

Montgomery County – DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
April 7, 2015

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>AAHI Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>
<u>Organizational Members</u>			
Han Pyowook on behalf of Ji-Young Cho	X	Perry Chan	X
Wilbur Friedman	X	Sierra Jue-Leong	X
Yan Gu	X	Shannon Lee	X
Michael Lin	X	Nazia Cheema	X
Mayur Mody	X	Michelle Pineda	X
Sam Mukherjee	X	Udara Perera	X
Nguyen Nguyen	X	Huyen Bui	X
Stan Tsai			
Tho Tran	X		
Sovan Tun			
<u>Individual Members</u>			
Nerita Estampador(Vice Chair)	X	Jenny Young	X
Meng K. Lee (Chair)	X	Aparna Puri	X
Sunmin Lee	X		
Cathy Ng			
Ashraf Sufi			
<u>Affiliate Members</u>			
Anis Ahmed			

Welcome (Meng K. Lee, Chair)

- Meng calls the meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

Approval of Agenda

- Meng moves to approve the agenda and Wilbur Friedman seconds the motion.
- All members vote to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- Wilbur Friedman suggests a few changes. Number one is the verb is ‘to move’ not ‘to motion’, second change is on page four which is the name of the organization AVA, it can be changed to AVA formerly MVMA (Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association), the third change is also on page four, it says ‘one member said this or that’, is there a way to figure out who said what, if not then it is fine.
- Perry states that the reason is to protect some members who do not want their organizations’ name to be recorded for that specific section. Wilbur withdraws his suggestion.
- Sam Mukherjee suggests using the third person.
- Meng moves to approve the January 20, 2015 minutes.
- Wilbur seconds the motion.

- All vote to approve the minutes.

AAHI Program Updates (Perry Chan, Program Manager)

- Perry introduces Udara Perera and Huyen Bui. Udara is the new Senior Program Coordinator who is doing outreach as well as overseeing Health Promoters and the Resources Coordinator. Huyen is the new Resources Coordinator. She is doing outreach work with Udara. Her main function is to connect people with services. He invites Udara and Huyen to introduce themselves.
- Perry states that we are busy with the mental health projects. All the versions of the photonovels are done except the Vietnamese version. The project is on pause due to renovations at the 401 Hungerford building. They plan to do this on 4/21.
- Perry states that once all the versions are done they will review it and the Navigators will review the translations. He will also submit the versions to the Committee for review of the translations. He requests tolerance on writing style.
- Perry mentions that the video is going well. It is in English, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese, and Hindi.
- Perry mentions the mental health launch on May 3rd which is a part of the AICS health fair. It is at 10:00 AM in the Silver Spring Civic Center. The purpose of launching the two publications is to also increase awareness about the needs of mental health. Perry will send an email to the members about the logistics and any special requests.

Healthy Montgomery

- Perry mentions that Healthy Montgomery (HM) is doing a community needs assessment via community conversations. HM is no longer using surveys for its needs assessment. He notes that the timeline is May to the fall.
- Perry mentions that he has already provided key suggestions to HM staff including making sure they have bilingual facilitators and that any handouts be well translated.
- Perry states that HM had a similar exercise 3 to 4 years ago. It was in the Chinese and Vietnamese communities. He recommends that HM should conduct more conversations in the Asian American community because of the diversity. However, HM has a small budget that limits how many they can conduct. He suggests that one of the conversation should include members of the steering committee because they are representatives of the community and know the needs of the community.
- Sunmin suggests they include Health Promoters and Patient Navigators as they have experience with the community.
- Sam says that they only have \$25,000, and it has to be spent by December.
- Perry mentions that the E.C.H.O. Workshop is also coming up in May. Registration is now open to everyone. The workshop will be on Health Data 101 and Dr. Sunmin will be the speaker. He notes that pre-registration was emailed to the steering committee and that registration is now open to the public.
- Perry encourages the members to come as hosts and noted that this was a good venue to recruit new members.
- Perry notes that he received information from the state and there is a special enrollment for the ACA that is ongoing until April 30th.

Retreat 2015

- Meng states that they are thinking about having the retreat either this summer or fall.

Form Task Group

- Meng requests that 2 to 3 people volunteer to help Perry set up the details such as the place, facilitator, topics, theme, and activities. He states that they may not need face-to-face meetings, just a couple of conference calls.
- Nguyen volunteers to help.
- Michael would like to help, but may not be able to commit fully due to traveling plan.

Advocacy and Time Table

- Montgomery County has an annual timetable for their budget. The budget is already in the Council, so any advocacy will need to be in the Council.
- Meng recommends our focus can be on the restoration of the Patient Navigator Program (PNP) which is important to the Asian community because of the barrier that is faced.
- Aparna Puri notes that the budget for Cross-Cultural InfoTech was cut in 2010.
- Meng notes that this was a very successful program that helped many people; however, because of the budget cuts, the services had to be cut. He is asking that it be restored to its previous level. He mentions that this should be the focus for the FY16 budget. He states that there are two things to do. First, they should send a letter of support. Second, they should testify in the County Council budget meeting on behalf of the program.
- Wilbur asks whether PNP is just for Asians or whether it is also for Latinos.
- Aparna states that it is only for the Asian community because the Latino community already has their own program through the Latino Health Initiative (LHI).
- Wilbur asks whether that also has been cut.
- Aparna states that LHI has received a smaller cut. Her program has been hit worse. Her program helps patients with medical interpretation and navigation of County services. Currently there are more Spanish speaking staff so the Latino community may not need as much help. The Asian community has a greater disadvantage because there are not as many Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, or Russian speakers.
- Wilbur asks when the County Council will approve the budget.
- Aparna says that it is sometime in May.
- Aparna states that they helped over 919 patients during the first year of the program. These were no single needs, but rather multiple needs for each patient to include about 6000-7000 calls. At the end of 2010 the budget was cut by 34% and they could not take patients from further communities. They had to cut their hours and mileage which affected 300-400+ clients who were in remote areas. The loss was only 20% of patients because they started to help over the phone. They are currently going beyond their allocated hours and the staff is using personal resources which is not sustainable. There are a lot of patients that are not helped and instead of accessing primary care they end up in the ER. These clients are also low income people that often work late hours and although there are some clinics that are open late, the Navigators cannot work those hours. However, some Navigators have gone on Saturdays and evenings.

- Aparna that they have a 96% success rate.
- Meng notes that he had previous experience with PNP and that we need to advocate for them because of their impact.
- Wilbur asks whether the ACA would help or fund the program.
- Aparna says they would not.
- Wilbur notes that the Council probably has numbers that show expenditures per contact.
- The budget is \$202,000. The PNP member states that the largest budget was \$400,000.
- Wilbur states that we have to ask the Council for an increase this year and also ask Uma to be more generous next year.
- Nguyen notes that the Aparna needed data to show the increase in demand, focusing on 2-3 pieces of information.
- Wilbur asks whether Aparna works with the County Council.
- Aparna replies that she has not, but has always worked with the Steering Committee.
- Meng notes that there are two action items: One is to write a letter of support from the Steering Committee to the County Council in the next few days and second is to testify.
- Wilbur moves for Meng to write a letter to the County Council asking them to increase the PNP budget for FY16.
- Michael and Yan second the move. There are no objections.
- Sam notes that Aparna should be present at the testimony.
- Sunmin suggests they bring previous patients with them.
- Meng suggests that the member assists because of his previous experience with advocacy.
- Sam agrees to coordinate this.

Membership – Renew and Category

- Meng says that some members received the form to renew their membership. He notes that they also need to increase membership.
- Wilbur says that we want to see a physician, statistician, and someone who knows about marketing. He asks what the role of the physician will be.
- Perry states that a physician would be a type of member with the community background. He hopes to have members with professional skills and community experience to bring added value such as physicians, nurses, writers, and marketing professionals. This would need to be someone dedicated and who fits with team.
- Nerita asks whether a statistician she recommended applied.
- Perry says that applications are usually sent to him first. But it had not been received.
- Wilbur states that they also need a marketer and a writer. He mentions that he has found a potential member but neither of them are a marketer or a writer.

Representation on Board, Committee, and Commission (BCC)

Healthy Montgomery Representation replacement

- Meng states that Montgomery County has close to 100 BCCs, but less than 10 are related to health. LIEED and Healthy Montgomery are two of them which specifically

requested AAHI Steering Committee Members for representation. He says that Wendy Shiao resigned last week and this member had agreed to be the new representative.

- Meng moves to approve the member to be the AAHI representative of Healthy Montgomery.
- Wilbur seconds the motion.
- All approved.

Representation in other BCC

- Meng notes that many of the BCCs do not require representation of AAHI, but the members can apply to their Commissions, Committees, and Boards, or we can recruit them to our Steering Committee. For example, the Commission on Health is very important in the County's decision making and we should have a representative of the Asian community.
- Meng encourages this group to apply to BCCs.

Guideline Update

- Meng proceeds forward and speaks about the guidelines which have been on hold for 9 years.
- Wilbur notes that he has proposed numerous bylaws, but none have received enthusiasm. He notes that several questions have been answered to include: What is Asia? What the number of organizational members will be limited to; and whether different individuals can attend meetings to represent an organization.
- Wilbur needs someone to review the two page document and note what could be improved.
- Meng notes that they cannot be called bylaws; they can only be called guidelines. He does not think it requires County's approval because it is only an internal document. He states that he looked at the draft, and it is a clear, concise, and workable document, but they still need more to look at it.
- Meng requests volunteers to review the document.
- Nerita and Sam volunteer to review the document.
- Wilbur mentions that he borrowed language from the Latino Health Initiative's guidelines; he also noted that the African American Health Program does not have anything like this.
- Sam notes that they are board members which is a different system, and they subcontracted all their programs. He says that the original work in 2005 was very comprehensive and detailed because they had to put it into the Ethics Commission.

PCC Letter of Support

- Meng states that the Montgomery Cares Program is a safety net for those in need in Montgomery County who have low income and no insurance. This program, in FY16, has been reduced by ½ million dollars. He notes the total budget is perhaps \$11 million.
- Meng says that although this is a small cut relative to the total budget, it has a big impact because it affects the 12 community clinics. He notes that this will have a direct impact on the Asian community.
- Meng explains that the BCC approached him for a letter of support and he states that the members should be aware of it and fight for it.

- Meng moves to support the letter.
- Mayur seconds the motion.
- Meng notes that the County cuts Montgomery Cares first because it is a large portion of the total budget.
- Nguyen asks the amount of the total budget.
- Meng says that he is on the BCC board and can influence on the inside but more effective would be to have community members on the Montgomery Cares advisory board.
- Sam states that instead of saying Council Office Building, it should be changed to Council or Council members. He suggests that it be addressed to the Chair and copy all Council Members. It should be addressed straight to George Leventhal.
- Meng agrees to address it to George Leventhal. He states to restore the level and then add.
- Nguyen suggest making the last sentence clearer for those Council Members who skim through it. Add a sentence: 'in addition to...'. He also suggested making the 'damage' clearer.
- Sam suggests that it needs to be shortened and reformatted, removing the descriptive parts because they will not read this. He notes that Linda McMillian will take an abstract and George Leventhal will not read this.
- Meng states that this letter comes from Primary Care Coalition (PCC) – not us. He asks whether the Committee should revise it.
- Sam states that the importance of the letter is to provide abstracts to individuals during testimonies.
- Meng mentions that he feels the County probably will not grant the full request but perhaps only 50%.
- Michael reiterates that he believes they should just focus on the very last part and include a new sentence using the language: 'in addition \$550,000 is need for' This will hopefully catch their eyes.
- Wilbur asks if they should rework the first or last paragraph.
- Meng states that it should be in the last paragraph. He asks whether there are any more comments.
- All vote to approve the letter.

Other Business

- Meng states that the report from the LIEED meeting and Healthy Montgomery has been sent to the members a couple of weeks ago. The important thing in both meetings are the needs assessments surveys and we already covered that.
- Sam announces that there will be three health events in May. The last event AAHI and AICS will be partners. He requests everyone to attend the launch of the Behavioral Health Program on May 3rd.
- Sam also mentions that there will be free pneumonia vaccines and screenings for senior citizens.
- Tho notes that she already sent information to their seniors and it is on their bulletin board.

Adjourn: 8:06 PM

- Meng moves to adjourn.
- Sam seconds the motion.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2015