

Montgomery County - DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
401 Hungerford Drive, Green Conference Room
Rockville, MD 20850
February 28, 2012

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>
Sam Mukherjee (Chair)	X	Karen Ho Chaves (Vice Chair)	X (Conference called in)
Anis Ahmed		Ji-Young Cho	X
Nerita Estampador	X	Wilbur Friedman	X
Harry Kwon	X	MunSu (Moses) Kwon	X
Meng K Lee	X	Sunmin Lee	
Michael Lin	X	Betty Luan (HP Liaison)	X
Wendy Shiau	X	Sovan Tun	X
<u>AAHI Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>		
Perry Chan	X		
Betty Lam			
Jamie Lok Weng	X		
Sanjana Quasem			
Wana Jin	X		
Carolyn Ho	X		

Welcome/Introductions

Sam Mukherjee called the meeting to order at 6:16pm and motions to record the meeting. No one objects and so the meeting is recorded.

Approval of November 15, 2011 Minutes

Sam welcomes Wana Jin to AAHI.

Sam asked that everyone look over the agenda for approval. No changes were requested.

Sam asked if there were any changes requested for last meeting's minutes.

- Wilbur Friedman referred to page 2, second to last paragraph for the date May 2011 to be changed to May 2012.
 - Sam accepts the change.
- Wilbur pointed out that the adjourn time seemed to be a lot earlier than he recalls.
 - Perry explained that there were two sections for the meeting. The meeting minutes recorded up to the first section and the second section of the meeting was a special meeting.
 - Wilbur withdraws his comment about the adjourn time.

- Ji-Young Cho referred to page 2, first bullet under the Hepatitis B section and noted that Global Mission Church is in Silver Spring and not Wheaton.
 - Sam accepts the change.
- Sam asks for any other changes. No other changes are requested. Minutes were approved.

AAHI Program Updates

Outreach Activities

- Some of the major events that AAHI attended in the month of December and January are:
 - Continuation of providing vaccination to participants in the hepatitis B projects that AAHI works with KCSC.
 - Lunar New Year Festival with the Vietnamese community
 - Chinese community Lunar New Year Event
 - In February, AAHI reached out to the Housing Opportunity Commission (HOC) where AAHI worked with a health promoter to conduct osteoporosis lectures and fall prevention education. This topic was brought up when AAHI met with the HOC counselor as it was main concern for the Asian American population who lives at the HOC facility.

Hepatitis B

- On January 15th, AAHI worked with a Vietnamese community based organization to conduct a Hepatitis B education and screening event where 167 Montgomery county residents were screened. 10 were found to be infected, 56 were at risk, and 101 were immune. Combined with the Vietnamese organization, the event had 30 to 40 bilingual volunteers to serve the community at that event. It was successful event with high quality service.
- On February 12th, AAHI conducted the results and vaccination event where 140 people came back out of 167 people. Perry noted that it was one the coldest day of the winter so AAHI appreciated that the participants came back to receive their results, talk to the physicians, and receive their vaccinations. In a few weeks, AAHI will conduct another event to provide the 2nd vaccination.
 - Sam reminds the committee that George Leventhal has released \$25,000 specifically for this project and he thinks that it would be a good for AAHI to let George and other policymakers know that they have given AAHI resources and AAHI is using these resources to produce very great results. Sam empathizes to make this more prominent, it is important for the Steering Committee be present at these events and encourages members to attend
 - Perry wants to emphasize that AAHI is not able to conduct these events with out the Steering Committee's support and advocacy effort and thanks the Committee.
 - Sovan Tun asks if all the money for this project is being used and wonders if AAHI can provide a program at the Cambodian temple as the Cambodian New Year celebrations is coming up on April 13th, 14th, and 15th.
 - Perry answers that AAHI would love to attend the New Year Celebration at the Cambodian temple. He notes that it is a busy weekend as celebrations are occurring with other Asian groups but AAHI's intention is to attend the Sunday date and will discuss details with Sovan.

- Perry wants to mention CCACC is working with AAHI to make Hepatitis B screening a regular program every Friday afternoon so if people are interested at the temple, they can look into that as well.
 - Meng K Lee also brings up another option. Anyone that wants to get Hepatitis B screening can call the STOP B Program at the Pan Asian Volunteer Health clinic in Gaithersburg as it open for everyone. Screening is free and it is a one time charge of \$20 for all three doses of vaccination.
 - Perry adds that AAHI may arrange a health promoter to go with people who are interested in going to the clinic.
 - Harry Kwon agrees with Sam's idea of letting Council member Leventhal and others know about the progress and results that AAHI is producing and asks if progress reports are given to the Council.
 - Perry will provide information to the Steering Committee. He adds that AAHI is working with CBO partners to come up with a report that would showcase the results, demonstrate the program model, and be used as an education tool.
 - Harry suggests that the AAHI Steering committee can send a thank you letter to the Council that outlines details from what AAHI reports so that way policymakers can see the great results from the Hepatitis B program.
 - Perry thanks the staff, health promoters and Steering Committee for their continued support and advocacy.

Empowering Community Health Organization (E.C.H.O) Workshop in May

- Perry explains that AAHI is in the process of planning the next E.C.H.O. workshop which will be the third workshop of this series. The first one was on DHHS101 to introduce DHHS services provided to the community. This was attended by 30 community members representing 13 organizations. The second workshop was Grants101 where a panel was invited to give advice on grant writing to community leaders. This was attended by 56 individual from 27 organizations.
- The third workshop will be on **May 30, 2012**. During this workshop, AAHI hopes to break the group into smaller ones and in each group, there will be a facilitator that will lead small group exercises.
- Save the date as AAHI hopes members from the Steering committee can attend. Perry notes that help is needed so if steering committee members can come out, it would be greatly appreciated.
 - Sam notes that it is important for the committee's presence at this event and urges the members to take action so that the committee's presence felt.

Cancer It Does Not Discriminate on March 17

- The Cancer: It Does Not Discriminate event on March 17th will be a community forum hosted at Holy Cross Hospital. It is part of the MOTA requirement for AAHI to attend. They are going to invite Uma, Dr. Tillman, and George Leventhal to attend this event. One health promoter has already expressed interest in giving a testimony at this event, and it would be a good opportunity for steering committee members to speak up as well.

- Sam agrees and suggests that he believes at least one Steering Committee should stand up and speak at this event.
- Event flier was circulated.
- Betty Luan suggests that if members go to speak, it is important to be prepared and know facts about Asian Americans and Montgomery County because there will be back and forth dialogue between panelists and the participants.

Review of existing sub-committees/representations

Healthy Montgomery:

Karen Ho Chaves provided a quick review on Healthy Montgomery and updates on it since last meeting.

- As noted from last meeting, Healthy Montgomery was launched in 2009 and its website, which is great resource on Montgomery County health indicators and health resources, was launched February of last year. Part of this process included conducting a needs assessment to pave Montgomery county strategic planning in health involvement. This was done through community conversations and focus groups during the summer of last year. AAHI was involved along with the other minority initiatives to help facilitate the set up of focus groups. The needs assessment was done and the report was released in September which provided a lot of local data in Montgomery County.
 - Top three causes of death for Asian Americans in Montgomery County are heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease for women and accidents for men, and diabetes.
- After this report was released, members of the committee were asked to rate each topic by impact on the population through a survey. After doing this survey, the group came up with the following areas of focus:

▪ Behavioral Health	▪ Diabetes
▪ Cancers	▪ Maternal/ Infant Health
▪ Cardiovascular Disease	▪ Obesity
- The group also recognized that it is important to talk about these topics through the lens of :
 - Lack of access
 - Health inequities
 - Unhealthy behaviors
- Karen mentioned the concerns from last meeting about Hepatitis B, which is a priority for Asian Americans, not being mentioned in the areas of focus. Sam and Karen have put together a letter with the support of AAHI staff to be sent to the Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee to voice concerns and make a recommendation to make liver cancer and Hepatitis B be a highlight in the cancer focus area.
- Sam notes that if there are no changes requested for the letter, it will be sent.

- Sam asks if there is an overlap or duplicate effort between the needs assessment done for Healthy Montgomery and the needs assessment done by AAHI.
 - Karen explains that it is not a duplicate effort because it looks at everyone in the Montgomery County population, not just Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. A needs assessment like this has not been done for the past ten years.
- Sam wonders if there has been any comparison between the data from the Healthy Montgomery needs assessments and the data from AAHI's need assessment.
 - Karen explains that the methodology was different between the needs assessment. AAHI's needs assessment was specific to the population group so Hepatitis B shows up as a big concern where as in Healthy Montgomery, Hepatitis B did not have the same weight.
 - Perry adds that another difference is that AAHI's needs assessment is primary research where AAHI went into the community and conducted focus groups where as part of Health Montgomery's needs assessment comprised of secondary sources and research.
 - Jamie Lok Weng also noted that another difference is AAHI's needs assessment looked at 13 subgroups within the Asian population where as Healthy Montgomery only looked at two primary Asian subgroups.

Commission on Health

- Harry said that at Commissions' last meeting, he had provided an overview on the updates that Perry provided in terms of the Hepatitis B outreach.
- Regarding the potential redesign, Harry also explained at the meeting that AAHI is actively looking into this. The same thing was said from the LHI's counterpart.
- There are a lot of new members on the Commission on Health so Harry provided them with an overview of what AAHI and what it does.
- Commission on Health has been focusing on obesity this past year.
- Meetings are every third Thursday of each month.

Asian Pacific American Advisory Committee:

- Lily Qi has moved into another position in the county. Diane Vu has replaced her and is an active leading figure.

Governor's Commission

- Sovan takes on Anis's behalf and provides the update for this.
- The Asian Commission now has a new division between the Asian commission and a South Asian Commission.
- Sovan wanted to make the members aware of two bills called the Health Disparities Reduction Act. They was a hearing at the House of Delegates on February 28th at 1pm and another meeting at the Senate on February 29th at 1pm regarding these bills.
- Sam asks how frequent are the Governor's Commission meetings.
 - Sovan answers every two months.

Advocacy

- DHHS is currently preparing the budget for next year. Regarding the budget, the committee has requested to keep everything the same for now at least until a decision has

been made on the future of the initiatives. The steering committee hopes to get more of an idea from Uma soon regarding the direction this.

- Perry clarifies that the county executive office is going to give a recommended budget to the county council on March 15th.
- Meng K adds that Uma is going to present her budget on March 17 or 19th.
 - Perry will double check on the date and get back to the Committee.
 - Sam notes that this should be an occasion which the committee should be present.
 - Meng K explains that Uma is just presenting and is already decided, so feedback will not be received.
 - Sam clarifies that Uma has sent it to Ike Leggett. He then has some time and passes the recommendation to the council and the council has several weeks in between where allow people to come testify.
 - Wilbur comments if county council changes the DHHS budget by 1% and gave that to AAHI, it would be a great difference to AAHI but small difference to them.
 - Perry notes that AAHI's budget is less than \$400,000 currently.
 - Wilbur adds it would not take much change for DHHS to fund this organization beyond its wildest dreams.
 - Sam explains this year's process is very different and budget can not deviate too much. He also mentioned that there will be a minimum cut of 1% in the DHHS budget.

Liaison

- Liaison is being actively done because the committee is regularly meeting now because of the process going on with DHHS.

Future Meeting Dates for 2012

- Sam suggests that the steering committee meet monthly for the next few months.
- Wilbur agrees and wants to decide on March 20th now
- Michael Lin seconds the notion.
- Sovan notes that he has conflict.
- Sam says that discussion over dates can occur over email but the main point is to meet more frequently.
- The following dates are dates proposed by Perry:
 - March 20, 2012
 - April 17, 2012
 - May 15, 2012
 - June 19, 2012
- Sam suggests to look over the dates and later discuss via email how to adjust to fit schedules.

Other Announcements

- Meng K talks about Dr. Mark Li's event on March 7th where they are going to screen and advocate for Hepatitis B funding from the state. Dr. Lee is asking if AAHI Steering Committee would be one of the sponsors the event.
 - Wilbur mentions that since AAHI is part of the county government, he is uncomfortable with putting the committee's name as a sponsor in case they end up lobbying the state.
 - Nerita Estampador notes that as members under the DHHS, AAHI is advocating for the minorities.
 - Sam agrees with Nerita and does not believe that DHHS will have an issue with it.
 - Nerita suggests that the committee puts down AAHI Steering Committee as the sponsor name to signify that it is not part of the county government.
 - Meng K clarifies and explains that this event is called the Viral Hepatitis Wellness and Screening day and just calls attention to Hepatitis B and screening. It does not call attention to lobbying or advocacy.
 - Sam suggests in order to remove any doubt he will be meeting with Uma soon and ask her personally

Adjourn Time: 8:13pm