

Montgomery County - DHHS  
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting  
April 16, 2013

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>
Sam Mukherjee (Chair)	X	Meng K Lee	X
Anis Ahmed	X	Sunmin Lee	X
Ji-Young Cho (Sit in by Julia Chang)	X	Michael Lin	X
Nerita Estampador	X	Nguyen Nguyen	
Wibur Friedman	X	Wendy Shiau	X
Yan Gu	X	Sovan Tun	
Harry Kwon	X	Stan Tsai	X
<u>AAHI Staff</u>		<u>Guests</u>	
Perry Chan	X	Shahin Sebastian	X
Betty Lam	X	Aparna Puri	X
Sanjana Quasem	X	Ashraf Sufi	X
Jasmine Vinh	X	Rajesh Gupta	X
		Mayur Mody	X

**Welcome**

- Sam Mukherjee called the meeting to order at 6:16pm and initiated the introductions of new members, observers, and current members.
- Sam announces to record the meeting and no one objects so the meeting is recorded.
- Approval of Agenda
  - Agenda is approved.
- Sam announces Perry Chan’s promotion to Program Manager of AAHI.

**Approval of February 6, 2013 Minutes**

- On page 4 correct Diane Vu’s title as “Liaison to the Asian American and Middle Eastern Communities” in the Office of Community Partnerships.
- On page 5 change “reduction” to “retention.”
- Wilbur Friedman moves to approve the minutes.
- Nerita Estampador seconds.

**Patient Navigation Program Overview and Updates from CCIInfotech**

- PowerPoint Presentation presented by Shahin Sebastian and Aparna Puri from CCIInfotech.

- Shahin emphasized that budget cuts have hurt the organization's ability to utilize promotion materials leaving word of mouth as the main way of reaching the community.
  - Aparna Puri comments that the organization needs community support since the need is only growing.
  - Wilbur asks about the budget cut amount and Aparna responds that the budget for the program was cut by 33.4% in 2010 and they have been operating on that reduced amount each year since.
  - Shahin adds how the cuts have restricted navigators' travel to the main areas of Rockville, Germantown, and Gaithersburg causing complaints from those that have used the services in the past but are no longer served in an as convenient manner because they are not in the main areas.
- Meng K. Lee asks how CCIInfotech is different from 311.
  - Shahin responds that 311 does not do medical interpretation and once someone is in the CCIInfotech system, someone that speaks that person's language answers so the caller does not have to struggle with English.

## **AAHI Program Updates**

### ***Updates from Program Manager***

- Perry talks about two events that took place on Sunday, April 14, 2013:
  - The Cambodian New Year allowed AAHI to get in touch with many Cambodian speaking members. Thanks to the support of Sovan Tun; and
  - In the Sri Lankan event, AAHI was able to provide health information about the county services as well as heart health information via the ABCS project. There were 11 community members linked to the Montgomery Care Clinics.

### ***ECHO Workshop (Affordable Care Act "ACA")***

- Perry confirms that the date of the workshop will be May 28, 2013, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Silver Spring Civic building.
- The speaker is the Director of HHS, Uma; and the topic is the ACA and how it will affect the Asian American community in Montgomery County.

### ***Internal Review of the patient navigator activities and concerns about the future***

- Perry states that feedback from patients and providers illustrate that they are very satisfied and the Navigator Program is doing wonderful things.
- Sam asks the group whether they would be willing to write a letter of support to sustain this program's quality and funding and the majority said yes.

### ***Upcoming events***

- Perry handed out a list of upcoming events on a yellow form.
- Sam added that events are also on the AAHI website and that Perry will e-mail everyone regularly about the events.

### ***Local Resources***

- Perry handed out a pink form regarding Local Resources and Events which will also be e-mailed to the members.
  - The events are not sponsored by AAHI but useful information for disseminating, if someone calls you, or in general something the community can take advantage of.
- Sam gave an example of how he was able to refer someone to needed services based on the resources available to him and wants each member to be in that position.

### **Liaison Updates**

#### ***Healthy Montgomery – Wendy Shiao***

- There are no updates to report.

#### ***Commission on Health – Harry Kwon***

- Next meeting is Thursday, April 18, 2013, and the focus has been on the ACA and how Montgomery County can facilitate this new program.

#### ***CE Asian American Advisory Committee – Sam Mukherjee***

- After one full year of absence, Sam attended a meeting on April 15, 2013, and he is still baffled as to why AAHI was not invited for so long.
- Bruce Adams was at the meeting and agreed to assist AAHI to engage other community leaders.

#### ***Governor’s Commission – Anis Ahmed***

- The Pan Asian Community Summit took place, in which Perry was in attendance.

### **Follow up of the MHIP Process**

- ***Selling the concept and value: Meetings with Uma Ahluwalia, Ike Leggett and Chuck Short***
  - Sam explains that the meeting was about money needed to help support the initiative, but it all depends on the budget.
  - The MHI/P advisory group members did maximum advocacy by selling the value and impact on the community, especially during election season.
- ***Meeting with Council Member Craig Rice***
  - He was very supportive; we asked for 300K and he said why not 500K.
- ***Meetings with Nancy Navarro, George Leventhal and the HHS Committee***
  - Meeting is April 17, 2013, in the morning.

## **Following up AAHI's Priority Projects for the Year**

- **Mental Health**
  - Wilbur asked if AAHI would like Sharon Friedman to come talk about such issues next meeting.
  - Perry and Betty asked to invite Dr. Raymond Crowel within HHS to assist.
- **AAHI Recommendation for Lyme Disease Awareness month**
  - Sam is proposing the month of May and is attempting to partner with other communities.
  - Sam requests a letter of support in one week's time either:
    - From each community; or
    - One letter signed by each community.
  - The letter will be addressed to either Nancy Navarro or George Leventhal.
  - Sam explains Lyme Disease:
    - It peaks here in this part of the country and it has gone undetected for so many years.
    - It originates in mice or deer from ticks – then the ticks come to us.
    - You get a red circle the size of a dollar coin – antibiotics are then used
    - The reason for the awareness:
      - Not asking for money just recognition; and
      - The bacteria can make you tired, remain dormant, it can hurt joints, can go to heart or brain, can be very debilitating, can cause muscles to become weak, and results in loss of function.

## **Meeting with County Executive Ike Leggett**

- ***April 22, 10:30 am County Executive Building***
  - Sam needs a group to attend the meeting which will be 20-30 minutes.
  - Subject of meeting is how the AAHI staff is doing an excellent job but they need more people to sustain the program.
    - E.g. client care coordination position that no longer exists
  - Sam is in possession of data about the gains and losses of AAHI staff positions.

## **Proposals for the Restructuring of the Steering Committee**

### ***Program Planning Advisory Group***

- Sam explains that there was one in the past but need one in the future.

### ***MHIP Group***

- The members are Wendy Shiau, Wilbur and Sam.

### ***Recruitment Group***

- The members are Wendy and Wilbur.

**Budget Advisory Group**

- For now, no action needs to be taken.

**Administrative Advisory Group**

- AAHI should be in a position to give good consultation should the need arise.

**Retreat Planning Advisory Group to work with the Program Manager**

- The next retreat will focus on the MHI/P process.

**Advocacy Group**

- Sam explains that everyone has been an advocate for the last several months and Wilbur and Wendy did a good job closing the report however now everyone needs to sell in each community.

**Liaison Group for Events**

- Sam asks for better and continuing participation from members.
- Perry will e-mail weekly or whenever there is an update.

**Our Strengths and Affinities**

- Find your affinities with the five service areas of DHHS.
- Sam explains the goal of identifying these areas is to identify existing strengths and to incorporate a more diverse representation as the group becomes more diverse.
- The group also briefly discusses the pros and cons of being a Commission, chartered group or keep as is.

Children youth and family	Aging and Disability	Public Health	Special needs for housing	Behavior health and crisis services
Nerita		Nerita		
	Wilbur			Wilbur
	Wendy	Wendy		
Yan				
	Julia	Julia		Ji-Young
		Sunmin		
Mayur			Mayur	
	Stan	Stan		
		MK		
	Michael	Michael		
		Harry		
		Ashraf		
	Sam	Sam		Sam

### **Next Meeting**

- June 18, 2013 or sooner
  - The Steering Committee will meet bi-monthly on the third Tuesday of the month.
  - Perry will have further discussion with the steering committee for the retreat.
    - Sam wants next retreat to be all about MHI/P.

**Adjourn Time: 8:35 pm**