
Bill Tiedeman, Trellis	Carissa Weisdorf, Hennepin County Part A
Cody Raasch, Hennepin County Part A	Pat Reymann, Parliamentarian
Tim Presley, DHS	Scott Bilodeau, Hennepin County Part A
Bob Wickoren, Merck Pharmaceuticals	Bethel Adiele, Hennepin County Intern
Brenda Senyana, Positively Hennepin	Mary McCarthy, Community member of PAC
<b>Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:</b>	
Eriika Etshokin (minutes)	Thomas Blissett
Alissa Fountain	DeCarlo Braddy
	Emily Reimer
<b>MDH (Prevention) Representative:</b>	
Jose Ramirez	None
Sarah Gordon	
<b>MCHACP Staff:</b>	
Jeremy Stadelman, Admin Specialist	

Quorum Present? **Yes**

**I. Call to order, Welcome & Introductions**

- Kevin Sitter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Introductions were done and the guiding principles were read.
- The candle was lit to recognize the co-factors and social determinants of health that can lead to death for people living with HIV.
- The agenda was reviewed and approved as written.
- The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

**II. Recipient Report**

- Part A, *Eriika Etshokin, Hennepin County Ryan White*
  - i. See written report.
- Part B, *Thomas Blissett, Minnesota Department of Human Services HIV Supports*
  - i. See written report.
- HIV Prevention, *Jose Ramirez and Sarah Gordon, Minnesota Department of Health*

- i. Sarah Gordon presented ***Hennepin and Ramsey Outbreak De-Escalation*** and provided an overview of the history and de-escalation of the outbreaks in the metro area.
- ii. Jay asked for clarification for the decreases noted on the Epidemiological Trends by Race/Ethnicity and Transmission Risk – Sarah responded that we’re seeing more cases than we were before the outbreak but not continued rapid transmission. Trends have not returned to pre-outbreak levels but rapid transmission has been stopped. Monitoring phase allows for continued monitoring of disparities in epidemiological trends.
- iii. Patrick highlighted the epidemiological trends increasing among Black, African American and Latinx populations and the need to continue acknowledging this as an Outbreak to route appropriate resources. He asked if there are plans to address these increases. Jose shared the work being done in collaboration with community partners to reach these individuals with testing and outreach. He noted some recent obstacles with local AIDS Service Organizations closing and budget cuts across Minnesota agencies.
- iv. Sarah noted that just because the Outbreak is being downgraded, the rates are unacceptable and will continue to inform MDH prevention plans.
- v. A member asked a question in the chat about the Duluth HIV Outbreak – Sarah clarified that MDH is no longer seeing increases in cases or indications of rapid transmission in Duluth so that outbreak is also being de-escalated. MDH is working with St. Louis Co Public Health and Fond Du Lac tribal health as well as messaging with other community partners such as CHUM.

### III. Committee reports

- **Executive and Co-Chair Update**

- i. Kevin presented the proposed changes to the MCHACP Bylaws noting that any concerns about the proposed changes may be sent to Jeremy or a Council Co-Chair by Monday, 2/3. The proposed amendments, a tracked version of the bylaws, and a clean version of the bylaws will be sent to all council members following today’s meeting for review. The proposed changes to the bylaws will come back to MCHACP in February for a motion.
- ii. Alejandro asked that the Proposed Bylaw Changes be shared with the Community Voices Committee email list for community input. Kevin noted that it will be shared with CVC.
- iii. Pat clarified that to amend the bylaws significantly, the Council needs to have the changes a month ahead of approving. Any changes to the proposed amendments proposed by February 3rd may not be bigger than what is currently being proposed within the scope of notice.

- **Community Voices Committee**

- i. See written report.

- **Disparities Elimination Committee**

- i. See written report.

- **Membership and Training Committee**

- i. See written report.

- **Needs Assessment and Evaluation Committee**

- i. See written report.

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

- i. See written report.

- **Criminal Justice Involved Ad Hoc Committee**

- i. See written report.

### IV. HIV and Aging

- Bill had to leave the meeting so the HIV and Aging presentation will be moved to a future meeting. There was no objection to postponing this presentation. Kevin highlighted the grant opportunities that Bill shared in the chat before he left the meeting.

### V. Council Staff Update

- Jeremy highlighted that next month will include a Council Co-Chair election and shared the **Council Co-Chair Position Description**. Anyone interested in running for a Co-Chair term should let Jeremy know or may nominate themselves at the March meeting.
- Jeremy also noted that Membership & Training will be moving forward a new slate of membership nominations next month while continuing to recruit for Unaligned Consumers.
- Jeremy shared that the new Planning Council Coordinator, Aamina Mohamed, started with Hennepin County yesterday and is at New Employee Orientation today. She will start joining Committee meetings this week.
- Kevin acknowledged the work Jeremy has completed over the last few months to fill the Planning Council gap. He encouraged eligible members to run for Co-Chair to ensure we have faces of the epidemic in leadership roles within the Planning Council.

## VI. Review of Qualitative Findings from Ad Hoc Committee

*Bethel Adiele, Hennepin County Intern*

- Bethel shared **Findings from Justice Involved Case Manager/Disease Intervention Evaluation** and provided an overview of the work done and findings.
- Carissa highlighted the recent updates to the [Legal Services Standard](#) to allow expungement of criminal record as an allowable activity within this service.

## VII. Pilot 2025 Needs Assessment Survey

- Cody shared a link to the draft 2025 Needs Assessment survey to have council members attempt to take the survey and provide feedback on questions, wording, and/or length. Emily noted that the numbers are currently off in the survey as some sections are still being re-ordered.
- Emily noted that we want to give an estimate of how long the survey takes so this would be important feedback from council members.
- Jeremy asked that members complete the survey in the next two weeks and provide feedback and the time it took for Needs Assessment & Evaluation Committee to consider when finalizing the survey.

## VIII. Unfinished/New Business

- Patrick asked about any gaps in research Bethel noted in his interviews with DIS and Case Workers, noting the low number of respondents. Bethel responded that some individuals declined to participate in interviews because they haven't worked with criminal justice involved individuals in recent history.
- Tyrie asked when the BIPOC Luncheon will be scheduled – Jeremy noted that this will be a priority for the new Council Coordinator once onboarded.
- Patrick raised concern around the behavior of council members and the lack of role of the Executive Committee in responding to this behavior. He noted that he is uncomfortable about the outcome of a requested investigation into the conduct of a member. He asked for guidance from the Parliamentarian on next steps in this process.
- Pat, the Parliamentarian, noted that this is only the second time in many years that a Code of Conduct violation has been filed which means that staff and members have little practice pursuing follow-up steps in such cases. She cited the Bylaws which note that the Executive Committee should be making the final decision in this case.
- There was disagreement among members on how this was handled and what next steps should be. Kevin asked for guidance from the Parliamentarian about if the previous decision stands until consensus is reached at Executive Committee.
- Upon Kevin's acknowledgement that the suspension should remain in place, Pat recommended that the Council moves forward with Executive Committee handling the ongoing investigation.
- Patrick questioned the efficacy of the current leadership of the Council citing decisions being made outside of Executive Committee and his perception that they are racially motivated decisions.

## IX. Open Forum

- None

**X. Announcements**

- None

**XI. Adjourn**

- Kevin Sitter adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

**Meeting Summary:**

- MDH presented data related to the de-escalation of the HIV Outbreaks in Minnesota.
- Executive Committee presented the proposed changes to the MCHACP bylaws for members to review with the goal of voting on amendments at the February meeting.
- A Service Impact Evaluation update from the Ad Hoc committee was presented.
- A link to the draft 2025 Needs Assessment Survey was shared to council members with a request to send feedback and time taken to complete to Needs Assessment & Evaluation Committee to consider.

**Documents distributed before the meeting:**

- Proposed agenda
- December 10, 2024 meeting minutes
- December Committee Report Summaries
- Part A update
- Part B update

**Documents distributed after the meeting:**

- HIV and Aging Coalition Presentation
- HIV and Aging Listening Session Overview
- Review of Qualitative Findings from the Criminal Justice Involved Ad Hoc Committee
- Bylaws Proposed Changes Overview
- Bylaws with Track Changes
- 2025 Needs Assessment Survey Link to Pilot

**EE/JS**