

**Montgomery County – DHHS  
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting  
Conference Call  
January 11, 2011**

<b>Steering Committee</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Steering Committee</b>	<b>Present</b>
Harry Kwon (Chair)	X	Meng Lee (Vice Chair)	X
Anis Ahmed	X	Ji-Young Cho	X
Nerita Estampador		Wilbur Friedman	X
Karen Kar-Yee Ho	X	Lewis Hsu	X
MunSu (Moses) Kwon	X	Sunmin Lee	X
Michael Lin		Wendy Shiau	X
Sam Mukherjee	X	Betty Luan (HP Liaison)	X
Sovan Tun	X		

<b>AAHI Staff</b>	<b>Present</b>
Perry Chan	X
Betty Lam	X
Jamie Weng	X
Sanjana Quasem	X
Atyya Chaudhry	X

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee Chair Harry Kwon called the meeting via conference call at 6:06pm and thanked everyone for being on the call. He mentioned that a possible re-scheduling of this meeting was considered, but it was decided to have a brief conference call to provide updates at the very least.

**RECENT MEETINGS**

- Harry Kwon stated that in late November/early December, a meeting was held with Uma Ahluwalia, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. Harry, MK, Sovan, Sam and Perry attended the meeting as well as a representative from the Latino Health Initiative, Eduardo. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain any information about pending budget issues. It was mentioned that programs such as AAHI can not afford any more cuts along with the other initiatives. Any further cuts would not only have an impact on AAHI, but all three minority programs.
  
- Harry Kwon mentioned that two days after the meeting with Uma, another meeting was coordinated with Charles Short, Special Assistance to the County Executive. Wilbur and MK represented AAHI at the meeting. The meeting focused on trying to change/influence the upper-management to increase the priority of the three initiatives when the budget is considered. It was noted that Uma appreciated the solidarity of the three initiatives. Together, the three initiatives are addressing the issue of sustainability as they move forward.

**AAHI Program Updates**

- **Outreach and Education**

Perry provided an update on two outreach events that took place in November and December. For the November event, AAHI held a successful and comprehensive health fair with the Indonesian Muslim Association of America (IMAAM) which was the first time AAHI worked with this organization. The event provided services to over two hundred people. The December event was a health fair with the Viet Nam Medical Assistance Program (VNMAP), and served over fifty participants. It is another new organization that AAHI is working with. This group targets the Vietnamese community in Montgomery County.

- **“Voices Among the Silent” public release**

Perry reported that the event took place on December 17th-- with an attendance of 67 people, including seven storytellers. Two representatives from Councilmember offices were also present. In addition, three media sources covered the event, including India This Week, Asian Fortune, Epoch Times, and World Journal. The storybook was also sent to over 1000 people electronically. AAHI thanks all Steering Committee members and wants to give special thanks to Harry, MK & Karen for their advice and support.

- **Program manager position update**

Betty Lam reported that there were not many updates about the position. The position was already posted for internal transfer within HHS, and no one applied. They are holding off on advertising for outside recruitment. In March, there should be a better understanding of the impact of the HHS reduction in this same category, and the reduction proposed by other departments, and how they affect each other. Harry Kwon noted that this is an important position that needs some stability, and mentioned that updates at the next meeting would be greatly appreciated.

### **Subcommittees/Workgroups**

Harry Kwon discussed the leaders for each group. He mentioned that there has also been a push to have subcommittees and workgroups:

- Program committee is chaired by Karen Kar-Yee Ho. It provides programmatic support and technical support to AAHI such as the storybook launch. AAHI has a variety of programs that need outside advisory expertise.
- Advocacy committee is chaired by Sam Mukherjee. It helps to support the cause and conduct activities and collaborations. The group helps to support AAHI at decision-making levels as it pertains to the county council, County Executive, director budget and programs.
- Data committee is chaired by Sunmin Lee. It reviews all the data currently available to AAHI. The workgroup will also look into developing a data-management plan and how to coordinate the data.
- By-Laws committee is chaired by Wilbur Friedman and it focuses on the governance of how the steering committee operates. Harry noted that there is a push to review and update the by-laws. Any suggested changes for by-laws would have to be approved by the committee.

- Harry noted that, in the future, there may also be interim committees of Nominations and Membership. He invited all steering committee members to join one of the groups or committees.
- Updates from the advocacy committee: Sam mentioned that he didn't have any updates at the moment, but mentioned that a group needs to be formed and they need to plan ahead.
- Updates from the program committee: Karen mentioned that she didn't have anything to add regarding the program update, but said that the public release was a success and she was looking forward to working on future projects.
- Ji-Young asked the scope of work of the program committee. Harry mentioned that the program committee is related to AAHI program support such as program planning efforts.
- Perry commented that it will be very beneficial to AAHI to have the program committee. The committee will provide further support from a program perspective to ensure services are culturally and linguistically competent.
- Ji-Young thanked the group for answering her question.

### **Liaison Reports**

- **CHIP/Healthy Montgomery:**  
Sunmin reported that she and Karen attended the Healthy Montgomery meeting in December. Healthy Montgomery has a three-year plan to collect data qualitatively. This project will be a great tool for community based organizations. In the meeting, an individual from the Institute of Public Health Innovation displayed a power point presentation. They want feedback from the community in regards to their vision of a healthy County and how to receive optimal care.
- **Governor's Commission:**  
Anis reported that in December, a joint commission meeting was held where everyone gave their report. Nothing much was given other than the report to the governor. He also mentioned that the meetings are held every two months.
- **Asian American Advisory Committee:**  
Sam reported that there weren't any new updates beside the year-end greetings.
- **Commission on Health:**  
Harry reported that Perry went to a mental health advisory committee meeting in November, and noted that AAHI and the MHAC are thinking to plan a health fair together for May, which is mental health month and Asian American heritage month.

### **Looking Ahead**

Harry wanted to wrap-up with looking ahead:

- **Advocacy efforts**  
He mentioned how March and April are critical decision months, and there are a lot of activities for advocacy, such as attending meetings with the County Executives and Council.
- **Chair/vice-chair nominations:**  
Harry noted that his and MK's term will end at the meeting in June. A nomination committee will be set up. Nominations and self-nominations for the Chair and Vice-chair positions are welcome.

Harry noted that the March meeting is especially important because Linda McMillan, Senior Policy Analyst with the county council is scheduled to attend. She will be able to provide AAHI with insight as to how county council operates their decision-making.

Sam noted that the advocacy committee needs to start working very soon. He noted that last year, things were rushed at the last minute. He would like to form the committee as soon as possible and outline the plan of action. He mentioned that he would like to coordinate with Harry Kwon and Perry Chan about this.

Harry responded and asked if everyone be receptive to joining this committee.

Sovan mentioned that the Asian American Advisory group would like to meet Ike Leggett on February 24<sup>th</sup>, per an e-mail from Lilly.

MK responded to a question in regards to AAHI's participation in any event during the Lunar New Year. He noted that AAHI will participate in an event in the Lake Forest mall on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjourn**

The conference call ended at 7:32pm, thus the meeting was adjourned