

**Montgomery County – DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
May 9, 2017**

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>AAHI Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>
<i>Organizational Members</i>			
Ji-Young Cho	X	Sobia Ahmad	
Wilbur Friedman	X	Huyen Bui	
Michael Lin	X	Perry Chan	X
Mayur Mody	X	Karie Cheung	
Sam Mukherjee	X	Tanya Dang	X
Nguyen Nguyen (Vice Chair)	X	Betty Lam	X
Thomas Tran	X	Hyewon Lee	
Sovan Tun	X	Karlie Leung	X
Edward Wan	X	Sanjana Quasem	X
		Alice Zic	
<i>Individual Members</i>			
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Guests</u>	<u>Present</u>
Nerita Estampado	X	Dourakine Rosarion	X
Meng K. Lee (Chair)	X	Chunfu Liu	X
Sunmin Lee			
Cynthia Marci			
Tho Tran	X		
Judy Wang			
<i>Affiliate Members</i>			
	<u>Present</u>		
Anis Ahmed			

Welcome (Meng K. Lee, Chair)

- Meng K. Lee called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.
- Meng introduced Chunfu Liu as today's guest and congratulated Michael Lin for being named the 2016 Greater Washington Outstanding Chinese American of the Year by New World Times.
- On May 2, 2017 Sam Mukherjee, Thomas Tran, Ji-Young Cho, and Meng were honored at the Asian American Pacific Heritage Month event organized by the County Council.
- Last weekend, the Viet Nam Medical Assistant Program (VNMAP) celebrated its ten-year anniversary and hosted a fundraising dinner. Sam and Meng were in attendance and received plaques for their contribution to the program. AAHI also received a plaque during the meeting.

Approval of Agenda (Meng K. Lee)

- A motion to approve the agenda was presented. Wilbur Friedman moved to approve the agenda. Sam and Nguyen Nguyen seconded the motion.

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

ACTION: Meeting agenda approved with no objections.

Approval of Minutes (Meng K. Lee)

- Meeting minutes of March 21, 2017 Steering Committee (SC) meeting were shared with SC members prior to the meeting.
- A motion to approve the minutes was presented. Wilbur moved to approve the minutes. Nguyen seconded the motion.
- Wilbur commented that he was unsure of whom “Huyen” was in the minutes. Perry responded that she is a staff member at AAHI.

ACTION ITEM: Staff names will be replaced in March 21, 2017 meeting minutes to minimize confusion.

- Meng called for a voice vote to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

ACTION: Meeting minutes approved with no objections or further changes.

Healthy Montgomery Community Needs Assessment Findings (Dourakine Rosarion)

- Dourakine Rosarion presented report findings from Healthy Montgomery’s Community Health Need Assessment (CHNA), highlighting specific data relevant to the Asian American community in Montgomery County. *Refer to slides for details.*
- Captured below are some discussion points from Dourakine’s presentation:
 - Montgomery County is currently working on six issue areas: behavioral health, cancers, cardiovascular health, diabetes, maternal and infant health, and obesity. Healthy Montgomery began pursuing these six issue areas in 2008. This is the second community health needs assessment conducted. These issues were narrowed down from a larger list and voted by Healthy Montgomery’s Steering Committee as the most prevalent and pressing issues within the county.
 - Nguyen asked if there are any other diseases emerging. Dourakine responded that though the priorities remain the same, needs within issue areas will change. Chunfu also commented that it would be useful to revisit these priorities in the future.
 - Ji-Young inquired about the types of barriers present. Dourakine commented that availability of services, lack of transportation, lack of awareness and lack of coverage are all barriers. Transportation is the biggest barrier within the community.
 - Over the years, there is an increase among eligible residents having insurance in Montgomery County. Due to changes in the Affordable Care

Act (ACA) and the American Health Care Act (AHCA), Montgomery County faces challenges in expanding insurance coverage to minority residents who may be impacted by the change in access to care.

- Though the overall percentage of residents without health insurance coverage has decreased over the years, a closer look at the data reveals that there were increases in the percentages of residents without health insurance depending on the year and racial group. Dourakine commented that those increases may be due to lack of awareness of health insurance and the county needs to devise additional strategies in getting the word out.
- The county has seen large increases in Emergency Room (ER) visits related to mental health and substance abuse, especially in the 18-34 age group. This is an emerging issue across the county, state, and nation. The county has been realigning behavioral health services to be more responsive and to prevent, treat, and allow people to establish a routine when getting treatment.
- While the rate of behavioral health related ER visits are lowest among Asian and Pacific Islanders when compared to other groups, the rates within the group has worsened the most. Dourakine noted that we need to focus on addressing the barriers and stigma that are deterring one to seek care.
- Moving forward, Healthy Montgomery will continue to develop and disseminate CHNA materials, such as brochures, build action plans for the 3 priority strategies, and develop and implement Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which is available on Healthy Montgomery's website for community feedback.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will email Dourakine's presentation to SC members.

Executive Session (Meng K. Lee)

- There was no Executive Session.

AAHI Program Updates (Perry Chan, Program Manager)

- Perry shared the following handouts with the SC:
 - May 2017 Local Events
 - AAHI Upcoming Events
- Perry shared AAHI's outreach progress:
 - Since last SC meeting, AAHI has 20 outreach events. Since the start of the Fiscal Year 2017, AAHI has 50 outreach events, double the amount of outreach events attended at this time in FY2016. AAHI assisted 2,651 people since the beginning of FY2017.
 - The Friends' Corner program is supported by the additional funding AAHI received last year. AAHI's goal is to build trust and connections with seniors to help breaking social isolation. The first session of Friends' Corner was held at the White Oak Senior Center on April 19, 2017 to

promote awareness of county resources and services. Sixty-six community members attended this session. Another session of Friends' Corner was held at Bait-ur-Rahm Mosque on April 21, 2017 in a workshop setting that provided education to community members on mental health and wellness.

- AAHI has already identified three additional sites to implement Friends' Corner. Depending on the organizations, Friends' Corner could be implemented once a week or bi-weekly for up to eight sessions. One of the challenges AAHI faces is to find native language speakers to conduct these sessions in-language for seniors.
- Nerita Estampado inquired about how topics are chosen for Friends' Corner sessions. Perry responded that ideally AAHI would plan these sessions together with the community centers to identify topics their community are concerned about. At the same time, AAHI also needed to see whether speakers are available for those topics.
- On April 29, 2017, AAHI provided a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for American Vietnamese Association (AVA) and VNMAP. There were 28 participants. MHFA is a nationally certified curriculum. Perry further mentioned that this training will continue in FY2018 and SC members are welcome to notify him if they know any groups in Montgomery County interested in the training.
- The Empowering Community Health Organizations (ECHO) Workshop is scheduled for May 16, 2017 at the Silver Spring Civic Building. There are currently 130 people registered for the workshop. This workshop will focus on senior safety. A panel with speakers from the Police Department, the State's Attorney's Office, Fire and Rescue, and the Department of Health and Human Services will discuss their roles in contributing to senior safety, the importance of senior safety, and prevention strategies. The panel was specifically asked to tailor their presentation to the immigrant community.
 - In addition, a resource fair will be held from 5:00pm to 6:00pm for those who may want to learn more about senior safety resources available in the county.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will email Sovan Tun a flyer for the ECHO workshop.

- With regards to the photonovel project, Perry reminded SC that AAHI previously encountered several issues in moving the project forward. For example, the use of teenagers in the photonovel may incite potential bullying for those individuals. Thus, AAHI decided to use graphics to substitute the photos of teenagers. AAHI recruited a group of Mental Health Youth Ambassadors to develop and review the photonovel and provide feedback on the storyline and plot. Feedback for the mock version was positive and the finalized version of the photonovel is projected to

complete by the end of June. The photonovel is estimated to have about 16 pages in total.

- Betty Lam mentioned that the Public Health Officer position was expected to be filled by July 1, 2017, but the process has been delayed. This position is a joint appointment between the county and the state. However, due to tight scheduling, interviews with the state will not be conducted until end of June, which is delaying the process. There are currently seven candidates for the position. There will be two town hall meetings held with the candidates, though an official date has not been disclosed. Currently, Uma Ahluwalia is the acting Public Health Officer.

ACTION ITEM: Betty will notify SC when dates for the town hall meetings are released.

Updates from Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCC)

- **Healthy Montgomery (Nguyen Nguyen)**
 - Healthy Montgomery is currently discussing priority topics. They defined specific indicator of measures and committees have agreed to move forward. Now the task is to determine execution and implementation.
 - Nguyen volunteered to participate on the Evaluation and Measurements Subcommittee to help shape some of the measures.
- **County Executive Asian American Advisory Committee (Sam Mukherjee)**
 - There was a lot of planning for Asian American Heritage Month but nothing happened.
 - There had been a lot of discussion regarding the uncertainties with healthcare and immigrants. The Office of Community Partnerships was asking people to be alert and participate in various immigration forums.
 - The committee is planning another sister city program with South Korea.
 - The committee met with Bruce Adams, Director of the Office of Community Partnerships, to implement a strategic plan for the next County Executive.
- **Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs (Sovan Tun and Edward Wan)**
 - Sovan was elected Committee Chair for Arts, Culture, and Interfaith, Edward Wan was elected Committee Chair for Workforce Development, and Elizabeth Chung, Executive Director of the Asian American Center of Frederick, was elected Committee Chair for Health.
 - Since May is Asian American Heritage Month, the commission partnered with the Asian American Center of Frederick for a celebration on May 6, 2017.

- **Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs (Mayur Mody)**
 - The commission did not have a meeting due to lack of participation. There is another commission meeting tomorrow and Mayur Mody will inform SC on the proceedings.
 - Mayur and Sovan suggested that next time their commissions should combine.

- **Leadership Institute for Equity and the Elimination of Disparities (Meng K. Lee)**
 - LIEED will now meet every six months.
 - During the last meeting, Raymond Crowel, Chief of Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, reported on the strategic alignment of behavioral health. Sam commented that there was a lack of focus on minorities in the report. The county's budget, executive, order and immigration policy were all discussed in the meeting.

Other Business

- Mayur inquired about ACA funding for outreach to the Asian American population. Meng responded that federal funding was cut this year.
- Wilbur, Sam, Sovan, and Mayur were selected to be in charge of the Subcommittee on Membership and Nomination.

Adjourn (Meng K. Lee)

- Meng adjourned the meeting at 8:19PM.

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.

Next Meeting: TBD