

Montgomery County – DHHS
 Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
 April 15, 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	X	Sunmin Lee	X
Ji-Young Cho (Julia Chang)	X	Michael Lin	X
Nerita Estampador	X	Mayur Mody	X
Wilbur Friedman	X	Nguyen Nguyen	X
Yan Gu		Wendy Shiau	
Harry Kwon		Sovan Tun	
Lester (Jao) Lacorte		Stan Tsai	
		Ashraf Sufi	
<u>Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Guests</u>	<u>Present</u>
Perry Chan	X		
Sierra Jue-Leong	X		
Betty Lam	X		
Shannon Lee	X		
Jasmine Vinh			

Welcome

- Sam Mukherjee called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM.
- Introduction of members and AAHI staff were done

Approval of Agenda

- Meeting agenda was approved by the participants.

Approval of Minutes

- Nguyen moved to approve the minutes. Wilbur seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- Nguyen requested that the minutes be sent ahead of the meeting.
- Perry agreed and will do so in the future.

AAHI Program Updates

Updates from Program Manager

- Activities in Fiscal Year 2014:
 - 41 events as of April 14th
 - Contacted 1,500 County residents
 - Distributed 5,700 pieces of literature
 - Screened 500 residents and gave 400 referrals
 - Since January 1st, 2014 led 27 events
- The Chair encouraged Steering Committee Members (Members) to attend as many events as possible.
- Perry thanked Members and staff for their contributions.

Past and Upcoming Health Events & Affordable Care Act Outreach

- Perry expressed that the community members know the basics of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- AAHI led 884 educational encounters with residents and distributed 1,000 pieces of literature in multiple languages.
- Sam shared the good experience about reaching out to small business owners in downtown silver spring accompanied by Tae Kim. Average time spent at each establishment was about 15 mins
- Nguyen received good feedback his outreach efforts. He is inspired and believes AAHI is off to a great start.

Hepatitis B

- Across the three hepatitis B events:
 - 358 community members were educated about hepatitis B
 - 358 community members were screened for hepatitis B
 - 82 community members were at risk for hepatitis B
 - 11 community members were infected with hepatitis B
- Perry reported that on the whole 10 people were found to be Hepatitis B positive. They were referred to follow up/ongoing care.

ECHO

- Perry mentioned that the theme of the last ECHO event was The Affordable Care Act. It was well attended with 120 participants including many who were repeat attendees.

- At this event AAHI collaborated with the Latino Health Initiative and African American Health Program. A survey was done to rate the attendees' experience. 80% rated the workshop as good or excellent.
- During the event, panelists shared their experience and efforts to increase ACA enrollment. The ACA Health Navigators gave inputs to guide the attendees through Maryland Health Connection.
- The next workshop is on May 21st at the Silver Spring Civic Building. This workshop's theme is on Mental Health. A speaker has already been confirmed, and a formal invitation will be sent later this week.

Lyme Disease Awareness and Prevention Month & Mental Health

- Sam talked about the importance of Lyme Disease Awareness and Prevention Month which is the month of May in Montgomery County as well as in the State of MD.
- Perry encouraged Members to be proactive in educating the community. He is happy to provide more information about Lyme Disease and to help gather speakers.
- Nguyen expressed why AAHI should focus on Lyme Disease as opposed to diseases that are more common amongst the Asian American population.
- Wilbur stated that although Lyme Disease strikes rural areas more, he does not have objections to focusing on this issue because it is important.
- Nerita believes that Lyme Disease is a public health and safety issue. She supports AAHI's efforts in focusing on Lyme Disease.
- Sam was of the opinion that AAHI be actively working on the Mental Health project. He can help with providing more information and discussed the importance of mental health awareness. He cited the high suicide rates as well as the social stigma that is associated with mental illness. He also noted the lack of available information from Asian American populations.

Liaison Updates

- The group discussed the current year's Advocacy plans and expectations: 1.) Liaison with other groups 2.) Providing regular updates to AAHI steering committee 3.) Advocating on behalf of Asian Americans at all events and meetings
- The group agreed that a big difference could be made with more effective participation.

Healthy Montgomery

- The Chair or the Program Manager has not received any feedback or updates on Healthy Montgomery.
- Nguyen asks what the Steering Committee hopes to accomplish by their participation with Healthy Montgomery.

- The Chair pointed out that effective participation helps enhance AAHI's current programs, understanding of ongoing programs and outcomes, understanding of projections and expectations which could help boost request for funding for AAHI.

CE Asian American Advisory Committee

Sam Mukherjee reported the following:

- Advisory Committee met three times last month, and they are in the process of establishing a sister city program with Hyderabad in India.
- The County Executive put some money into mental health, and we should be grateful for his contribution.
- The month of May is the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and there will be an event in downtown Silver Spring. He requested Members to consider recruiting a sponsor for AAHI to participate at the event. There is a \$100 fee. Members discussed sponsoring the event and the details of when and where to send the money.
- Sam will ask a source for funding, but will reach out to Members if he does not receive funding.

Governor's Commission

- Anis Ahmed reported on an urgent meeting of the Commission. He explained the religious health book that the Governor's Commission is developing. The book will be released very soon, and it discusses how medical professionals may interact with people of different religious faiths and cultures and guides individuals on how to interact with patients while respecting their religious and cultural sensitivities.
- Julia asks why this book is limited to Muslims, Hindu, and Sikhs.
- Anis explained that this book only looks at the major South Asian religions, and that guidelines for the religious traditions of Jews and Christians already exist. Those faiths are known since long, and whose members have resided in the United States since the country's beginning.
- Wilbur asked about the scope of this book to which Anis's input was that this book is limited in scope and focuses on the most common religious interactions.
- He further informed that there was an AAAPI summit at Annapolis on February 28th and that it was a success. This was the third year and more than 300 people attended the event, mostly from the Asian American community. Betty Lam also participated in the event as a panelist.

Commission on Health

- The Chair, the Program Manager nor the Steering Committee have not received any feedback, updates or notes from the AAHI representative at the Commission on Health.
- Betty Lam mentioned that the Commission on Health meets once a month, and preparation is needed to prepare for each meeting since the committee discusses very technical issues.
- The Commission has one place reserved for a representative of AAHI and it is solely AAHI who decides who represents the interests of AAHI. This position is not appointed by the County Executive

Advocacy for 2015 AAHI Program Funds

- Nguyen wanted to know the current budget for the Latino Health Initiative (LHI) versus the Asian American Health Initiative.
- Perry informed that LHI receives about \$1,000,000 in funding while AAHI receives about \$400,000.
- Sam highlighted the progressive and aggressive LHI efforts who have a good combination of different professionals including lawyers, and believes AAHI has something to learn from LHI's methodical and disciplined activities and performance.
- Sam mentioned that AAHI should work with other like-minded groups. An advocacy opportunity is at the May 7th LIEED meeting where Council Members are expected. After the group advocacy, AAHI will follow up with the participant Council Members individually.

Presentation on MHI/P-LIEED

*Please note that the PowerPoint presentation is attached.

- Nerita Estampador asked for an example of a systematic approach to which Betty gave an example of one systematic approach where data drives the selection of a diverse workforce. This is reflected by interview questions that are chosen for managers to use in order to screen for cultural competency.
- Sam explained that these questions are not limited to AAHI, but are used department wide.
- Anis asks how diverse the staff at the Department of Health and Human Services is to which Betty responded that she would provide that information at the next meeting.
- Sam expressed the opinion that the current Advisory Group does not have the breadth and depth of resources to affect health disparities with current racial and ethnic groups.
- Betty added that minority health issues are only symptoms – not the root issue. As a result, it is logical to focus on social determinants of health. Over time, the mission has expanded to push back against health disparities in the Asian American community.

- Michael Lin requested a clarification on the outcome of the final title -- eliminate disparity. He wondered whether the purpose is to eliminate all disparities, not just health.
- Wilbur said that the scope of work for LIEED is within DHHS and Michael believes it is a stretch to work toward eliminating all disparities.
- Sam states that mental health is a very broad definition. Many issues are interrelated and must be addressed.
- Meng Lee thought whether the Steering Committee should expand its jurisdiction in order to cover more issues.
- Michael suggested that AAHI should cover the same issues as HHS.
- Sam thought that AAHI needs to expand beyond education and health. AAHI needs more diversity for more meaningful contributions.
- Nerita asked whether committee members include volunteers from emerging population committees.
- Betty informed that there are three emerging group committees that have representation on the advisory committee. The budget is currently at \$100,000, which is enough money to hire and maintain one staff member. The intent for LIEED is to impact systems issues.
- Michael asked if LIEED has any governing authority to which Betty replied that LIEED is an adjourning group with community leaders and senior leadership of the department.
- Sam informed that there are two available slots for permanent members and one backup. However, there is a need for a significant amount of homework in order to participate meaningfully.

Program Planning

- The Chair believes AAHI needs to expand its programs in order to stay relevant.
- Nguyen commented that AAHI has many good programs, and AAHI's staff members are working very hard. However, AAHI needs a signature program and should consider changing strategies to focus on quality over quantity.
- Sam is of the opinion that more money may be needed for a signature program for AAHI.

Flu Vaccines Request

- It was proposed that the different CBOs who carry out annual Flu Vaccine campaigns may make a joint request to DHHS for vaccines so that all have an equal probability to get them. Perry mentioned that the target demographic is low-income and uninsured individuals.
- In the past individual requests have not been successful all the time.

- Wilbur wanted to know who administers the shots to which Sam replied that licensed professionals volunteer to give the vaccinations.
- Perry requested that the requests for vaccines be sent to him as soon as possible.

The Chair summed up a few topics which need priority action in the near future:

- **Review of participation of AAHI Representatives at Commissions**
- **Select Representatives for the LIEED Group**
- **Appoint Sub-Groups to Work on Data**

Ensuing Discussions:

- Sam expressed the belief that more emerging populations groups should be represented because the County has capped the total number of committees to the existing three.
- Wilbur touched on the capacity of the Steering Committee and asked if problems could arise by limiting the number of Steering Committee Members.
- Perry replied there should not be a problem. A reasonable number of participants could enhance the Steering Committee.
- Meng Lee pointed out that the current bylaws allow for a number between 15-20 Members.
- Wilbur believes the Steering Committee should be expanded and the bylaws may need to be changed in order to expand the Steering Committee.
- Nerita felt the Constitution may need to be amended in order to accommodate more Steering Committee Members. She also would like to add more names and biographies on AAHI's website.
- Nguyen acknowledged AAHI's effectiveness and hard work, but raised concerns about being spread too thin.
- Sam said that AAHI's data collection will be its primary resource to which Nguyen asked why AAHI does not shift to data collection.
- Michael informed that the Welcome Back Center is a program that works with foreign trained health care professionals, helping them get local jobs.
- Betty mentions that May 3rd is the deadline to apply for a scholarship.

The Chair reminded Steering Committee members that it was overdue to have a new Chair/Co-Chair of AAHI

- Wilbur shared that there are a few individuals who are interested in serving as chair of AAHI. As a result, an election is needed to pick a new leader. The consensus of the committee is to choose another leader by email. Wilbur will take the lead on this issue after he has completed updates on the Steering Committee's bylaws.

Date for Next Meeting

- Wilbur the bylaws committee Chair said a meeting in June is important.
- Perry agreed and will determine a date for next month's meeting in consultation with the Members.

Adjourn: 8:45 PM