

**Montgomery County – DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
1335 Piccard Drive, Upper Level Conference Room, Rockville, MD
November 16, 2010**

Steering Committee	Present	Steering Committee	Present
Harry Kwon (Chair)	X	Meng Lee (Vice Chair)	X
Anis Ahmed		Ji-Young Cho	
Nerita Estampador		Wilbur Friedman	X
Karen Kar-Yee Ho	X	Lewis Hsu	
MunSu (Moses) Kwon	X	Sunmin Lee	
Michael Lin		Alvin Madarang	
Sam Mukherjee	X	Wendy Shiau	X
Sovan Tun		Betty Luan (Health Promoter Liaison)	X

AAHI Staff	Present	AAHI Staff	Present
Perry Chan	X	Atyya Chaudhry	
Betty Lam	X	Karishma Dhru (Intern)	X
Jamie Weng	X	Shaiza Khalil (Intern)	
Sanjana Quasem		Kristina Yee (Intern)	

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

- Chair Harry Kwon called the meeting to order at 6:16p.m. He welcomed all in attendance and asked attendees to briefly introduce themselves. Harry welcomed health promoter, Betty Luan, who is the liaison to the steering committee.
- Karen inquired what Betty’s experience as health promoter has been since beginning in May, 2010. Betty Luan responded that she has attended 1-2 outreach events per month; which were well organized with good turn-out. She feels staff has done a great job with surveys both during and subsequent to the events. Interaction between both staff fluent in the community member’s language and those who were not was collaborative and effective.

Further, in response to Harry’s query, Betty felt she has not been involved quite long enough to identify significant challenges and barriers. However, she does believe the trainings are extremely useful and instill confidence in the health promoters; particularly in identifying potential diseases in community members. Some discussion ensued about the incidence of breast cancer among the Asian community. Several committee members see rich potential in collaboration with other health organization and specific outreach to the Asian community; particularly in consideration of incidence levels, cultural mores, income levels and the apparent lack of resources.

Perry said with the support from Holy Cross Hospital, AAHI encourages teaching breast self-exam to women. AAHI is aggressive in breast cancer outreach. Also, this year Perry has worked the local media and in October produced an article on breast health in a Chinese-language media. He hopes to expand to other ethnic media. Karen asked that AAHI maintain a media database, so that such articles could be translated - culturally appropriate - for distribution. Perry confirmed there is an in-house database and the suggestion will be explored.

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- Harry Kwon indicated that the September minutes were distributed prior to the meeting and hoped attendees had the opportunity to review them.
- Harry Kwon asked attendees to review the September meeting minutes and offer any additions or corrections. Wilbur suggested a correction to the Other Updates section, specifically his comment, "...a program *which* targets *the* African American community clinics." Also, Wilbur posed a question of etiquette regarding the written usage of professional titles of committee members such as Dr. It was agreed this is appropriate. Thusly, the committee members present approved the September meeting minutes, as amended.

MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF DHHS

- Harry touched upon the Latino Health Initiative. A meeting had been arranged for this evening with the Director of HHS, the LHI and AAHP steering committee to presumably discuss the upcoming budget issues. Harry informed them of the concurrent AAHI Steering Committee meeting, so he and Perry will follow-up with LHI and set-up another meeting with the director.

CROSS CULTURAL INFOTECH – LETTER OF SUPPORT

- A draft letter on behalf of the Committee in support of Cross Cultural InfoTech (CCIT), which provides patient navigation service for the past 2 ½ years, was distributed for discussion. Harry indicated that their services have consistently exceeded expectations. Perry said CCIT has provided significant community services helping clients navigate through county health related services. Additionally, Perry shared that CCIT is considered a national model and other health organizations have concurred with AAHI's experience. Other committee members expressed their approval of sending this letter of support, but wondered if listing member's names may present a conflict of interest for any one individual; particularly county employees. Subsequent to careful consideration, it was agreed to only include the names of members who are not county employees.
- Wilbur offered to edit the letter grammar, not content (i.e passive voice vs. active.) Harry will e-mail to him later this evening so that it can be sent on Wednesday.

HEAD START PROGRAM – LETTER OF SUPPORT

- Harry received a request from the local Head Start program to add AAHI steering committee's name to support of a grant application for their new school health initiative. AAHP and LHI steering committees are also included. Subsequent to brief discussion, Wilbur moved to add AAHI's name to the list of supporters for the Head Start program. Karen seconded and members present approved. A copy of the Head Start support letter will be sent to the committee members.

AAHI PROGRAM UPDATES

- **Outreach & Education** – Perry reported that there have been:
 1. Twelve outreach programs since September.
 2. Nearly 500 community members received basic screenings.
 3. 1,133 health education encounters.
 4. 58 referrals to requested services, including many mammograms.
- **AHPA Presentation** – Perry attended and presented at the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting and Exposition. The presentation focused on the Hepatitis B Pilot Project. Perry had an opportunity to share how to implement a program which was transitioned from a health needs assessment.

Perry believes that that Hep B disparities require more collaboration, partnership and health care access; especially to the Asian American community, which is disproportional affected by the disease. Therefore, AAHI clearly needs more support for this program.

Member discussion offered many points of view. Harry proudly interjected that AAHI has provided not only education, screenings and referrals to community members, but also education to health care providers. AAHI's contribution to the public health community; not only service provision, but critically in education, has been well received.

- **Program Manager Position Update** – Betty Lam announced the OMB approved the Program Manager position, but now approval to post must be obtained from the Office of Human Resources. This internal process may take up to two months.

In response to queries about the possibility to expedite and the effect of potential budget cuts, Betty responded that, although she does not anticipate this position being cut, it is important to consider the timing of the posting; i.e. seniority status for the future staff member.

- **Mental Health-Related Meetings** – Harry reported two related meeting have occurred:
 1. The Mental Health Advisory Commission (MHAC) Meeting- AAHI presented and the Commission was impacted; amazed at not only the Asian American population growth in the county, but other minorities as well. Out of this came a

suggestion for the Commission to establish a new sub-committee targeting minority mental health issues. Secondly, since May is Mental Health Awareness Month, Perry will follow-up on an invitation to participate.

Harry believes that this critical need highlighted in the AAHI needs assessment can further met by working with organizations such as the MHAC. Perry indicated that AAHI will endeavor to build a broad base approach to mental health collaborating with different entities such as MHAC.

2. African American Health Program's Steering Committee Meeting- Moses attended the AAHP's Steering Committee on November 10th. The meeting topic was mental health with guest speaker Dr. Raymond Crowel, Chief, HHS Behavioral Health and Crisis Services. Perry indicated he will set-up a follow-up meeting with Dr. Crowel on how AAHI can build collaborative efforts with Behavioral Health and Crisis Services.

2010- 2011 ADVOCACY FOCUS – HEPATITIS B PROGRAM

- Harry has been talking with different members about how to advocate more resources to eliminate hepatitis B disparities. Parity in funding has always been a priority. Now that solid data is available, what are the best ways to educate key decision makers so that this high need resonates with them; ie the county executive and county council. An integrated approach which maintains patient care quality and the personal touch must be coupled with pushing forward the hepatitis B program education among funders.

SUBCOMMITTEES

- **Program** – Harry announced that Karen agrees to chair the program committee. He expressed his appreciation, encouraged others to participate and was pleased Karen is excited about the opportunity to learn more through her participation.
- **Advocacy** – Harry hopes this committee will focus on hepatitis B, and asks for a volunteer to chair, as well as other members.
- **Data** – Harry suggested this committee is more of a work group to develop data management and utilization. A chair has not been identified.
- **By-Laws** – Wilbur asked for volunteers to work with him on the by-laws committee.
- Harry hopes that the committee will focus on these four functions for the time being, with other arising needs met on an ad-hoc basis.

LIAISON REPORTS

- **Governor's Commission** – No report available.

- **Asian American Advisory Committee** - Sam said this committee meets 2-3 times a year. Once a year, the committee meets with County Executive, Ike Leggett. There was one event on Diwali Celebration to Honor Indian Cultural Heritage.
- **Commission on Health** – Harry attended the last meeting which was a planning retreat focusing on general public health issues including obesity; as well as linkage with the Mental Health Association committee.
- At the January AAHI meeting, a report on the HealthyMontgomery activities will be presented. Sunmin Lee will sit on that group with Karen as an alternate.

OTHER

- **2011 Meeting Schedule** – Harry reminded members that in 2011 the committee will meet the second Tuesday of the odd months (January, March, etc.) A revised calendar will be made available.
- **Chair/Vice-Chair Nominations** – The Chair and Vice Chair positions expire in the spring; so please consider either self-nomination or nomination of another.

ADJOURN

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.