

**Montgomery County – DHHS  
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting  
January 10, 2017**

<b><u>Steering Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>AAHI Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
<b><i>Organizational Members</i></b>			
Ji-Young Cho		Huyen Bui	
Wilbur Friedman	X	Perry Chan	X
Michael Lin	X	Karie Cheung	
Mayur Mody	X	Tanya Dang	X
Sam Mukherjee		Betty Lam	
Nguyen Nguyen (Vice Chair)		Hyewon Lee	X
Thomas Tran	X	Karlie Leung	X
Sovan Tun	X	Sanjana Quasem	X
Edward Wan		Alice Zic	
<b><i>Individual Members</i></b>			
	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Guests</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Nerita Estampador	X	Shenita Freeman	X
Meng K. Lee (Chair)	X		
Sunmin Lee	X		
Cynthia Macri	X		
Tho Tran	X		
Judy Wang			
<b><i>Affiliate Members</i></b>			
	<b><u>Present</u></b>		
Anis Ahmed			

**Welcome (Meng K. Lee, Chair)**

- Meng K. Lee called the meeting to order at 6:20PM.
- Meng invited Steering Committee (SC) members to sign a condolence card for Dr. Ulder Tillman's family.

**Approval of Agenda (Meng K. Lee)**

- A motion to approve the agenda was presented.
- Sovan Tun identified that he was incorrectly listed as being on the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs. He is on the Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs.

ACTION: Agenda for today's meeting (January 10, 2017) has been updated.

- Meng called for a voice vote again to approve the updated agenda. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

ACTION: Meeting agenda approved with no objections.

### **Approval of Minutes (Meng K. Lee)**

- Meeting minutes for November were sent to SC members prior to the meeting.
- Wilbur Friedman suggested adding “Wan” after the second mention of “Edward” on page 4 of the November Meeting Minutes to show Edward Wan’s full name.
- Cynthia Macri indicated that she is not on the Governor’s Commission on Asian American Affairs. She is on the Maryland Veterans Commission.
- Sovan clarified that he and Edward are on the Governor’s Commission on Asian American Affairs.
- Mayur Mody indicated that he is on the Governor’s Commission on South Asian American Affairs.

ACTION ITEM: Meeting minutes for November will be updated.

- Meng called for a motion to approve the updated minutes. Wilbur moved the motion and Mayur seconded the motion.

ACTION: Meeting minutes approved with no objections.

### **Presentation on Wellness and Independence for Seniors at Home (WISH) Program (Shenita Freeman)**

- Meng introduced today’s guest, Shenita Freeman, Program Director of the WISH Program, The Coordinating Center (TCC).
- Shenita provided a presentation about the WISH program.
  - The program was funded by Nexus Montgomery Regional Partnership which includes all six hospitals in the area. The goal is to keep seniors healthy and independent. The program began on October 1, 2016, and is currently funded for two years. The target population is at-risk seniors in forty-three zip codes within Montgomery County and Prince George County.
  - The program is organized in hub-model. Nurses stay in the office and connect health coaches to the community to assess which services are needed by seniors. The eligibility criteria include seniors with Medicare or dual eligibility, age of 65 or older, and live independently. The program is free for those who are eligible.
  - Currently, there are 12 health coaches and two nurses on the team with most coaches having Master’s degrees. WISH conducts background checks during hiring. The coaches will go through one month of initial training and ongoing training is available.
  - The program’s target goal is to serve 400 clients a month and up to 3,600 clients for a two-year contract.

- During the presentation, Cynthia and Thomas Tran raised questions regarding serving seniors who have language barriers and qualifications of the health coaches and translators.
- Shenita explained that seniors with language barriers will be provided a translator during the appointment with their health coach. Translators are not necessarily medically licensed translators; however, they only translate basic information regarding senior's social needs. If the appointment relates to clinical information, the nurse will schedule a medically licensed translator for that appointment.
- Cynthia commented on the importance of cultural competency when working with the Asian American community which entails a level of trust and comfort that may not be met by translators or health coaches who are not Asian.
- Shenita noted that materials WISH provides to clients are translated into six different languages including Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Amharic.
- Shenita asked SC members to be liaisons and help her team reach out to the Asian American community. SC members suggested the following best practices when working with Asian Americans:
  - Hire older coaches to work with seniors.
  - Assign Asian seniors to Asian coaches.
  - Be humble and respectful when interacting with seniors by assuming seniors know what is best for them.
  - Build trust and use different approaches to reach out to each individual.
  - Ask seniors to invite family members to attend meetings with coaches.
  - Give seniors simple written materials.
  - Partner with faith-based and community-based Asian organizations.

ACTION ITEM: AAHI will provide Shenita a list of Asian American organizations.

ACTION ITEM: AAHI and the SC will set-up a follow-up meeting with WISH to brainstorm and fine-tune WISH's strategy in working with the Asian American population.

### **AAHI Program Updates (Perry Chan, Program Manager)**

- Perry mentioned the following handouts were distributed to SC members:
  - January 2017 Local Events
  - Upcoming AAHI Events
  - Fifth Asian Career Fair and Job Skills Seminar
- Perry highlighted the Lunar New Year Celebration on Sunday, January 15, 2017 which will be hosted by the Association of Vietnamese Americans (AVA) at Northwood High School and the Fifth Asian Career Fair and Job Skills Seminar

will be held on January 15, 2017 at the Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC) in Gaithersburg.

- Perry invited WISH to AAHI's upcoming events.
- Perry introduced Hyewon Lee, the new Senior Wellness Program Coordinator at AAHI.
- Perry invited SC members to sign a condolence card for Dr. Tillman's family.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will provide details on time and location of Dr. Tillman's funeral for those who would like to attend.

- Perry indicated that AAHI had around 20 outreach events in the first half of Fiscal Year 2017.
- Since the last SC meeting, two AAHI staff conducted outreach with Asian American small businesses about the Affordable Care Act and resources available throughout the county.
- Perry shared updates on AAHI's work on extending outreach to smaller Asian American communities. AAHI is planning to visit faith-based organizations more frequently than just attending annual health fairs so that AAHI's presence is recognized and community members can get assistance from AAHI more regularly.
- During the past months, AAHI conducted a Faith-based Initiative for Resources and Services Training (FIRST), which is a training for community volunteers on how to search for services in Montgomery County.
- Perry stated that the Empowering Community Health Organizations (ECHO) workshop was successful. Dr. Jay Kenney, the Chief of Aging and Disability Services, Department of Health and Human Services, was the speaker for the workshop. There were 101 participants and 53 different organizations attended. The next workshop will be more resource focus and it will be held in the spring in May.
- Perry specified that there are two Mental Health First Aid Trainings scheduled for February. One will be for two Chinese churches and one for Viet Nam Medical Assistance Program (VNMAP) volunteers who are college students.
- Perry provided updates on the mental health photonovel series. There have been challenges in obtaining consent to use photographs and finding teens to work on the project. AAHI will continue to explore different ways in recruiting teens for the project. AAHI is looking for eight to twelve teens for the project.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will update SC members on possibilities for photonovel series.

- Tho Tran and Thomas invited WISH to meet with various Vietnamese senior groups.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will follow-up with Shenita on the Senior Health 101 Health Promoter Training on February 23, 2017 as she is interested in having WISH Health Coaches attend.

## **Executive Session (Meng K. Lee)**

- Meng called for an Executive Session at 7:30PM.

ACTION: Session commenced at 7:30PM and adjourned at 8:00PM.

## **Updates from Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCC)**

### **Healthy Montgomery (Nguyen Nguyen, Vice Chair)**

- Nguyen Nguyen was not in attendance to provide updates.
- Perry mentioned that Healthy Montgomery has a new initiative called the Chronic Disease Cluster (CDC), which the three minority health initiatives are invited to participate. Sanjana Quasem is AAHI's representative.

### **County Executive (CE) Asian American Advisory Committee (Sovan Tun)**

- Sovan gave an update on the County Executive (CE) Asian American Advisory Committee's work with individual Montgomery Council members to increase the approval of county grants for Asian Americans. The CE Asian American Advisory Committee would like an Asian American representative to be on the Grants Approval Committee.

### **Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs (Sovan Tun)**

- Sovan reported that a meeting was held on October 11, 2016. Four taskforces were created: Arts, Culture, and Interfaith; Health; Business and Economic Development; and Education and Workforce Development. These taskforces will work with other taskforces from other commissions.
- The commission meeting on December 3, 2016 was cancelled.
- Sovan is on the Arts, Culture, and Interfaith taskforce and the next meeting for the taskforce will be on January 17, 2017.

### **Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs (Mayur Mody)**

- Mayur Mody was not in attendance to provide updates.

### **Leadership Institute for Equity and the Elimination of Disparities (LIEED) (Meng K. Lee)**

- The Leadership Institute for Equity and the Elimination of Disparities (LIEED) meeting was cancelled.
- Perry informed SC members that there is a new LIEED program staff.

## **Other Business**

- Meng attended a meeting, “Gun Violence as a Health Issue.”

**Adjourn (Meng K. Lee)**

- Meng adjourned the meeting at 8:08PM.

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 8:08PM.

**Next Meeting:** March 14, 2017