

Montgomery County – DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
March 8, 2016

Steering Committee	Present	AAHI Staff	Present
<i>Organizational Members</i>			
Jin-Hee Wang on behalf of Ji-Young Cho	X	Harihar Bhattarai	
Wilbur Friedman	X	Huyen Bui	X
Christina Lee		Perry Chan	X
Michael Lin	X	Karie Cheung	X
Mayur Mody	X	Betty Lam	
Sam Mukherjee	X	Sanjana Quasem	X
Nguyen Nguyen	X	Alice Zic	X
Thomas Tran	X		
Sovan Tun	X		
Edward Wan	X		
<i>Individual Members</i>			
Meng K. Lee (Chair)	X	Moping Chow	X
Nerita Estampador (Vice-Chair)		Kate Lu	X
Sunmin Lee	X	Yao Yao Zhu	X
Cathy Ng	X		
Tho Tran	X		
Judy Wang	X		
<i>Affiliate Members</i>			
Anis Ahmed	X		

Prior to the meeting, members of the Steering Committee (SC) toured the Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic in its new location at the Chinese Culture and Community-Service Center (CCACC).

Welcome (Meng K. Lee, Chair)

- Meng K. Lee called the meeting to order at 6:26PM.
- Meng introduced and welcomed new member Judy Wang and guest YaoYao Zhu, Medical Director of Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic.

Approval of Agenda (Meng K. Lee, Chair)

- A motion to approve the agenda was presented. Michael Lin moved to approve the agenda. Wilbur Friedman seconded the motion.
- Nguyen Nguyen requested to speak about Healthy Montgomery (HM) before Perry Chan’s AAHI program updates.

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

ACTION: Agenda approved with one change.

Approval of Minutes

- Meeting minutes were emailed to SC members prior to the meeting.
- A motion to approve the January 12, 2016 minutes was presented by Wilbur. Michael seconded the motion.
- Edward Wan shared that the new meeting minutes format has improved greatly.

ACTION: Meeting minutes approved with no objections.

Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic (Kate Lu)

- Kate Lu, Director of Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic, gave a presentation on the clinic's new developments.
 - The clinic aims to serve the medically uninsured population in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Qualified patients must receive income below 250% of the federal poverty level, lack health insurance, and reside in Montgomery County. Currently the clinic is open every day with clinical service 2 to 4 days a week. Eight hundred patients visited last year. The clinic provides various kinds of services on site including primary and specialty care, woman's wellness care, pharmacy, diabetic clinic, Hepatitis B program, and social service. The staff includes 15 volunteer Chinese physicians, 1 volunteer Vietnamese doctor, 5 volunteer pharmacists, and 20+ regular volunteers. The clinic is one of the 12 community clinics supported by the Primary Care Coalition's (PCC) Montgomery Cares network and is part of the Health and Human Services division of the CCACC.
 - The clinic began with only Chinese doctors and patients learned about the clinic mainly through word of mouth. Ninety-four percent of the clinic's patients are Chinese, 2% Hispanic, 2% Vietnamese, 1% Korean and other Asian population, and 1% of all other ethnicities. The patients' demographic may change in the future as the clinic gets more doctors from different ethnic communities.
 - Since moving to the new location, the clinic has increased clinic days with both primary and specialty care on site, as well as the enhanced STOP B program (Hepatitis B). They also receive support from University of Maryland as part of a study that includes triple Hepatitis screening and

treatment. The STOP B clinic can provide vaccination and treatment for anyone that visits.

- Dr. Mark Li and Dr. Moping Chow started the Behavioral Health Program, a mental health program, in March 2015 to train primary care doctors and physicians to recognize mental health issues in their practice.
- The clinic is also conducting a mental health project through a writing competition in the Chinese community. They are recruiting articles written by members of the community on their mental health issues and selected articles are published. They hope that the articles would allow the public to recognize that mental health issues are common and they can get help if needed. Currently the project starts with the Chinese community, but hopefully it would expand to other communities later.
- Meng commented that though more people are insured due to Affordable Care Act (ACA/Obamacare), Medicaid, and Medicare, there are not enough service providers to see all these patients. The Primary Care Coalition (PCC) recently recommended all the safety net clinics in the County to start seeing patients with ACA, Medicaid, and Medicare as well. The clinic is currently still the only community clinic that is not taking in insured patients. Kate added that during peak time the clinic has 1000 visits a year but the rate has currently dropped to 500 visits a year. They cannot determine whether the drop in volume was specifically due to the increase of people being insured.

Healthy Montgomery (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Nguyen attended a meeting with the Healthy Montgomery (HM) Steering Committee co-chaired by George Leventhal, Uma Ahluwalia, and Sharon London a month and a half ago (February 1, 2016).
- Nguyen shared that the Measurement and Evaluation Subcommittee presented their findings in the HM data needs report. George raised the question on whether the Subcommittee consulted the Minority Health Initiatives and Programs (MHIP) about their data needs. Nguyen commented on the significance of this question in that it demonstrates the growing visibility and impact of the MHIP. At the HM Steering Committee meeting, Nguyen shared that there is a need for diverse data which better reflects the county's diverse demographics. The lack of data leads to lack of awareness on issues and health concerns prevalent within minority communities.
- Nguyen stated that a draft of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) will be ready by March or April, and a retreat with the HM Steering Committee to discuss the report will follow. The date of retreat is yet to be finalized.

AAHI Program Updates (Perry Chan, Program Manager)

- Perry introduced Karie Cheung, AAHI's new Outreach Coordinator.
- Perry shared that the Mental Health First Aid Training was held on February 20, 2016 and 26 attendees representing 10 different Asian American organizations were certified. However, since the training was a national curriculum, it does not cater to Asian American communities' specific needs.
- Perry stated that AAHI's Behavioral Health Coordinator, Alice Zic has been working on volume 2 of the photo novel series regarding mental health counseling. The aim of volume of 2 is to educate and familiarize the public with counseling treatment. The novel is currently in the planning phase and is projected to be completed by August or September.
- Perry announced that AAHI will be hosting the Empowering Community Health Organizations (ECHO) workshop, the third in the health data series, which will focus on program evaluation on May 18, 2016 at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Dr. Olivia Carter-Pokras from University of Maryland will be the speaker at the workshop.
- Before the ECHO workshop, AAHI will be holding a brief celebration to commemorate its 10-year milestone which passed in Fiscal Year of 2015.

ACTION ITEM: Steering Committee members have been requested to save the date for the AAHI 10 Year Celebration on May 18, 2016 at 5:30pm.

Advocacy Updates and Next Steps (Sam Mukherjee)

- Since the last meeting, Sam Mukherjee, Michael, and Meng, together with the other two other minority health initiatives, had multiple meetings with Chuck Short, Assistant to County Executive Ike Leggett, regarding the request for the additional \$250,000 funding for each initiative's budget.
- Sam shared that Chuck was sympathetic but asked the initiatives to justify their budget. However, due to lack of data about Asian Americans and mental health, there was a sense that there is no need in the community. Ike Leggett informed Sam today that the budget is complete and will be transferred to the County Council. The budget will not be available for the public until March 18, 2016.
 - The next step is to get the necessary votes from the council. The three initiatives are meeting with Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, Hans Riemer, Craig Rice, and Sidney Katz.
- Sunmin Lee commented that there is some qualitative data on the mental health needs of local Asian American communities from the needs assessment conducted in 2008.

ACTION ITEM: Sunmin will send data on mental health of local Asian American communities to Perry and Sam.

- Meng reported that the Commission on Health is writing a letter in support of the three initiatives' funding request; however the letter has not yet been received.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will follow up on the letter from Commission on Health.
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County Executive (CE) Asian American Advisory Committee (Sam Mukherjee)

- Sam reported that the CE Asian American Advisory Committee will host an event in May in recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Details of the program will be finalized during the next Advisory Committee meeting on March 22, 2016. One aim of the event is to highlight and showcase the existence and work of the Advisory Committee.

LIEED (Meng K. Lee)

- Sam shared that Dr. Ulder Tillman presented at the LIEED meeting.
- Meng added that another topic was presented at LIEED on Process and Technology Modernization (PTM) project in order to improve services in the county. The Electronic Information Content Management System (EICMS) was also introduced at the meeting and Meng commented that it is a good tool in assisting with data management.
- Meng noted that LIEED has transformed to a purely government controlled committee. It is a place for policy discussions and advocacy as well as information and policy announcements. The current chairwoman is Uma Ahluwalia but there will be no voting.

Asian Pacific Governor's Commission (Sovan Tun)

- Sovan reported that a meeting was held on Feb 16, 2016. Two officers from the Ethics Commission and the Legislative Office of the Governor were present and discussed conflict of interest, disclosure in funding and fundraising, and various legislative initiatives by the Governor.
- Anis Ahmed shared that three South Asian elected officials joined the General Assembly in Maryland. Two are from Montgomery County and one from Baltimore. They are hosting a South Asian Legislative Night on March 16, 2016 from 6PM to 8PM at Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis. The Pan Asian Legislative Reception will be held on March 15, 2016 from 6PM to 8PM at Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis.

Other Business & Announcements

- Meng shared that his term as the SC chair will be ending in July and a new leader needs to be selected. A member can serve more than one term.

ACTION ITEM: The Nomination Committee (Wilbur, Sovan, and Anis) will recommend nominees at the next meeting.

Adjourn

- Meng thanked CCACC for the space.
- Meng adjourned the meeting.

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Next Meeting: May 10, 2016