# **Disparities Elimination Committee Meeting**

# **Thursday, March 16, 2023**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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| **Committee Members Present:** |  |
| Sarah Schiele (co-chair) | Jay Orne (co-chair) |
| Océane Lune | Calvin Hillary Hylton |
| Alejandro Aguilera | Tristan Sparks |
| Nikki LeClaire |  |
| **Committee Members Absent:** |  |
| Mohamedkader Mohamed | Meg Thomas (Mueller) |
| Gage Urvina | James Velek |
| Charlotte Detournay |  |
| **Guests:** |  |
| None |  |
| **Hennepin County (Part A) Representative:** | **DHS (Part B) Representative:** |
| None | Thomas Blissett |
| **MDH (Prevention) Representative:** | **MDH (Surveillance) Representative:** |
| McKinzie Woelfel | Hannah Kass-Aten (MDH – Epi) |
| **MCHACP Staff:** |  |
| Audra Gaikowski, coordinator | Angela McGregor (Hennepin County - minutes) |

Quorum Present? Yes

# **Welcome and introductions**

* + Jay Orne called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made.

# **Review, approval of minutes from February 16 meeting and proposed** **agenda**

# The minutes from the February 16 meeting were reviewed and approved.

# The agenda for the meeting was approved as printed.

1. **Provider discussion planning: Review script**

* Goal: Issue a directive to say we’ve learned from this process as an improvement.
* Jay Orne will facilitate.
* Alejandro Aguilera will create notes/visuals
* Océane Lune will co-moderate
* **MOTION:** Océane Lune motioned to approve the script for the mental health provider discussion. Tristian Sparks seconded.

**DEBATE:** There was no debate.

**VOTE:** The motion passed 5-0.

* Audra displayed the ***Panel Discussion May 18*** flyer. Audra has been working with communications to create a flyer that can be shared widely with our network.
  + Nikki LeClaire suggested making the date/time bold to provide more contrast.
  + Alejandro Aguilera suggested adding that breakfast will be provided for those who attend in-person.
  + Audra asked the committee for their thoughts on the last sentence and if it was clear that it was an in-person event, but there is a virtual option for those unable to attend in-person.
  + Océane Lune suggested moving “For more information, please contact [HIVcouncil@hennepin.us](mailto:HIVcouncil@hennepin.us)” after the very last sentence of the flyer.
  + Alejandro suggested adding “In-person event” before “No registration required.”
  + Sarah Schiele suggested adding that in-person attendance is strongly encourage, but a virtual option is available for those unable to attend in-person.
  + Thomas Blissett stated that we should not be excluding people who choose the virtual option so they can still participate just as though they were in-person.
    - Jay responded that if someone participating online can put questions in the chat so they can still participate.
    - Océane suggested seeing if the county can set up a webinar so there is a Q&A section, which will organize questions better for us.
    - Nikki responded that Teams does have a Q&A option.
    - Audra responded that she will look into a Webinar style presentation and if that does not work, we could have a Microsoft Forms where people can submit questions as well.
  + Alejandro responded that we need to think of the audience of the flyer – is it providers? Or the clients of providers?
    - Tristian responded if it would be possible to put the flyer up at different community organizations?
    - Jay responded that we should move this discussion to new/unfinished business.
  + Thomas suggested having registration for the virtual option so Audra knows what type of meeting to set up (i.e. normal Teams or a webinar).

1. **Recommendations from the Mental Health Services Subcommittee**

* Audra displayed the ***Recommendations from the Mental Health Services Subcommittee.***
* Alejandro presented on the findings from the subcommittee formed in 2017/2018.
* People living with HIV experience disproportionately higher rates of mental illness. Additionally, People of Color (POC), experience limited access to mental health services, and accessing such services carries significant stigma for many POC.
* On November 14th, 2017, Ejay Jack, who was Needs Assessment & Evaluation Co-Chair at the time, motioned that NA&E work to gather more information on mental health services and an examination of the data to better understand utilization and why funds are underspent.
  + A subcommittee was then formed to do the work of the mental health subcommittee.
* Various recommendations were created for the government recommendations to improve mental health services and better understanding services.
  + It is recommended that DEC write directives rather than recommendations because recommendations do not need to be completed for Part A, like a directive does.
  + Jay asked Audra if there is a way for us to get a list of which of these recommendations were completed?
  + Audra will ask Jonathan to speak on what Part A has done after this.
  + Thomas asked Audra to email the recommendations and Part B will look into what has been completed since the recommendations were approved after the council.
  + Jay responded that we will continue to discuss this in the next DEC meeting in order to address some of the recommendations that have not been implemented.

1. **Council training needs**

* Audra stated that annually DEC discusses any trainings they would like the full council to have. If anyone has any suggestions, please let Audra know and she will share that information with Membership & Training Committee.
* Other trainings that have been offered:
  + Cultural competency
  + Equity literacy
  + 3-part training series from Beth Zemsky
* There were no suggestions today so we will put this agenda item on the next DEC meeting.

1. **Committee co-chair election**

* Sarah Schiele wrote in the chat that she is interested in running for co-chair again before leaving the meeting. Jay Orne nominated themselves for the co-chair election again.
* Tristian Sparks nominated Alejandro Aguilera for co-chair of DEC. Alejandro declined the nomination for this year.
* Audra displayed the ***Disparities Elimination Committee Co-Chair Position Description*** and confirmed with the committee that with the nominations, one person lives in the TGA and one person is a voting member of the council. Audra stated that because Sarah is no longer a voting member of the council, Jay would then be responsible for attending the Executive Committee meeting.
* Because there were only 2 nominations accepted, both Sarah and Jay were voted as co-chair of DEC by acclamation. They will be the co-chairs of DEC for FY2023.

1. **Review work plan**

* Audra displayed the ***FY2023 DEC workplan***. The workplan includes what DEC has been working on so far and what DEC is required to do.
* Items scheduled on the workplan so far include:
  + Council training needs – April 2023
  + MH Provider Panel – May 2023
  + Part A and B update subcommittee – June 2023
  + Council Recruitment needs – September 2023
  + Combined PAC & DEC – October 2023
  + Housing – November 2023
* Jay suggested leaving a few months empty after we complete the mental health provider discussion so the committee can investigate where they would like to go next.
* Ideas to focus on:
  + HIV impact on Indigenous Communities (in Duluth and Twin Cities)
  + Prevention
  + Ask a data analyst to provide a disparity update to inform DEC workplan
  + Offer full council training on ESCALATE
  + Training from Rick Moldenhauer, MS, LADC, LPCC, ICADC (Emeritus)

1. **New business / Unfinished Business**

* Audra shared a mental health event from Rainbow Health on March 22, 2023.
* Please email ideas for DEC to [Jay Orne](mailto:jay@aliveness.org) and [Sarah Schiele](mailto:Sarah.Schiele@minneapolismn.gov).

1. **Set agenda for next meeting**

* Directives Training
* Finalize mental health provider panel prepping (audience/advertising plan)
* Invite DHS to learn about mental health resources through Program HH

1. **Announcements**

* There were no announcements.

1. **Adjourn**

* Jay Orne adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

**Documents shared before the meeting:**

* 2023.03.16 DEC agenda
* 2023.02.16 DEC minutes
* Draft script
* FY2023 DEC workplan

**Documents shared during the meeting:**

* Panel Discussion May 18
* Recommendations from the Mental Health Services Subcommittee.
* Disparities Elimination Committee Co-Chair Position

**AM/ag**