

Montgomery County – Department of Health & Human Services (MCDHHS)
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2019

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>AAHI Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>
<i>Organizational Members</i>		Perry Chan	X
Yesle Soh on behalf of Ji-Young Cho	X	Betty Lam	
Wilbur Friedman	X	Elsa Lau	X
Michael Lin	X	Sanjana Quasem	X
Hina Mehta	X	Jasmine Vinh	X
Mayur Mody			
Sam Mukherjee			
Nguyen Nguyen (Chair)	X		
Tho Tran			
Thomas Tran			
Sovan Tun	X		
Yuchi Huang	X		
<i>Individual Members</i>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Guests</u>	<u>Present</u>
Shruti Bhatnagar		Jesse Gatchalian	X
Nerita Estampador	X	Amy Lindsey	X
Meng K. Lee (Vice-Chair)	X		
Sunmin Lee			
Cynthia Macri			
Judy Wang			
<i>Affiliate Members</i>	<u>Present</u>		
Anis Ahmed			

Welcome (Nguyen Nguyen, Chair)

- Nguyen Nguyen called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.
- Perry Chan asked for permission to audio record the meeting. There were no objections.

ACTION: Audio recording of meeting is approved with no objections.
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Presentation on Thrive Montgomery 2050 (Amy Lindsey)

- Nguyen introduced Amy Lindsey, Senior Planner for the Montgomery County Planning Department. She works with the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) and is the Planning Department's representative to the Healthy Montgomery Steering Committee. Amy gave a presentation on Thrive Montgomery 2050, which is an ongoing effort to solicit

community feedback to update Montgomery County's General Plan. The General Plan is a County policy document that has been the authority on how land resources are used and sectioned off for specific tasks, how these resources effect the County, and how plan for future growth. It indicates where the County has grown and the path it is on for the future.

- Presentation slides were provided for reference at the meeting and are attached to the meeting minutes. The Thrive Montgomery 2050 website is available at this link: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/>
- Amy provided an overview of the General Plan's history. The first General Plan was put together in 1958 and included the entire Maryland-Washington Regional District. This master plan is used as a reference in planning textbooks because of how influential it was in dictating how the County developed. It included the concentration of growth in certain areas and the preservation of green space in others. The plan also included advanced transportation diagrams and multi-level parking garages that would look futuristic for its time. In 1969, the Plan only included Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The idea was to have transportation corridors with suburban areas intertwined in the growth of concentration.
- The last comprehensive update to the General Plan was in 1969 and three main transformative policies came out of that plan:
 - 1) The Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Law (MPDU) addressed the need for more affordable housing;
 - 2) The Transfer of Development Rights program was developed to help preserve agricultural land;
 - 3) The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance was adopted to manage growth with timely infrastructure. This explains why parts of the County are in moratorium because they do not meet the adequate public facilities test for adequacy of transportation and school availability.
- The Planning Department is creating a comprehensive General Plan update that will predict the next 30 years of Montgomery County and is looking for input from all residents about their specific needs in the community.
 - The plan will look at growth and employment trends as well as cultural and demographic shifts. It will also consider possible changes in routines and technological innovations such as the growing preference for online shopping and food delivery, new automated technologies (i.e. self-driving cars), increase in telecommuting, and the norm of multigenerational households.
 - There is a large health and wealth inequity within the County. Refer to slide 10 of presentation.
 - The future of Montgomery County may consist of redevelopment instead of green fields and protected land.

- Thrive Montgomery 2050 will ultimately result in an update to the General Plan. It focuses on three main pillars in its strategic framework: economic health, community equity, and environmental resilience.
 - Economic health refers to the strength of the economy. Community equity, which is also a major focus for the County, refers to inclusion of all community members. Environmental resilience is the acknowledgement and planning for climate change in Montgomery County. This involves looking at the cost/frequency/intensity of property damage and flooded roads and sewer lines in certain parts of the County.
 - Health is used as a lens to address issues in the economy, environment, equity, housing, land use, transportation, design/arts/culture, and outreach. For example, changes in housing policy can have major implications for health. Health is thought of as an outcome of policies and is interwoven in the plan.
 - The comprehensive plan is currently in the visioning and analysis phase of an accelerated timeline and is proposed to be completed by April 2021. The Planning Department is eager to hear feedback from the community and hopes that the community will be involved in the policy proposals.
- Nguyen agreed that the General Plan is essential to future growth and stated the structure of the plan will determine how the Asian American community will be affected. Some of the main concerns brought up in conversations he has had with Asian community members include senior health, retiring in place, and the ability to stay close to family. He inquired how the future General Plan will enable those above-mentioned items.
- Meng K. Lee added that this comprehensive plan is an ambitious task and this kind of long-term planning requires assumptions and predictions. The SC's main concern is the future of the Asian population in the County. He inquired if a reliable formula is being used to predict the future profile of Asian Americans in the County in 30 years with regards to population growth, senior population, and percentage of people with language difficulty.
 - Amy responded that they have a team of demographers who look into the trends. There have been conversations about planning for an aging population overall. Amy added that the Planning Department is looking for help in understanding how the Asian population is different, what their specific needs are, what the generational differences are. Demographic trends are predicting the growth in the Hispanic and Asian populations, but she is unsure of the exact figures.
 - Amy added that the General Plan will suggest future plans that need to be done. The General Plan may state the need to reevaluate certain infrastructures and build in redundancies, but not provide specific step-by-step recommendations.

- Michael Lin mentioned that he noticed a strong desire within the County to preserve agricultural land and inquired about the purpose of sectioning off large amounts of land for the reserve.
 - Amy answered that the reserve was created to preserve a specific way of life. It protects the County's water quality and serves as the "lungs" for the County. She informed the SC that not much food is actually grown on the agricultural reserve due to intense labor demands, climate change, and limited potential yield to make sense economically. Amy agrees that there is a need for more conversation on this sensitive topic and what the land use decisions have meant for the County.
 - Sovan Tun added that churches and temples cannot obtain permits to build on the reserve, even though it would fit their needs and reach the population.
- Yuchi Huang commented that Montgomery County is now seen as rapidly growing. He inquired how the growth is being managed.
 - Amy responded that because there is essentially no more land to grow on, the County will only see managed growth at this point and that it is now a matter of growth concentration. There has been great growth in the central business districts in Silver Spring and Bethesda. Metro stations will continue to be a focus area for growth, and the Planning Department is looking into transformational ideas for the County.
- Yuchi followed up with a question about how equity is defined from a planning point of view.
 - Amy explained that the County Council created a definition for equity and the Planning Department will adopt the same definition. In short, it deals with the acknowledgement of numerous residents' inability to participate in the growth of the County.
 - Yuchi added that multigenerational lifestyle and cultural background of the Asian American community must be considered in order to obtain equity.
 - Amy agreed that there is no one-size-fits solution to obtain equity and the aim is to achieve equity across all groups.
 - Nguyen added that he hopes the information about the Asian American community can be incorporated across the County instead of one part of the County.
- Nguyen mentioned that the Asian American community highly values education and the quality of schools. However, there are concerns that the quality of education in areas with more affordable housing is not as good as other areas. There is conversation about the rezoning of schools, which is a sensitive topic for families. How do we ensure this works as a part of equity?
 - Amy emphasizes with the variance in school quality within the County and the need and to raise school quality across the board. She explained that the Planning Department may not have a direct hand in the public school

system, but their goal may be to emphasize the need to look at the school quality within the County.

- Amy mentioned there will be two stages of review of the new General Plan: a planning board review and a Council Review. Perry inquired about the difference between the planning board review and the Council review for *Thrive Montgomery 2050*.
 - Amy explained that the planning board is made up of five members who were appointed by the County Council. There are about 50 staff members working on the Plan. The staff members will come up with their professional recommendations as planners which are presented to the planning board. The planning board will hold public hearings and work sessions and then they will come up with their recommendations as a board to present to the County Council. The County Council will also hold public hearings. Doing it this way allows for the most people to be able to give their input. The planning process itself is being analyzed to ensure that it reaches the most citizens.
 - Amy recommended that the public follows the process the whole way through, not just show up at the end of the conversation and ask for a change from the County Council.
 - Perry asked what criteria is used when these boards review the General Plan.
 - Amy answered that there is no formal mechanism or rubric. The staff on the County Council will prepare the reports and a long public conversation ensues to make sure everyone has a seat at the table.
- On behalf of the SC, Nguyen thanked Amy for her presentation. He reiterated the importance of following the conversation about the General Plan, its potential to impact the general population and the Asian American community, and its role in building a welcoming County for families. Nguyen added that if Amy receives input along the way from other groups that have similar concerns, she can reengage with the SC.
- Amy shared that the Planning Department wants to hear from everyone, including populations that are underrepresented such as recent immigrants and renters so that they are engaged in the conversation about the General Plan.

ACTION ITEM: The SC will follow the General Plan process.

Approval of Agenda (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Today's meeting agenda was shared with members prior to the meeting. Nguyen asked if there were any objections to the agenda.
- Wilbur Friedman noticed the date on the agenda was incorrect.

ACTION ITEM: The agenda will be updated.

- Yuchi Huang moved to approve agenda with corrected date and Wilbur seconded the motion. The meeting agenda was approved.

ACTION: Meeting agenda approved with a correction to the date.

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Nguyen Nguyen)

- The SC meeting minutes from Tuesday, August 13, 2019 were shared with members prior to today's meeting.
- A motion to approve the August meeting minutes was presented. Sovan moved to adopt the minutes and Wilbur seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

ACTION: Meeting minutes approved with no objections.

Program Updates

- The SC had fruitful discussions at the retreats in September and October. Perry shared that AAHI is in the process of transitioning the ideas generated during those discussions into plans.
- AAHI is working with the Faith Community Working Group under the Office of Community Partnership to conduct a Mental Health First Aid Trainings for faith-based leaders. The eight-hour training will take place in the AAHI office on November 16, 2019. Fire and Rescue also reached out to AAHI and expressed interest in setting up a Mental Health First Aid Training for first responders. AAHI welcomes these opportunities as it allows AAHI to provide information about the Asian American population, demographics, and culture to County providers.
- Another one of AAHI's ongoing projects is the Mental Health Photonovel #6. SC members Meng, Tho Tran, and Hina Mehta along with Kate Lu from the Pan Asian Volunteer Health Clinic, Yi Shen from the Office of Community Partnerships, and Beth Schuman from Councilmember Gabe Albornoz's office participated in the first planning meeting in October to provide ideas on the next photonovel topic of caregiver stress and burden. The planning session was powerful and emotionally-charged which yielded great ideas.
 - Meng added that this is a very emotional issue that affects many families and the photonovel is very important.
 - Nguyen asked how the photonovel will be designed to capture the nature of this topic.
 - Perry and Sanjana Quasem responded that the planning committee is still exploring how to best capture this topic and is playing with the idea of a

hybrid of drawings incorporated in live photos to help bring out the emotional content.

- Hina mentioned that the photonovel will be useful and there is a huge need for this topic. During the planning meeting, it was interesting to see how everyone's experiences overlapped and interconnected.
- Nguyen noted that this particular topic may result in multiple volumes of photonovels.
- A discussion about clinical psychology background information and statistics took place. Mental Health First Aid was mentioned as a potential resource.
- A draft of the AAHI Blueprint is currently in the works and will be completed in December. When a finalized version becomes available, the SC will be contacted to discuss a launch event for the public. The SC will provide a copy of the Blueprint to Amy Lindsey as it has data about population trends and serves as a great advocacy tool for Asian American community.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will contact the SC to organize a launch date for the Blueprint.

ACTION ITEM: The SC will provide a copy of the Blueprint to Amy to aid in County planning.

- The County Council is setting up a Community Grant Focus Group and are looking to include the Asian American population. Perry has forwarded the SC's email contact information to the point of contact, Carolyn Chen, who will send out an invite to the SC. This will tentatively take place in the CCACC Music Room on December 3, 2019 at 7:00pm. Perry will send the above-mentioned information to the SC members.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will distribute the information regarding the Community Grant Focus Group to SC members.

- AAHI, as well as other programs within the Department, are currently in proposal-writing mode. The County Executive is using an outcome-based budgeting model, which is based on the *Turn The Curve* concept, and requires County programs to submit proposals that detail the volume they reach, how well the work is being done, and the impact in the community to justify its base funding for the next two years. This is a new process for the County, with MCDHHS submitting 59 proposals and the Office of Community Affairs (OCA) accounting for five of those proposals. The proposals will be reviewed by a team with specific parameters. This outcome-based budgeting model is to ensure the work of the programs is impactful and to increase the competitiveness of funding within the County. AAHI is taking this proposal seriously and has been working

closely with the Latino Health Initiative (LHI) and the African American Health Program (AAHP) in drafting a joint proposal. The proposal is due December 6, 2019.

- Michael inquired if the base budget will be affected by this proposal and if AAHI's requested dollar amount was specified.
 - Perry responded that the line item budget was not included in the proposal. In the past, a "mark" was given by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a projected 1-3% buffer to the base budget. The mark has not been announced yet. The programs have been instructed to demonstrate the need and the good work being done in the proposal.
- Yuchi inquires how the minority health initiatives will include split the budget amount after the proposal review.
 - Perry responded that the minority health initiatives have not started the conversation about how the amount will be divided. The programs are waiting for detailed instructions from upper management on this new process.
- Nguyen inquired if this process will be repeated every two years.
 - Perry mentioned that this process is new to everyone and more information is made available while proposals are being written. His assumption is that the process will be repeated in FY2021. One of the purposes of this outcome-based budget model is for programs to take a closer look at any redundancies and ineffectiveness. As a result, the minority health initiatives are supporting one another and highlighting their community work as a collaborative unit.
- Perry will keep the SC updated through this proposal and budget process, especially the Advocacy committee.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will keep the Advocacy Committee updated on the proposal process.
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Updates from Membership Committee

- The Membership Committee was tasked with finding three new organization members. Wilbur shared that the committee has created a map of all the Asian countries and have identified which countries have a substantial presence within the County and which countries are underrepresented on the SC. Some of the underrepresented countries include the Philippines, Pakistan, and Indonesia. One or more organizations serving the Filipino community and one organization serving the Pakistani community in a health-related arena have been identified. The committee is still looking for an organization that serves the Indonesian population.
- Nguyen stressed the importance of community partnership, especially the need to continue reaching out to communities who are not yet represented on the SC

so that the SC can better reach and serve the residents of the County. He thanked Jesse Gatchalian from the Migrant Heritage Commission for joining the meeting.

- Sovan mentioned he has connections with organizations that serve smaller communities such as Sri Lanka and Thailand and will attempt to recruit them.
- Nguyen clarified that the goal is to recruit new members who serve these underrepresented communities by June 30, 2020. The Membership Committee will continue with their recruitment task.

ACTION ITEM: The Membership Committee will continue to reach out to potential groups who serve Asian communities that are underrepresented on the SC and identify potential new SC members.

Updates from Advocacy Committee

- The Advocacy Committee is working to follow up on concerns that have been brought up in the past, especially regarding the Montgomery Cares clinics. Nguyen mentioned that the committee is in the process of reaching out to clinics, understanding their concerns, and building partnerships with them and other minority initiatives to effectively advocate for them to the Director of MCDHHS. The committee is currently waiting to hear back from the Director of MCDHHS and will update the SC with their progress.

ACTION ITEM: The Advocacy Committee will keep SC informed of all progress with the Director of MCDHHS.

Updates from Liaisons and Members

- **Healthy Montgomery (Nguyen Nguyen)**
 - This committee met last Monday, November 4, 2019. Both co-chairs were not in attendance. There was a presentation from the Food Security Council on the Food Security Plan. To ensure the families in the County have access to food and healthy options. The presenters shared that they use a number of approaches to discover the realities of hunger in the County such as making visits to schools and surveying families.

ACTION ITEM: The Advocacy Committee will keep SC informed of all progress with the Director of MCDHHS.

- Nguyen mentioned that the council offers mini-grants to organizations that address food insecurity, for which non-profits can apply to support their practical needs (i.e. small equipment, furniture).

ACTION ITEM: Nguyen will share information about the mini-grant opportunities with the SC.

- **County Executive Asian American Advisory Committee (Sovan Tun)**
 - Since August, this committee met twice on September 19, 2019 and on October 21, 2019.
 - On the September 19 meeting, the committee met with the County Executive to learn more about his expectations for the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee also wanted to learn more about the Census 2020 process, but the topic was postponed until the subsequent meeting. The committee also discussed the grant process and how to encourage people to apply.
 - On October 21, the Office of Consumer Protection was invited to make a presentation on scams and robo-calls. Shawn Ellis, the Census 2020 Coordinator for the Office of Community Partnerships also presented on how to reach people and raise awareness about the upcoming Census.
- **Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs (Sovan Tun)**
 - The Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs will meet tomorrow, November 13, 2019.
- **Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs (Mayur Mody)**
 - Representative was not present for update.
- **Commission on Aging (Tho Tran)**
 - Representative was not present for update.
- **Other Updates**
 - Yuchi joined the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board and will serve as a liaison to the board. Montgomery Cares clinics primarily care for uninsured and underinsured residents, pregnant teens, newborns, homeless, and have a dental program. There used to be an issue with the residents having access to these resources, but now the County helps residents find resources in all health avenues. The Office of Eligibility and Support Services (OESS) helps individuals and families apply for benefits that they are eligible for. However, there are some issues such as language access and public charge that keep some residents from coming in and seeking help. Yuchi added that he can share information about data available to the board.
 - Perry will add Yuchi to the liaison list and Yuchi will keep the SC informed on the actions of the Montgomery Care Advisory Board.

- Nguyen will touch base with Yuchi to discuss matters and concerns related to the Montgomery Cares clinics.

ACTION ITEM: Perry will add to Yuchi to Liaison List and Yuchi will inform the SC on actions of the Montgomery Care Advisory Board.

ACTION ITEM: Nguyen will follow-up with Yuchi about the concerns related to the Montgomery Cares clinics.

Adjourn [enter name and position]

- Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020.