

Montgomery County - DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
February 6, 2013

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>
Sam Mukherjee (Chair)	X	Ji-Young Cho	X
Anis Ahmed		Wilbur Friedman	X
Nerita Estampador		Harry Kwon	
Lester (Jao) Lacorte	X	Meng K Lee	
Sunmin Lee	X	Michael Lin	X
Wendy Shiau	X	Sovan Tun	
<u>AAHI Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>		
Perry Chan	X		
Betty Lam	X		
Sanjana Quasem	X		
Jasmine Vinh	X		

Welcome

Sam Mukherjee called the meeting to order at 6:27pm and motions to record the meeting. No one objects and so the meeting is recorded.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved.

Approval of December 12, 2012 Minutes

Wilbur Friedman motions to approve the minutes and suggest that any changes be made in the next 48 hours.

Michael Lin seconds.

Minutes approved subject to changes until Friday, February 8, 2013 COB.

Sam suggests circulating the previous meeting minutes in advance so that the Committee is well-prepared for the meeting.

AAHI Program Updates

Updates from Program Manager

- Perry Chan offers AAHI Outreach numbers as of the beginning of FY2013 on July 1, 2012, AAHI has had:
 - Outreach events: 27

- Small Business Outreach: 145
- Literature Distributions: 4300
- Educational Encounters: 2000
- Basic Screenings: 430
- Referrals: 600
- Perry draws the Committee's attention to the FY2013 Upcoming Events list and notes that December and January are slower months for AAHI in terms of outreach. AAHI's outreach activity is expected to increase in the spring with upcoming Lunar New Year celebrations in the community.
- Sam requests that the Committee participate as volunteers at AAHI outreach events, especially with the MHI/P process now completed.

Hepatitis B Project

- For the Filipino American Hepatitis B Project, the first and second vaccination shots were given to participants with "at-risk" status.
- The final (third) dose in the vaccination series will be administered on May 19th, 2013 and 18 individuals are expected to attend the event to receive the final shot.
- Sam inquires about AAHI's activity for the remainder of FY13 once the project is done.
 - Perry mentions that this project with the Filipino American community. He envisions that the project will serve as a model for Pan-Asian community members to adopt, much like how CCACC created the STOP B program based off of AAHI's work around hepatitis B.
 - Sam suggests reaching out the Vietnamese, Korean, and Asian Indian communities and encourage them to do hepatitis B education
 - Ji-Young Cho points out that a hepatitis B project was done with the Korean community last year. She suggests changing the program site to another major Korean church in Montgomery County.

Heart Health Project

- Perry circulates the CDC handout on the risk factors of heart disease, which is currently in the process of being translated into selected Asian languages for Health Promoters to use during outreach events.
- Health Promoters will provide heart health awareness and education as well as refer qualified participants to Montgomery Cares clinics to receive appropriate care.

Impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- Betty Lam mentions that Montgomery County and Prince George's County will apply for the Health Connector grant. Handouts are provided to Committee members.
- An estimated 52,000 individuals who will become eligible for Medicaid or qualified health plans in the "capital region" (Montgomery County and Prince George's County).
- Betty states that there will still be a need for Montgomery Care clinics, even with the implementation of the ACA and Medicaid expanded for those who do not qualify.
- Wilbur shares that Uma gave a presentation on the ACA changes. Her PowerPoint presentation is available online:

http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/agenda/cm/2012/121206/20121206_HHS1.pdf

- Outreach and education to the community about the ACA will be very important in the future.
 - Sam adds that the 3 health initiatives should act together to respond to the community needs.
 - Betty will follow up on how the initiatives can contribute.

Mental Health

- Wilbur shares that he contacted Sharon Friedman of Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, asked if she would be interested in giving a talk to the Committee on her experiences in working with Asian Americans.
 - Ji-Young asks if there is an Asian American counselor or therapist on their staff.
 - Sam comments that most of their work may not be geared towards the minority community, but more on returning war veterans.
 - Sunmin Lee notes that the findings from the Needs Assessment suggests that there specific issues within the Asian American population in regards to mental health, including those related to immigration and the perception of mental health in the Asian community due to cultural differences.
- Sam emphasizes the need for the Committee to start thinking about how to approach the issue of mental health.
- Wilbur mentions that he and Wendy Shiau will be interviewing a psychiatrist who has applied to join the Committee.
- Betty expresses that the Latino Health Steering Committee may be interested in doing work around mental health as well. She suggests having a conversation with Raymond Crowel, Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS), on what the 3 minority health initiatives can work together.
 - AAHI staff will start the discussion and follow-up with the Committee.
 - Betty suggests the Committee to invite Sharon to the meeting and to prepare a list of questions for her to facilitate the discussion.
 - Betty also suggests the Committee to consider inviting the staff from BHCS.

DHHS Activity – Lyme Disease Awareness and Prevention

- Betty shares DHHS activity around Lyme disease:
 - In 2008, the County Executive joined Montgomery County health and parks officials, along with community residents, to launch a multi-pronged public education campaign urging County residents to learn about Lyme disease and how to protect themselves when they are outdoors (parks, yards, etc.). As a part of the campaign, signs were posted at parks and outdoor trails throughout the county warning patrons on the community level about Lyme disease.
 - Health officials also developed a brochure titled “Preventing Lyme Disease in Montgomery County”, which is available at libraries, recreation centers, regional services centers, local sports leagues and summer camps
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/hhs/lyme_disease/lyme_tick_web.pdf

- Information on Lyme disease is posted on the County's website:
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhstmpl.asp?url=/content/hhs/lyme_disease.asp
- There are Spring news releases on the County website:
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=8491
- HHS continues to provide ongoing education for clinicians promoting awareness of Lyme disease.
- There is a discussion among Committee member on the complications of Lyme disease the importance of raising public awareness.
- Betty asks if the Health Promoters can further contribute to the ongoing education DHHS is providing on the community level.
 - Perry suggests doing more research on culturally and linguistically competent materials available for Asian Americans, such as on the CDC website.
- Sam proposes that there be a decision made on the Committee level to support George Leventhal's proposal to declare the month of May to be Lyme disease awareness month in Montgomery County.
- Wilbur motions to have the Committee recommend to the County Executive to declare the month of May as Lyme disease prevention and awareness month.
 - Motion is passed unanimously.
 - Michael suggests that the Health Promoters include Lyme disease education during outreach events scheduled in the month of May.
 - Ji-Young mentions that once an official proclamation by a County official is made, AAHI should reach out to ethnic media to publish an educational article on Lyme disease.

Liaison Updates

Healthy Montgomery:

- Wendy will attend the next Healthy Montgomery meeting on March 11th, 2013.
 - Perry will email Wendy the logistical details prior to the meeting date.

Commission on Health:

- There are no updates to report.

Asian Pacific American Advisory Committee:

- Diane Vu is the new Community Liaison to the Asian American and Middle Eastern communities in the Office of Community Partnerships.

Governor's Commission:

- There are no updates to report.

Recruitment Drive

- There are currently 3 candidates to be considered for Committee membership.
 - Perry to forward candidates' application materials to Wilbur and Wendy.

- Sam wishes to expand the Committee to involve more member and expresses that not only should there be a focus on the candidate's professional background, but also a strong emphasis on their connection to the community.
- Sam is waiting to hear back from the Japanese and Nepalese group to send a member.
- Perry adds that Harry Kwon has also recommended a colleague.
- Wilbur will review the attendance rate of current Committee members to discuss at the next meeting.

Minority Health Initiatives Assessment Process (MHI/P) Updates

- The handouts provided include the MHI/P concept paper and documents highlighting the shared functions and recommendations for the 3 minority health initiatives and programs: the African American Health Program, Latino Health Initiative, and the Asian American Health Initiative. The documents elaborate on the expanded role of the 3 initiatives, how it will affect HHS, and the additional resources needed.
- Sam asks the Committee members to review the documents.
- A report will be published to capture the entire MHI/P process to share throughout the department.

Proposed Meeting with Director

- The Committee has been planning to meet with Uma Ahluwalia, Director of MCDHHS, to express the concern in the retention of AAHI staff.
- Posting for AAHI Program Manager position:
 - Betty will inform the Committee once the position is made available online.
- Perry to check in with Uma about her availability.
 - A majority of Committee members are available on Wednesday, February 27th.
 - The backup date will be Friday, February 22nd from 5-6pm.
- Sam to initiate the conversation via email to Committee members to brainstorm a few talking points to help facilitate the meeting with Uma.

Future Meeting Dates for 2013

- Sam proposes to have Committee meetings on a monthly basis. No one objects and so future Committee meetings will occur on a monthly basis.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 2013, exact time TBA.

Adjourn Time: 8:19pm