

Montgomery County - DHHS  
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting  
March 20, 2012

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>
Sam Mukherjee (Chair)	X	Karen Ho Chaves (Vice Chair)	
Anis Ahmed		Ji-Young Cho (Julia Chang present on behalf of Ji-Young)	X
Nerita Estampador		Wilbur Friedman	X
Harry Kwon	X	MunSu (Moses) Kwon	
Meng K Lee		Sunmin Lee	X
Michael Lin	X	Betty Luan (HP Liaison)	X
Wendy Shiau	X	Sovan Tun	
<u>AAHI Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>		
Perry Chan	X		
Betty Lam			
Jamie Lok Weng	X		
Sanjana Quasem	X		
Wana Jin	X		
Carolyn Ho	X		

**Welcome/Introductions**

Sam Mukherjee called the meeting to order at 6:20pm and motions to record the meeting. No one objects and so the meeting is recorded.

**Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved

**Approval of February 27, 2012 Minutes**

Wilbur Friedman motions to approve the minutes. Michael Lin seconds. Minutes approved.

**AAHI Program Updates**

***Outreach Activities***

- There were two events since the last Steering Committee meeting. Perry Chan would like to thank Wilbur for attending both events.
  - Vaccination #2 event for the Vietnamese American community on March 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Cancer: It Does Not Discriminate on March 17<sup>th</sup>

***Cancer: It Does Not Discriminate on March 17***

- Two health promoters gave testimonies at this event.
  - One health promoter gave a story about his uncle's struggle with the cultural and language barriers when navigating the health care system during his time in the US. He later died in the Philippines.
  - The other health promoter centered her testimony on a request for more bilingual/bicultural health materials which would make a big difference in her role as a health promoter providing outreach work and providing education to community members.

### ***Upcoming Outreach Events***

- Perry disseminates and runs through the upcoming outreach events list. For further information and to confirm attendance, please contact Perry.
- Sam notes that it was helpful to get an overview of the events as it gives members more motivation and incentive to go.
- Michael adds that it is good to know who the host is so that members can thank them and if AAHI is the host, members can feel more ownership and take more initiative in attending.
- Sam emphasizes for more participation in AAHI's outreach events. The Steering Committee members are the eyes and ears of the community and it is important to be present at these events.

### ***FY13 Budget***

- County Executive Recommended Budget was made public a few days ago.
  - Reduction target of FY13 budget was 1%.
  - AAHI's budget will be level-funded for FY13.
    - Sam adds that this was an understanding with HHS Director, Uma Ahluwalia, since last September as all three initiatives emphasized to keeping funding the same as they go through the transition process.
    - Sam also notes that a big part of the county's funding come from taxes. In the past years, taxes were not enough to cover county's expenses, but it is forecasted that the taxes will be enough for this year.
- The budget is currently in the County Council's office under review. They have set up four hearings.
  - Perry has sent out the dates but check the website for date changes.
  - The dates are as follows:
    - April 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm
    - April 11<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm
    - April 12<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm
    - April 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm
  - If you are planning on testifying, you will need to call the Council's office to register.
    - Sam notes that the Steering Committee needs to consider its advocacy role in this situation (whether or not to testify). He will discuss with the other two initiatives to see what their thoughts are on this.
    - Michael adds that a factor that may shift the budget is the shifting of retirement funds from the state. The County may not have taken that into account in their current budget.

- Wilbur notes that the amount that is predicted to be shifted is around 40 million dollars.
- Sam adds that Steering Committee members must keep in mind DHHS' reorganization of service delivery when considering where the Steering Committee stands and what should it demand.
- Harry Kwon recommends seeing what the other initiatives plan on doing regarding testifying. He also notes that people need to keep in mind that if others demand more money, money has to be taken from somewhere else. For example Montgomery Cares is asking for an additional \$1.2 million.
- Sam notes that this is a very good point. Councilmember George Leventhal has a powerful voice in the budget and has noted that he advocates to avoid duplication of funding efforts. For example, he supported AAHI's past needs assessments, but may not in the future as that is being done through Healthy Montgomery. Sam notes to keep this in mind.
- Wilbur notes that using the phrase "level budget" to describe AAHI's funding is inaccurate because inflation is not being considered. He notes that asking for the same amount as last year should not be too hard to draw out.
- Sam suggests writing a letter to reinforce emphasis on not changing AAHI's budget.
- Harry advocated for the letter of support for keeping budget stable and asks when that would be due.
  - Sam answers very soon
- Sam notes that he will be meeting with representatives from the other two initiatives and will discuss what their thoughts are on this.
  - Michael suggests that it would be good to be consistent within the three initiatives.

### **Recruitment of Members**

- Considering DHHS' five service areas, Sam notes the importance of making the committee more of a dynamic group, not just a health focused group. Sam continues and says that the committee needs to recruit more people to build AAHI's bridges into the community. With the loss of past committee members, the Steering Committee has lost touch with a few communities (e.g., Filipino and Indonesian communities).
  - Michael asks about the possibility of Steering Committees being disbanded and reorganized due to the current reorganization of service delivery.
  - Sam notes that there is a possibility and this is the reason why the Steering Committees need to have a consensus on the purpose of the Steering Committee and how its presence should be projected.
- Sam asks if the Steering Committee should form a temporary recruitment committee.
  - Michael notes it would be a good idea and suggests that the Steering Committee needs those with both connections and bridges into the community as well as those with expertise.
- Wilbur asks how recruitment should proceed. Based on service areas? Ethnicity? Expertise?

- Sam notes that it is important to have experts as it is a strong source of information for this group. However, with the current service delivery reorganization, DHHS wants the Steering Committee to be the eyes and ears of the community so it is just if not more important to recruit those who have ties into the community.
- Michael notes that expertise can also be someone who knows where to get the resources and knowledge not necessarily have the knowledge himself.
- Wendy Shiao asks how many new members are needed.
  - Sam says he does not know, but the Committee can have at least 3 or 4 more.
- Harry thinks that it would be good to find connections to communities that we have lost touch with.
- Sam notes that with the DHHS's Equity and Social Justice Initiative, DHHS knows the importance of the Steering Committees and hopes to have feedback on the process.
  - Harry adds that priority settings are based on data, but there is weight on the community voice because DHHS knows that the communities know things that cannot be captured in data
- Sam points out that the demography of this county has changed and has become very diverse which is why DHHS wants to adopt the equity model from King County. The idea on this equity initiative is that service will eventually be delivered on the basis of need not by ethnicity or any other factors. King County's model focuses on looking to solve the root causes of a patient's condition instead of just providing basic health services and treating a patient's condition.
- Regarding the Steering Committee recruitment efforts, Perry notes that on the AAHI website ([www.AAHIinfo.org](http://www.AAHIinfo.org)), there is a "How to Get Involved" page with applications online.
- Perry also disseminates AAHI's fact sheet to give out during recruitment.
  - Sam asks if there can be efforts to disseminate these facts sheets in the public.
    - Wilbur notes that public libraries can distribute among the libraries in the area and will look into that.
    - Harry suggests putting them up in the community boards in the Asian markets. He notes that the fact sheet may have too much in terms of a flier and suggests condensing and changing it to be more attention grabbing and more concise.
    - Harry asks what the purpose is for putting up AAHI's fact sheets.
      - Sam answers both volunteer recruitment and raising awareness of AAHI, but volunteer recruitment is the main focus.
    - From her experience, Betty Luan notes that the most cost effective way to obtain responses is via the web through email listserv, idealist.org and other websites. She also notes that it is important to keep in mind the audience that the Steering Committee is trying to reach.
- Perry notes that recruitment can take place during this May's ECHO workshop as there were more than 50 community leaders that were present in the last workshop.
  - Sam adds that Steering Committee members can talk to people at AAHI's outreach events.
- Sam suggests that it may be good to look for both volunteers for AAHI and Steering Committee. Sam feels that a temporary recruitment committee should be created to push this through.

- Harry summarizes the discussion on recruitment: There are two components to this (1) awareness of AAHI and (2) bringing volunteers/Steering Committee members. Regarding Steering Committee members, he feels that the Committee needs to be more strategic about this.
- Michael points out that information needs to be pushed out instead of passively sitting there for people to discover to it.
- Sam asks how many Steering Committee members are on different boards and commissions. He suggests that those on boards and commissions can make announcements about recruitment.
- Sunmin Lee asks what AAHI Steering Committee will be presenting on in May.
  - Sam explains that with the current process with DHHS, the service areas have finished their presentations and members must assimilate the information and present on what the role of the Steering Committee is in the future and how it will serve them.
- It was finalized that Harry will head the temporary Recruiting Committee.

### **Review of existing sub-committees/representations**

#### ***Healthy Montgomery:***

- Perry provides a brief presentation on the Healthy Montgomery and demonstration of its website. If members have any questions, they can write it down and AAHI will send to the Healthy Montgomery staff. An electronic copy of the slides will be sent out.
- Sam notes that Healthy Montgomery is a very important thing for the future and predicts that a lot of funding is going to go into this. He adds that it is important for Steering Committee members to keep Healthy Montgomery in mind in everything they do.
- Sunmin asks if the Healthy Montgomery shows data on Asian Americans.
  - Perry answers not to a detailed extent.
  - Sam notes that Healthy Montgomery links data from already existing datasets.
  - Sunmin is concerned that specific needs to Asian American will not be shown and the services that is provided will be general and not specific to the community.
- Betty asks regarding DHHS discussion about health service delivery if there has been any emphasis on outreach.
  - Sam answers that questions have been raised to DHHS about this. He also notes that the Steering Committee needs to show DHHS the importance of outreach and that it is our value.

#### ***Commission on Health:***

- Last meeting was last Thursday as they continue to focus on obesity.
- The commission is going to send a letter to the County Executive and County Council about recommendations for obesity prevention for the County to consider.
- The commission will submit a letter of support for Montgomery Cares for an additional budget allocation of \$1.2 million to cover projected costs for specialty care.

#### ***Asian Pacific American Advisory Committee:***

- There has been no meetings and therefore no updates.

### ***Governor's Commission:***

- The Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs is being divided into smaller subunits.
- In May, the House of Delegates will invite representatives from various organizations to come testify but there is a fee of \$300 to attend.
  - The money is going towards the food and entertainment for the event. Funds will be returned if not used.

### ***Advocacy***

- Sam noted that this was discussed earlier and after speaking with the other initiatives tomorrow, the Steering Committee will have a better idea what to do in terms of advocacy efforts.

### ***Liaison with LHI and AAHP***

- Sam explains that there are no updates but is in close contact with the other two initiatives.

### ***Data***

- Sunmin notes that it has not been active recently but will look into what the priorities are and making this committee more active.

### **Future Meeting Dates for 2012**

- The following are future meeting dates:
  - **April 17, 2012**- will mainly be to prepare the Steering Committee's presentation to the DHHS reorganization team
  - **May 15, 2012**
  - **June 19, 2012**
- Dates will be discussed over email if there are any conflicts.
- Sam notes that from now until the next meeting, there will be a lot of interaction because the Steering Committee will be doing their presentation soon. Feedback will be very vital.

### **Presentation and Discussion on Minority Health Initiatives Assessment Process**

- Was discussed throughout meeting so was not discussed further.

### **Adjourn Time: 8:04pm**