

Montgomery County – DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
July 3, 2014

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>
Sam Mukherjee (Chair)	X	Meng K Lee	X
Anis Ahmed		Sunmin Lee	
Ji-Young Cho		Michael Lin	X
Nerita Estampador	X	Mayur Mody	X
Wilbur Friedman	X	Nguyen Nguyen	
Yan Gu	X	Wendy Shiau	X
Harry Kwon		Sovan Tun	X
Lester (Jao) Lacorte		Stan Tsai	X
Cathy Ng	X	Ashraf Sufi	X
Tho Tran	X		
<u>Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Guests</u>	<u>Present</u>
Perry Chan	X		
Sierra Jue-Leong	X		
Betty Lam			
Shannon Lee	X		
Nazia Cheema	X		

Welcome

- Sam Mukherjee called the meeting to order at 6:14.
- Wilbur Friedman explains the process of receiving the applications from Cathy Ng and Tho Tran to be a member of AAHI Steering Committee.
- Michael Lin moves for approval of new members. Wilbur seconds.
 - The motion passes unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

- Meng Lee moves to approve the agenda with no changes. Wilbur seconds.
 - The approval passes.

Approval of April 15, 2014 Minutes

- Wilbur moves to approve the minutes. Mayur Mody seconds.
 - The approval passes.

AAHI Program Updates

FY14 Accomplishments

- Perry shares some of the accomplishments. In summary, FY14 was exciting and productive. AAHI did well informing the community on the details of the ACA.
- Meng suggests having the figures for FY13 available side-by-side for comparison.

- Perry will send out an email with these figures.
- Sam asks how many of the committee members are attending the outreach events, which occur more than once per week, and hopes that members will make this a priority. The Steering Committee is the bridge from DHHS to the community.
- Perry thanks the Steering Committee for their advocacy and leadership.

Budget and FY15

- Perry goes on to inform the committee that DHHS has allocated \$100,000 for mental health prevention efforts. This money will primarily be spent to add a staff member that focuses solely on mental health and education materials.
- Sam affirms this and speaks on the need to reach out to Asians with mental health issues. Due to the social stigma, many keep these issues to themselves. Grassroots outreach is necessary. But significantly, no data is present on Asian Americans with mental health issues due to lack of self-reporting among Asians. A formal community survey which asks the right questions is necessary in order to get the right statistics on the mental health of the Asian community and to help Asian Americans feel more comfortable discussing mental health issues. He also adds that showing results around mental health work is important.
- Nerita Estampador suggests that mental health data should be available from the reports that medical professionals receive from patients.
 - Sam expresses that people with mental health issues do not visit medical professionals and rather a community survey is needed. Also, community education is needed to help people feel better about talking about these issues.
- Yan Gu asks for a clarification about what kind of survey is necessary.
 - Sam answers that a “real, professional” survey is necessary, but that a professional group might not be equipped to interact in the right ways with the Asian community.
- Perry stresses that he is working to on the contract and getting the paperwork finished in order to start using the money for mental health that is already allocated. Also, keeping Raymond Crowel, the Chief of Behavioral Health at the Department, in the loop and coordinating with him on improving mental health.
 - First steps are
 - Outreach
 - Creating educational materials
 - Reaching out to professionals in the community
 - Coordinating with the other groups that focus on mental health
 - The main point is that AAHI is not doing this alone, but in conjunction with other groups in the community.
- Meng asks when this new staff member will be hired.
 - Perry responds as soon as the contract is in place. Some tasks can be started immediately by current AAHI staff.

- Wilbur asks if Dr. Jimenez, who works for DHHS and has a private psychiatric practice, has Asian heritage clientele. He suggests that she might have information that could help AAHI.
- Perry responds that Dr. Raymond Crowel is her boss and that he is trying to reach out to him first.
- Sam says that the data on mental health specifically does not exist and needs to be collected. We are in a void when it comes to knowing which types of mental health issues are most serious and how to allocate resources. Dr. Crowel is more than willing to help us with these problems.
- Meng asks Perry what kind of background he wants to hire?
- Perry answers that the person he wants to hire for the mental health position may have a few years working experience with social service, mental health, public health or psychology backgrounds.
- Discussion continues on the lack of knowledge concerning the depth of mental health problems in the Asian community. Tho gives the example that on ACA applications there is one question “Do you have a mental health issue?” and all Asians answer no.
- Sam asks rhetorically “How do we get Asian Americans to say that they have mental health issues?”
 - Nerita answers that it might be possible to find the answers using indirect, oblique tactics to approach mental health issues, perhaps using more generalized questions about life situations in order to ascertain needs without using the words ‘mental health’.
 - Sam agrees that Health Promoters need to be trained in how to talk to Asians about mental health issues.
- Michael emphasizes the urgency of moving the contract and starting the mental health work.
- Wilbur asks if George Leventhal is still requiring data.
 - Sam responds that he is.
- Wilbur asks if \$100,000 is enough to start getting data; if it’s not, then he wonders if this is perhaps an impossible situation, given that Sam speaks of \$500,000 needed for a survey.
 - Sam responds that the \$100,000 is the base needed for the groundwork so that the survey can be conducted in the future. The groundwork is to work against the stigma.

Liaison Updates

Healthy Montgomery

- Wendy Shiau discusses the last meeting of Healthy Montgomery was on June 9th. Staff at Healthy Montgomery (HM) give updates on the status of their groups.
- HM have many partners in the community, and Wendy sees an opportunity for AAHI to do the same.

- Wendy proposes that AAHI adopts a “learning by doing” process in its operations, just like Healthy Montgomery. The iterative pattern is useful in making adjustments quickly at the organizational level.

CE Asian American Advisory Committee

- Sam reports that there was a big event in downtown Silver Spring that was very good and had good outreach to the community. County Executive also attended the event.

Governor’s Commission

- Anis is absent. Nothing to report.

Commission on Health

- Ashraf reports that they meet every month. Discuss three important topics:
 - Food insecurity among poorer, older population and children.
 - Commission on Health has a good handle on food insecurity among children, but not the older population.
 - ACA
 - There are still many who won’t be getting insurance through the ACA. The Commission on Health is concerned about these individuals.
 - A strong letter was written from the Commission on Health to the government outlining their concerns for those people in Montgomery County with AAHI as an official signatory.
 - Sam asks that AAHI be informed of these kinds of letters as they created.
 - Public Health accreditation

Steering Committee Expansion

- All of this is familiar and does not need to be discussed.

New Chair and Vice Chair

- Wilbur officially recommends that Meng K. Lee be Chair and Nerita Estampador be Vice Chair
 - Wilbur moves that the vote be done by acclamation, meaning that no secret ballot is needed. The movement is seconded.
- Wilbur asks for other nominations. None are forthcoming.
- After voting by acclamation, the vote is unanimous. Meng and Nerita officially become the new Chair and Vice Chair.
- Wilbur moves that AAHI Steering Committee shows gratitude to Sam for all of his hard work.
- On behalf of AAHI, Perry thank Sam for his leadership and services
- Sam, as the outgoing chair, thanks everyone tremendously for their work over the past few years and wishes all the best to the new chairs.

- Meng shares his gratitude for Sam’s work. He also outlines his vision for the future: AAHI is facing a changing environment due to the massive healthcare changes taking place in America due to the ACA. Montgomery County is also revamping its priorities to deal with minorities.
- Meng suggests that meeting time be optimized by having Liaison Reports sent out ahead of time so that they are touched on only very briefly in meeting, leaving time for other important issues.
- Meng also says that now is the right time for AAHI to start a behavioral health program.
 - Perry says that he has been doing some background research on what other areas with Asian American populations are doing concerning this
- Mayur Mody says that he will email a presentation to everyone on depression and anxiety.
- Wilbur asks if there is federal data on mental health
 - Cathy responds that she will look.

Adjourn: 8:01 PM