



## Ending the HIV Epidemic Advisory Council | Minutes

May 21, 2020 | 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Council Member Attendees: Clare Bolds, Dr. DeAnn Bullock Dr. Michael Caldwell, Brian Haile, Councilmember Sharon Hurt, Dr. Rajeev Mavath, Brady Morris, Amna Osman, Fahad Tahir, Rev. Edwin Sanders

Other Attendees: Brandon Marshall, Tarik Smith, Julie Thacker

Welcome and Updates

Dr. DeAnn Bullock, Co-Chair

- Dr. DeAnn Bullock, EHE Advisory Council Co-Chair provided the opening and welcomed new member, the Director of Health for Metro Public Health Department, Dr. Michael Caldwell.
- Council members provided introductions of themselves.

ACTION: Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2020

Clare Bolds, Co-Chair

- Aman Osman made a motion to approve the minutes from January 16, 2020.
- Fahad Tahir seconded the motion.
- The motion passed to approve the minutes from January's EHE Advisory Council meeting.

ACTION: Approval of change from Ending the Epidemic "EtE" to Ending the HIV Epidemic "EHE"

Clare Bolds

- Brady Morris made a motion to make the change from EtE to EHE.
- Brian Haile seconded the motion.
- The motion passed to approve the change from EtE to EHE.

Equity Workgroup Update

- Tarik Smith, Equity Workgroup Co-Chair was in attendance to provide an update on the Equity Workgroup along with Julie Thacker.
- The equity workgroup was formed in February and worked via email during the months of March and April. The workgroup completed a survey reviewing the equity-related EtE Plan objectives for impact and feasibility, which was discussed at the workgroup's first face-to-face virtual meeting on May 7. The workgroup discussed the possibility of reorganizing some of the priorities, and developing additional strategies to address the priorities, considering the impacts of COVID-19. Currently the workgroup is moving forward with developing project charters for 3 projects, each aligned with one the top 5 priorities of the Advisory Council. Sub-committees are being formed to implement these projects.

- One project is a strategy to advance Goal 6 - Objective 4 - Address and reduce stigma and discrimination of PLWH; Clare Bolds, Dr. Lauren Brown from Nashville Cares and Julie Thacker are working on a project related to the strategy: Provide cultural humility and trauma informed care education to all HIV care providers online and in person
- Goal 1 - Objective 3 - Increase acceptability of HIV testing. Tarik and Julie will convene a sub-group to develop the project to align HIV Testing with the COVID-19 Response to Increase Testing in At-Risk Populations, leveraging “routine” screenings, such as COVID, hypertension to increase testing acceptability
- Goal 4 - Objective 6 - Strengthen re-engagement strategies for PLWH lost to care. Tarik and Julie will convene a subgroup to formulate technology strategies, implementing through community health workers to Re-Engage Those Lost to Care and Target Those at High-Risk for Being Lost to Care
- Council members discussed the projects being developed by the Equity Workgroup, particularly interested in expanding HIV testing and aligning with COVID testing.
  - Regarding HIV testing, there was a question about the clinical feasibility of testing for diabetes alongside of COVID
  - Regarding HIV testing, Council members discussed the importance of community trust level of HIV testing alongside of COVID and the perceived invasiveness of HIV testing
  - Julie and Tarik will follow-up with Brian Haile and Clare Bolds who expressed interest in continuing the conversation.
- There was a question regarding race and ethnicity data for COVID.
  - Brian requested that Julie follow-up regarding race/ethnicity data from MPHD for COVID tests.

Discussion: Prioritization of Ending the HIV Epidemic Plan

Julie Thacker

- Coordinating Committee Convening Proposal
  - The next workgroup being formed will be a coordinating committee to serve as intermediary between the Workgroups and the Council.
  - This will be a “leadership team” that will take the input from the Council on priorities and emerging issues and form additional workgroups.
  - Ask to the Council: ideas for membership or any interest in serving on the Coordinating Committee yourself?
    - Rev. Sanders offered the feedback that we need to be intentional about engaging/including the communities who are disproportionately impacted by HIV in this group
- Emerging Priorities and Strategy Triage Discussion
  - We would like to use the two tools, strategy triage and journey mapping to garner Council input on emerging priorities to take to the Coordinating Committee to help inform their work.
  - The Coordinating Committee will be using two tools to help review priorities and COVID’s impacts—the Journey Map from Policy Solve and Strategy Triage Tool from the Center for Community Investment
  - Our two questions:

- What has changed related to our priority problems in the context of the COVID crisis moment?
  - What gaps/systems vulnerabilities are evident?
- Discussion regarding the digital divide:
  - Access is still a real issue and barrier
  - However, there are some populations, such as persons experiencing homelessness who have been able to do participate in telehealth and have reduced barriers because transportation is no longer an issue
  - Because phone-based telehealth is now being reimbursed by insurance, rates of usage are going up
  - This seems to be agency-dependent and population dependent, however.
  - Some patients who were lost to care are physically coming in for services.
- Comments were made regarding participation of the priority populations in the implementation and the value of incentivizing participation
- Discussion: What do you want to make sure does not get lost in the implementation in the time of COVID?
  - Clare: Goal 1, Obj 3: Increase access to at-home HIV tests, paired with counselling. Has heard that PrEP clients are not coming in for serology testing. This is a concern as providers need to make sure their clients are still negative. Can we utilize at-home testing?
  - Dr. Bullock: We need to make sure that we do not lose our momentum for EHE. We need to prioritize projects and make sure that we keep them moving.
  - Brian: Seconded Clare's point and maintaining adherence to PrEP. How do we work around this issue? Concerned about increases of asymptomatic STIs that also increase risk of HIV.
  - CM Hurt: Agrees with Dr. Bullock and Brian. We must keep focus on the work. We need to test, trace, and treat and make sure that we continue to do that. Need to be innovative, such as the virtual 3MV retreat that Street Works is doing. Increase in drug use, isolation, and vulnerable situations because of COVID. Street Works was hit twice, with COVID and the tornado—still looking for a permanent home.
    - Brian added that overdose deaths have increased over the past two months.
  - Brady: Had their first post-COVID Ryan White Planning Council meeting last week. He also heard ASOs and CSOs have increased collaboration that had not existed before. One concern Brady has is that agencies are running through food budgets quickly. This situation is also underscoring the need for housing. Part A received an additional \$1 Million from the CARES Act, which is mostly being directed to PPE for ASOs and to technology enhancements.
  - Rev Sanders: There are concerns around the invasiveness of certain practices, such as having one's temperature taken. There are a number of people who do not have a thermometer and know how to use it. What can we extrapolate from that? We are at a place of optimal opportunity, but

we need to revisit what was effective before and how can we use these lessons learned while simultaneously dealing with COVID. “Make sure the community does not end up being a laboratory and is instead a partner.”

- Fahad: COVID has everyone thinking differently about health and this could be an opportunity to create a culture of health in Nashville that extends beyond COVID. Hopeful that this is an opportunity to increase transparency and to have greater data sharing, particularly around the viral load in the community.

#### Announcements

Dr. DeAnn Bullock, Co-Chair

- No announcements.

Next Meeting:

July 16, 2020 | 2:30-4:00 PM

Location TBD