

Montgomery County – DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
June 16, 2015

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

Welcome (Meng K. Lee, Chair)

- Meng K. Lee calls the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

Approval of Agenda

- Meng moves to approve the agenda.
- Wilbur Friedman moves and Michael Lin seconds the motion.
- Agenda approves with no objections.

Approval of Minutes

- Wilbur suggests a few changes. Number one is on page 5, “you move to approve the member to be the representative of Healthy Montgomery (HM).” Wilbur asks if that means the AAHI representative. Number two is to clarify who “George” is, by adding his last name. Number three is on page 6, Wilbur cannot remember what PCC is. Number four is on page 2, what is the 401 building?

- For number one, Perry Chan responds that the AAHI steering committee (AAHI SC) approved that Nguyen Nguyen represents AAHI SC to serve on HM steering committee. For number two, Wilbur states that he assumes it is George Leventhal. Meng agrees.
- For number three, Meng responds that PCC is Primary Care Coalition
- For number four, 401 is the 401 Hungerford Drive building.
- Wilbur moves to approve the April 7, 2015 minutes, Nerita Estampador seconds.
- All vote to approve the minutes.

AAHI Program Updates (Perry Chan, Program Manager)

- Perry states that AAHI has had a busy few months.
- He provides the outreach numbers below.

FY15 Outreach Numbers as of June 16, 2015

- # of events: 37
- # of people assisted: over 2,000
- # of educational encounters: 2,600
- # of literature distributions: 5,000
- # of screenings and vaccinations: 700
- # of referrals: 200

Hepatitis B Program

- Perry mentions the SMASH-B Project. We completed the second dose of VNMAP's project and KCSC is having a vaccination event on Sunday, June 28, 2015 at a Korean church in Gaithersburg.
- He also mentions that AICS provided some Hepatitis B screenings on Sunday, May 3, 2015.
- Perry says that STOP-B has a clinic every Friday in Gaithersburg. We see some mutual support among the group, if people are not able to make it to a KCSC vaccination day, they may get the service from STOP B. Perry states that currently, they are getting free vaccines from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) until September 29, 2015. After this AAHI may not receive vaccines from DHMH. He urges the group to start thinking of ways that we can internally look for support for our local events. Perry states that we should have enough vaccines for FY16 but we need to plan for future program need.
- Perry states that we have 300 doses in the fridge, enough for about 100 people.
- Nguyen asks when the vaccines expire.
- Perry responds that they expire sometime in 2016.
- Perry states that vaccines are one of the program's largest costs and that they have been relying on DHMH supply for the past 2 years.

Mental Health

- Perry states that the Mental Health Photonovel and video are completed. Both publications are on the website in Chinese, Vietnamese, Hindi, English, and Korean.
- Perry states that he has uploaded the open source file of the Photonovel on the website as a way to increase exposure to other National partners as well as support other public health entities.
- Perry states that we have started to use some of the materials at our outreach events and have been watching how they are reacted to. He states that Sunmin is helping to set up a survey to evaluate our materials. So far, we have seen good internal and external feedback on our materials.
- Perry states that about 70 people attended at the May 3rd launch.
- Mayur states we should look at Health Monitor as a way to share the videos.

Empowering Community Health Organizations (ECHO) Workshop

- Perry states that we had the ECHO Workshop on Wednesday May 13, 2015 at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Dr. Sunmin Lee was the speaker. The topic was “Introduction to Health Data”. We had 81 attendees and 31 organizations who attended.
- Over 85% of the attendees thought the workshop was good and gained knowledge about health data.
- Perry states that there is a Health Promoter Celebration on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at the County Executive Office Building’s Cafeteria from 6-8 PM. Perry asks that steering committee members to RSVP to him by the end of the week if planning to attend.

United Health Foundation Grant

- Perry mentions that DHHS is invited to apply for a United Health Foundation Grant. This is a grant that will support AAHI’s outreach activities. It will allow AAHI to follow up with people who we meet at outreach events. This grant also provides an opportunity to identify barriers that could help us change our systems.
- Nguyen asks how much funding DHHS would receive.
- Perry responds about 1 million dollars a year. This is a 3 year grant.
- Meng asks the mental health project plan for FY16.
- Perry responds that some possible projects are Mental Health First Aid Training, working with BHCS staff, and continuing to support community mental health projects.

Healthy Montgomery – Community Health Needs Assessment Updates (DHHS) Karen Thompkins

- Karen Thompkins introduces herself and her background. She came on board to HM a year ago and is here to manage and coordinate the Community Health Needs Assessment.
- Karen comments that the last Community Health Needs Assessment was done in 2011. She mentions that the Healthy Montgomery (HM) Steering Committee met in

September 2014 and decided it was time to do another Community Health Needs Assessment. When HM Steering Committee met on December 8, 2014 and asked for a larger committee to oversee and give guidance. This committee was comprised of other Minority Health Initiatives/Programs, HHS staff, service providers, hospitals, and representatives from HM. This is part of a community improvement process for HM. The Community Health Needs Assessment is about a 15-month process and we hope to have a draft report to the HM Steering Committee by December 2015. We hope to be done with the community conversation part of it by the end-of-September.

- Karen mentions the following Community Health Needs Assessment goals:
 - Revisit health needs of Montgomery County residents.
 - Identify changes in the community; social, cultural, and economic.
 - Provide an opportunity for Montgomery County residents to voice concerns through this process.
 - Opportunity to strengthen and rebuild collaborations between HM Community Partners and the community.
 - Ability to leverage data to help strategically develop community programs.
 - Align the HM Community Health Needs Assessment with the Hospital's Health Needs Assessment.
- She mentions that the budget is \$25,000; HM and HHS contributed \$12,000.
- Karen said that the conversations are based on diversity, ethnic groups, languages, sub populations age, etc.
- Karen said that there will be a maximum of 16 to 17 conversations:
 - 4 conversations – 1 at each regional service center (Silver Spring, Wheaton, Germantown, and East County).
 - 6 in-language conversations – French, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Spanish, and Amharic.
 - Sub groups – elderly, faith-based (Aug/Sept), disabled (June 10th), youth (May 21st), homeless (1 women and 1 men both in Rockville).
- Karen wants to talk about the Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean community conversations.
- Karen states that all the discussions are run with facilitators and would like to find a time to set a meeting with the AAHI Steering Committee for a conversation.
- Perry proposes that AAHI SC may have the conversation on August 11, 2015. He said that he would invite Patient Navigators and Health Promoters to that meeting.
- Cathy Ng asks how long the conversation will take.
- Nguyen asks what the conversation looks like.

- Karen responds that it is a 2-hour conversation with facilitators around the room (in the youth conversation). The HM Steering Committee wants 25-30 people in the conversations. The larger the group the more facilitators that are needed.
- Perry comments that he is concerned about the quality of the conversation and wants to give priority to Steering Committee Members then open it to others.
- Wilbur asks Karen what specifics she is looking to get out of these conversations.
- Karen responds that after establishing a common language, she would ask quality of life questions such as: What do you visualize health as? What do you need to be healthy? How do you define a healthy community? What are things that you need to make you healthy? What are steps you can take to be healthy? And what challenges do you face?
- Karen states that this is qualitative data. We are going to learn how the community sees the assets and barriers to health and compare that against the quantitative data we have on disease. HM will use this data moving forward in preparing their strategic plan.
- Karen mentions that it is important to circle back to the groups that we reached out to.
- Michael Lin says that he is interested in seeing the data from 2011. He wants to make sure that we are identifying specific themes and not broad ones.
- Karen responds that she does not anticipate that the data will look too differently.
- Perry suggests that we reach out to existing groups. No need to build a new group.
- Meng asks how they got people to show up.
- Karen responds by giving incentives as well as getting credit hours.
- Betty Lam suggests that if there is money we should spend it on a note taker instead of incentives.
- Michael comments that you need to find a core group that all speaks the language. He also says that Karen has access to many groups in this room (AAHI Steering Committee) and hopes that she will take advantage of that.
- Sam Mukherjee responds that HM is doing a fantastic job of reaching out to certain communities; however most of the data is secondary. They have not made much effort to conduct primary data collection. This might be hard because of the social stigma around mental health in the Asian community.

Healthy Montgomery Updates (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Nguyen feels that it is not an adequate representation of the Asian community, especially because there are only 3 language groups. He asks how we can create an environment where people can voice their concerns. Maybe in the August meeting we can save some seats specifically for people of those groups that have not been represented such as Laos, Cambodia, and the Middle East.

- Betty asks if there is a way that we can have a voice. Is it possible to utilize English-based platforms to have Asian needs heard.
- Nguyen comments that he thinks this is a great idea but that we need to make sure that we have strong English speakers in that environment.
- Betty comments back to the Germantown conversation, that maybe if we would have had more Asians there then that could have been a way to get our voices heard.
- Nguyen comments that they are just looking at us to bring the people. We have no say in the development of this Assessment.
- Meng ask if the Commission on Health is duplicating HM goals.
- Betty responds that she thinks it is mandatory to have a Commission on Health in every County. That they may be overlapping a bit.
- Perry comments that there is some overlap, but they are also different. HM is a community improvement process and has supporters such as policy makers and NGOs. Also, the Commission on Health is appointed by the County Executive.
- Nerita asks who is accountable if these conversations fail.
- Nguyen volunteers to engage with the Vietnamese community.

Retreat (Nguyen, Michael, MK, Perry)

- Perry asks when they should have the retreat in September or October. He asks if the group would like to do it on a half-day Saturday in the Rockville/Gaithersburg area.
- Perry and Michael agree that they are in the retreat group.
- Perry asks for suggestions on topics.
- Chyang Fang and Sam respond with mental health.
- Chyang responds with outreach and advocacy.
- Cathy comments that we might want to focus on LGBTQ. We could look at the stigma affecting Asians and their families.
- Sam responds that he is seeing a lot more inclusion of LGBTQ people. He also sees how this is causing significant mental health issues.
- Cathy points out that we should be sensitive to not label LGBTQ under mental health as it has had a previous negative connotation.
- Wilbur comments that there are more LGBTQ suicides so this does have direct health implications.
- Nguyen comments that the Steering Committee should think about what they want to learn and then suggest it to Perry.

Advocacy Updates

- Meng thanks Sam for his testimony.

- Perry comments that the PNP's request was not funded due to a contract issue.
- Nguyen comments that he thought we should insert ourselves into more HM meetings.
- Sam states that we can always voice concerns at the Community Health Needs Assessment meetings.
- Perry suggests that we invite Karen to do a presentation and go from there. We can also ask HM to keep us in mind for future meetings. We can team up and help sponsor other HM events.

Adjourn:

- Wilbur moves to adjourn the meeting, Chyang seconds and meeting date is approved.
- Adjourn at 8:21 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 2015