

Montgomery County – Department of Health & Human Services (MCDHHS)
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Steering Committee	Present	AAHI Staff	Present
Organizational Members		Jasmine Vinh	X
Ji-Young Cho		Tammy Wan	X
Wilbur Friedman	X	Betty Lam	
Michael Lin	X		
Hina Mehta (Vice Chair)	X		
Mayur Mody	X		
Nguyen Nguyen (Chair)	X		
Tho Tran	X		
Thao Bui	X		
Sovan Tun	X		
Yuchi Huang	X		
Individual Members	Present	Guests	Present
Shruti Bhatnagar		Perry Chan	X
Nerita Estampador	X		
Meng K. Lee	X		
Sunmin Lee			
Cynthia Macri	X		
Judy Wang			
Affiliate Members	Present		
Anis Ahmed			

Welcome (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Nguyen Nguyen called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.
- Nguyen asked for permission to audio record the meeting. There were no objections.

ACTION: Audio recording of meeting was approved with no objections.

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Nguyen Nguyen)

- The Steering Committee meeting minutes from Tuesday, January 12, 2021 were shared with members prior to today’s meeting. A motion to approve the January meeting minutes was presented.
- Wilbur Friedman moved to approve the meeting minutes. Yuchi Huang seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

ACTION: January’s meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

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.
- Yuchi Huang moved to approve the agenda. Wilbur Friedman seconded the motion. The meeting agenda was approved.

ACTION: Meeting agenda was approved with no objections.

AAHI Steering Committee Activities Updates (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Nguyen gave a PowerPoint presentation on AAHI Steering Committee activities and updates on various topics including the COVID-19 vaccine and community needs.
- Jasmine Vinh talked about the Asian American Townhall on February 23, 2021. She stated that there were over 200 participants on Zoom. Some may not have pre-registered; however, it was important to provide the link to everyone regardless of pre-registration status. The townhall was streamed through Montgomery County's Facebook page. The most asked question was regarding the clarification of which priority group was receiving the vaccine. To access the Facebook recording of the townhall, please go to: <https://www.facebook.com/montgomerycountyinfo/videos/1329952804039213>.
- Hina Mehta discussed the Asian American townhall success. Registration was provided before-hand so that participants could submit questions. There were more than one hundred questions received. She mentioned that the post-townhall feedback from the staff and county council was positive.
- Dr. Cynthia Macri discussed other COVID business regarding a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant.

Program Updates (Jasmine Vinh)

- Jasmine Vinh discussed the community input about the perceptions of vaccine and that currently the county is analyzing the data. From this data, they've learned:
 - Majority of people are willing to take the vaccine if it is offered to them.
 - For those who are hesitant, the county is still analyzing the reasons why.

ACTION ITEM: Jasmine will share the preliminary data with the Steering Committee, once completed.

- AAHI continued to share information with small business owners and the community.
- A few community reviews were conducted for the videos of the "Get Ready Montgomery" campaign and preregistration video that is on the County website.

Currently, the team is working on translating the Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese versions.

ACTION ITEM: Jasmine will share the videos with the Steering Committee so they can share with their respective communities.

- AAHI released a new Mental Health video series, “Reducing Stigma”.
- Jasmine reviewed the Asian American Townhall meeting PowerPoint on vaccines. This presentation was shared with the Census Complete Count Committee, who have been tasked with sharing the word about preregistration. If you would like a copy, Jasmine will share it with you.
- Meng Lee had a suggestion for the vaccine PowerPoint to include three ways to get the vaccine.
- Sovan Tun expressed the difficulty in getting vaccinated. Jasmine suggested taking all the different avenues to get appointments for vaccination.

Strategic Discussion

- Nguyen discussed the ways to get the community vaccinated and a strong need to have community-based organizations work with county government to get people vaccinated. He stated that he wanted to advocate more for the Asian American community, and it starts with having a discussion with the director of DHHS and then moving forward with conversations with the council for funding support for Asian American community-based organizations. He emphasized the need to empower community-based organizations with resources and in turn empower the community.
- Nguyen posed two questions to the members:
 - “What do you think of this idea?”
 - “What are the activities that your organization provides to the community?”
- Meng Lee asked what will partners use the funding for. Jasmine replied with a general idea responding that the Latino community uses the funding primarily for COVID testing, connection to services, expanding the call line, and case management. The African American community primarily conducts radio station outreach to address vaccine hesitancy amongst the community.
- Sovan Tun expressed the need for help for the Cambodian community, which includes education, translation, transportation services and vaccine help.
- Yuchi Huang touched on other vaccination matters.
- Nguyen stressed that a strategy is needed regarding vaccination. It must be organized with all entities. He stated that members from different community-based organizations should complete a “Statement of Need” noting the needs of the community each member serves and convey to county council.

ACTION ITEM: Document community needs from each member of the Steering Committee and compile into one document about the community statement of needs.

ACTION: All members agreed to move forward on proposed activity.

- Yuchi Huang suggested that we go to the council to ask for funding for our communities so that we can help the government be more efficient with vaccinations.

ACTION ITEM: Jasmine and Nguyen will follow up on future activities.

- Nguyen emphasized unity in addressing the needs of Asian American community.
- Jasmine explained a template for the statement of needs will be supplied and will include observations from the organizational members with COVID-19, needs of the community and unique impacts of each community.

ACTION ITEM: Jasmine will work on the template for the “statement of need” and will send it out to Steering Committee members.

Adjourn

- Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021.