

Montgomery County – Department of Health & Human Services (MCDHHS)
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

| Steering Committee | Present | AAHI Staff | Present |
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| Organizational Members | | Muhammad Hasan | X |
| Ji-Young Cho | X | Tammy Wan | X |
| Wilbur Friedman | X | Betty Lam | X |
| Michael Lin | X | | |
| Hina Mehta (Vice Chair) | X | | |
| Nguyen Nguyen (Chair) | X | | |
| Tho Tran | X | | |
| Thao Bui | X | | |
| Sovan Tun | | | |
| Yuchi Huang | X | | |
| Individual Members | Present | Guests | Present |
| Shruti Bhatnagar | | Kate Hilton-Hayward | X |
| Nerita Estampador | X | Kianna McKenzie | X |
| Meng K. Lee | X | | |
| Sunmin Lee | | | |
| Cynthia Macri | | | |
| Judy Wang | | | |
| Affiliate Members | Present | | |
| Anis Ahmed | | | |

Welcome (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Nguyen Nguyen called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.
- Nguyen asked for permission to audio record the meeting. There were no objections.

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| ACTION: Audio recording of meeting was approved with no objections. |
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“All of Us” Research Program Presentation (Kate Hilton-Hayward)

- Kate Hilton-Hayward presented on the “All of Us” Research Program, supported by the National Institute of Health (NIH).
- The Korean Community Services Center KCSC’s goal in participating in the research program is not to enroll people in the program but to engage the community and get the word out.
- Historically, America has had low Asian representation in health research, and it is very important to get Asian representation.

ACTION ITEM: Kate will get the YouTube link of the video to Nguyen to share with Steering Committee.

- Kate mentioned that they are trying to get more minority groups, especially Asian Americans to participate in the research program.
- The “All of Us” research project is a historic effort to gather data from a million or more participants living in the U.S. during a 10-year period, considering participant’s environment, lifestyle, biology, genetics, socioeconomic status, etc. to look at health over those years to bring precision medicine and to accelerate research and improve health.
- Precision medicine considers factors of your life and allows patients to receive the best care based on these factors, which includes tailored medication.
- There are certain health disparities that affect Asian Americans more.
- Precision medicine is very important, for example, medicine tested on one ethnicity but targeted to another ethnicity may render the medication ineffective to those who it is marketed to
- A person can enroll online at: Joinallofus.org and authorize NIH to collect their electronic health data
- Participants must be 18+ to participate and agree to answer surveys that ask about basic health, access to healthcare, etc.
- In addition, participants agree to go to a lab to give biological samples such as blood, urine, and saliva as well as physical measurements
- They also agree to share data from a wearable device
- The biggest worry is privacy and security
 - Name is completely separated from data; direct identifiers removed
 - The data is fully encrypted
- Nguyen asked what the challenge of the program was
 - Kate answered that people were worried about the security
 - The bio samples must be given in the lab
 - Language issues (website is all in English—they need to make it linguistically specific)
- Thao Bui asked if there is a deadline
 - Kate replied you can participate as much as you want and there isn’t a deadline
- Hina Mehta asked two questions: 1) electronic health record—how can someone provide the proper information? Is it centralized information? 2)are certain Asian American communities hesitant to enroll in the program?
 - They aren’t collecting several different health records from different doctors. If they want more, they just need to ask for different medical records

- Kate wasn't sure about specific ethnicities but will look into it. Not every Asian group is represented. Not sure if one group is more engaged than another.
- Nguyen asked how AAHI could help
 - Kate requested that she would like to work with AAHI and Steering Committee to get the information out to individual communities and she is willing to do presentations and share materials
- Nguyen says that this effort really needs coordination and support to work with the whole Asian American community

ACTION ITEM: Steering committee will work with KCSC to get the research program information out.

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
- The meeting agenda was approved by all

ACTION: Meeting agenda was approved with no objections.

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Nguyen Nguyen)

- The Steering Committee meeting minutes from Tuesday, May 11, 2021 were shared with members prior to today's meeting. A motion to approve the May meeting minutes was presented.
- Yuchi Huang moved to approve the meeting minutes. Michael Lin seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

ACTION: May's meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

COVID-19 Proposal (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Nguyen said that all the feedback has been positive
- Phase I, the council allocated \$250,000 for AAHI to kickstart activities
- Phase II will come later in July/August when the funding will be coming into AAHI, to fully launch activities
- Nguyen urged that we need to find a way to help Asian American non-governmental organizations and to build the capacity of the community
- Start identifying a lead agency that will partner with AAHI in this process to ensure equity

- Steering Committee is made up of members of the community and it is important to avoid conflict of interest

ACTION ITEM: When the information is ready, Nguyen will share it with the Steering Committee and the community.

- Yuchi had a question about conflict of interests: Define “conflict of interests”.
 - Nguyen gave examples that if your organization plans to apply for the grant, then the SC member affiliated with the organization should not be involved with the planning process. Betty confirmed that members on the committee whose organization will be applying should not be involved in the design of “Request for Proposal” process or scope.
- Tho Tran had a question of conflict of interest
 - Nguyen reiterated that you will be able to apply for the grant, but you can’t be in the planning of the RFP process. Hina said that everyone will be able to apply but the Steering Committee members who applied cannot be part of the review process for example.
- Muhammad talked about a survey that was sent to a list of community-based organizations to gauge their experience with grants and their organizational capacity. The survey was sent to 141 organizations and 12 unique organizations have responded.

Retreat Discussion (Nguyen Nguyen)

- Nguyen talked about the retreat and a speaker
- He asked the group: “What does the group think about having a retreat? Should it be in person or virtual? What will be the topic?”
 - Yuchi wanted the retreat to be in-person.
 - Nguyen mentioned that kids under 12 years of age still aren’t vaccinated so in-person meeting might be risky
 - Michael talked about the Delta variant. He would like the retreat to be in-person with the option of being virtual in case situation gets worse
 - Nerita Estampador agreed with a meeting in person unless there’s a lockdown
 - Tho would like in-person meeting
 - Meng Lee asked what needs to be done at the retreat that would require an in-person event. However, he stated it will depend on how comfortable members are with an in-person gathering.
 - Nguyen wanted to measure the comfortability of members of the group; we can plan for in-person meeting but have a back-up for virtual. He requested we save a Saturday for a meeting spot in September

AAHI Program Updates (Muhammad Hasan)

- Muhammad shared AAHI updates

- A few community events: FEMA Strike Team, Be Well Initiative, Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, Street Outreach Network Events, Conversations around the Delta variant, American Diversity group health fair
- Sent community letter to re-introduce AAHI and promote Patient Navigator Program.
- Yuchi requested the PowerPoint about the program updates

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| ACTION ITEM: Muhammad will share the PowerPoint slides with committee members. |
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| ACTION ITEM: AAHI will share news about activities in a timely manner with Steering Committee members. |
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Healthy Montgomery Updates (Muhammad Hasan)

- Nguyen didn't attend the meeting; Muhammad attended in his stead
- Health findings were from pre-COVID
- Key findings showed that AAPI communities had the highest rates of TB infections
- Data looked at ER visits which showed AAPI rated third or fourth in the list
- Increased trend of poverty in the community
- Rates of cancer is decreasing in Montgomery County

Organization Updates

- Thao Bui (from Association of Vietnamese Americans) : opened since June 1st full capacity
- Ji-young Cho (from KCSC): currently is at 50% capacity and after Labor Day it will be 100% full capacity
- Tho Tran (from VAS): reopened 100% in August; more people joining mental health program; adult daycare closed
- Yuchi (from CCACC): CCACC clinic hadn't closed; partially started to open adult daycare in May and will fully open in September
- Hina (from ADG): ADG is all virtual; there was a health fair and a plan to do another health fair in the coming months
- Nerita: has been attending a lot of phone meetings

Adjourn

- Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 8:04 PM.

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| ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM. |
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Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2021.